

**Galatians 6: 2; “Bear One Another’s Burdens”, Message # 55 in the series –
“Christ has Set us Free”, a Bible Study conducted on June 29th, 2016,
by Pastor Paul Rendall at his home.**

In our last study, I tried to explain to you what Paul meant by the expression: “Fulfill the law of Christ”. But I did not open up and explain to you, in any great detail, the phrase: “Bear one another’s burdens”, and so this evening I will try to do so. I said to you the last time, that it appears from the contextual proximity (the closeness) of verse 2 to verse 1, that the words “bear one another’s burdens and thus fulfill the law of Christ” were written as a further explanation of what you, as a Christian and a member of a local church are to do, in relation to the one who you are trying to restore; their having been overtaken in a trespass. To bear one another’s burdens is therefore to bear the burden of being patient and forbearing with this same person during all the time of the process of their restoration, after you have told them of their fault.

In a more specific and fuller sense it will mean that you will be thinking of what the real burdens and needs are, which other Christians have. Their real burdens are not so much their material needs, although we would not be opposed to giving help to a needy brother. But their real burdens, as spoken of here in these verses, are related to their being able to grow up into Christ, and what may be hindering them in that way. So, tonight I would like to give you instruction from the word of God on how you might be able to make progress in this good work of bearing the burdens of other Christians around you. 1st – There should be a willingness to help other Christians who are poor or who have some real spiritual or physical need. 2nd – You should be thinking about what the Lord is asking you personally to do. And 3rd – There should be actions taken which will Biblically help the person whose burden you are trying to bear.

1st of all – There should be a willingness to help other Christians who are poor or who have some real spiritual or physical difficulty.

As I have just related these difficulties may relate to some sin or bad habit in this Christian’s life, or it may be something that they can do nothing about. Sometimes the poverty of a Christian is something that he did not bring upon himself. Sometimes it is due to ill health or persecution. But the commandment to you is that you are to bear their burden and thus fulfill the law of Christ. Now remember the context. You are trying to “restore a brother”. You are not only trying to show him his fault, you are trying to bring him back to assume responsibility for himself if you can. Or, you may find, that to bear his burden may relate to a situation of need, out of which, he cannot easily extricate himself. Let us understand, first of all as believers, we are not simply burden-bearers because that is the goal in itself. Our goal is, rather, to so help poor and needy people that they will turn to God themselves, after we help them, and find their sufficiency in Him; that they will become more obedient to Him because you have helped them, if they are a Christian already. We do not want them to become dependent upon us as a child is, upon his parents.

Instead, it is our goal to attempt to bring them to the place where they will themselves will make efforts at making progress in holiness, righteousness, and truth, and find their strength in Christ and His word. We would so help them, that they will come to cheerfully take up and bear their own burden, or their own load, as it says in verse 5 of this chapter. And then they will really come to the place where they will live for God and learn to keep His commandments by faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. You can only do this if you yourself are in a position of strength, spiritually speaking. Turn with me over to Psalm 112, verses 1-9 – “Praise the Lord!” “Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who delights greatly in His commandments.” “His descendants will be mighty on earth; the generation of the upright will be blessed.” “Wealth and riches will be in his house, and his righteousness endures forever.” “Unto the upright there arises light in the

darkness; He is gracious and full of compassion, and righteous.” “A good man deals graciously and lends; he will guide his affairs with discretion.” “Surely he will never be shaken; the righteous will be in everlasting remembrance.” “He will not be afraid of evil tidings; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.” “His heart is established; He will not be afraid, until he sees his desire upon his enemies.” “He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever; his horn will be exalted with honor.”

Now you can see here that the Christian who is strong and who is in a position to truly help other Christians and bear their burdens is the one who fears the Lord. They have their greatest regard in life for Christ and His word. In fact, they greatly delight in God’s commandments. They are being blessed by God because of their faithfulness to do what He says, and so they are in a position of strength. They have the ability to bear the burdens of others. It is not as though all Christians do not have this same responsibility, they do. But some Christians are stronger than others and we are trying to discern the reason why. They are gracious people. They are full of compassion and righteous, and yet they are wise in relation to money and how to spend it. They have a peculiar kind of wealth and riches which enables them to help others. They know that all that they have been given, and all that they have been allowed to make, has been because God has blessed them and given them the wisdom to work according to Biblical principles. They are not just storing up riches for themselves. They are able, and indeed they want to, when the time is right, to lend to other people. Their heart is steadfast in the principles of truth and righteousness. They are trusting in the Lord. They are not miserly, or stingy, or self-righteous. Neither do they without more than is good. They are not covetous.

Because they trust in the Lord and walk with the Lord, they are spiritually strong enough to help others and bear their burdens. They disperse abroad, they give to the poor; their righteousness endures forever, and their horn will be exalted with honor. Why? Because the riches of Christ are more important to them than the riches of the world. Actually, it is Christ Himself, and He alone, who has fulfilled these verses in Psalm 112 in a perfect sense. But all of those who are trusting in Him who pursue having this same kind of mind and heart in Christ, will also find it. Turn with me over to 2nd Corinthians 8: 1. “Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: that in an great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality.” “For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing, imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.” This was a good way to help the poor persecuted saints in Jerusalem at that day; to help bear their burdens by a gift of money; a collection taken by churches of Macedonia. They were not rich but they were willing to give and to help where they could. Look down at verses 8 and 9. “I speak not by commandment, but I am testing the sincerity of your love by the diligence of others.” “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.”

Now, here we find the pattern for all bearing one another’s burdens; it is that we would remember the example of the Lord Jesus. He was a spiritual rich man; He was and is, the Lord of Glory. He was and is, full of grace and truth to give to needy sinners. In Him was the fullness of deity, and yet He took upon Himself a human nature for our sakes; had compassion on us and sympathized with our plight. As the Lord of glory, He had all riches at His disposal. According to the will of the Father, He would bear the burden of our sins by becoming poor; by entering this fallen world of woe through His incarnation, and by giving Himself to show by His good works of mercy and teaching the truth, the way to know God and to glorify God. It is because of Christ’s grace that we are able to think and to do in this self-denying, loving way, of considering

how we might bear the burdens of others. A Christian who is walking with Christ, learning from Christ will have the things of Christ, and His people's burdens, upon his or her heart.

2nd – You should be thinking about what the Lord is asking you personally to do.

Turn with me over to Proverbs 19: 17. "He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord, and He will pay back what he has given." In other words, whatever you are doing for others to help them to bear their burdens, whatever is done in Christ's name, and for Christ's sake will be paid back, for you are showing compassion to one in need; one who may be one of Christ's little ones. And so He will reward it. Look over at Matthew 10: 40-42. "He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me." "He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward." "And he who receive a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward." "And whoever give one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall be no means lose his reward." You should be asking yourself, as a disciple of Christ: What is the Lord asking me to personally do in every situation that you come into, and especially when it involves a brother or a sister who has a burden that you might be able to bear. There is a reward for the Christian who bears the burdens of other Christians. Even the smallest things of service in this regard, the Lord takes notice of. The reward that a Christian will receive from the Lord Jesus in the day when Christ returns will be based upon their works; especially those burdens that have been borne for other believers. Salvation is not based upon your good works, but if you have no good works, which follow salvation, such as these works of bearing one another's burdens, you can hardly consider yourselves a Christian. And at the day of judgment, this will be proved for better for those who have borne other Christian's burdens.

Look over with me at Matthew 25, verses 31-40. When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory." "All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats." "And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left." "Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in ; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'" "Then the righteous will answer Him saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink?'" "when did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe you?" "Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?" "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'" This is indeed what Christ is looking for, to prove that we are His true disciples; to be able to bear one another's burdens. And so, you should ask yourself: What would the Lord have me personally to do to bear the burdens of other Christians? The Lord will so providentially order the situations and the people who will come into your life, that there will be many opportunities to bear the burdens of others around you.

And 3rd – There should be actions taken which will Biblically help the person whose burden you are trying to bear, to grow up into Christ.

Turn with me over to Ephesians chapter 4, verse 1. "I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness, and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." These are the kind of attitudes and actions which will allow you to bear the burdens of your fellow Christians. Lowliness, gentleness, and patience; bearing with one another in love; these things will go a long way in establishing the work of the Lord's kingdom, and build a working unity. And this will help others to grow up into Christ. Look over at verse 15 – But speaking the truth in love, they may grow up in all things into Him who is the

head – Christ – from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.” You dear believer, have a part to play in bearing the burdens of other Christians.

In closing let me read to you from Ralph Cudworth’s commentary on Galatians 6: 2. He says: “This duty therefore of bearing one another’s burdens, albeit it be difficult, yet it must be practiced, specially of those that are strong men in Christ.” “For as in architecture, all stones are not fit to be laid in every place of the building, but some below, as the fundamental and chief cornerstones to bear up the weight and burden of the building; others above in the wall, that so the whole building may be firm and compact in itself.” “So in the church, which is the house of God (where all believers are lively stones, built upon Christ Jesus the chief cornerstone) (1st Peter 2: 5), bearing up the whole burden, even all the infirmities of the church) – those that are strong must support the infirmities of the weak, that so the whole building being compact and knit together may grow up to a holy temple in the Lord.” “For otherwise the whole frame of the building must needs be dissolved and come to ruin.” “It is a common proverb among the Italians, that ‘hard with hard, never makes a good wall.’” “By which is signified that as stones cobbled up one upon another, without mortar to combine them, make but a tottering wall that may easily be shaken; but if there be mortar betwixt them, yielding to the hardness of the stones, it makes the whole like a solid continued body, strong and stable, able to endure the shock of the ram, or the shot of the cannon.” “So that society, where all are as stiff as stones which will not yield a hair one unto another, one going as fast, as forward, as hasty, as another, cannot be firm and durable.” “But where men are of a soft, a yielding, and relenting nature, giving place to the stiffness of others, and yielding to the tempest for a time, that society is compact in itself, and so cannot but continue, because one does bear the infirmities of another.” (Volume 2 of The Works of William Perkins, Page 428)