Sunday, May 5, 2024—Galatians 6:1 Overtaken In A Fault

<u>**Galatians 6:1**</u>

- **Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.**

- **Brethren**—the first thing you want to notice is that Paul is speaking to believers. Paul is not making this statement in reference to those who are not saved, but rather to the community of the redeemed.

- **if a man be overtaken in a fault**—last week encountered a condition in Gal. 5:21. I showed you that in this case "if" was followed by a verb "we live" in the indicative mood. This is the fact stating function of the word "if."

    - <u>Indicative</u>— "That points out, states, or declares: applied to that mood of a verb of which the essential function is to state a relation of objective fact between the subject and predicate (as opposed to a relation merely conceived, thought of, or wished, by the speaker)." (*Oxford English Dictionary*)

- In Gal. 6:1 we have the condition "if" followed by a verb "be overtaken" in the subjunctive mood.

    - <u>Subjunctive</u>—"Designating or relating to a verbal mood that refers to an action or state as conceived (rather than as a fact) and is therefore used chiefly to express a wish, command, exhortation, or a contingent, hypothetical, or prospective event." (*Oxford English Dictionary*)

- In Gal. 6:1, Paul is speaking hypothetically not factually. If the eventually occurs that a "brother" is overtaken in a fault" here is how the matter is supposed to be handled.

- **Overtaken**—according to Noah Webster's *American Dictionary of the English Language*, the word "overtake" carries the following meanings:

    - "To come up with in a course, pursuit, progress or motion; to catch;

        - Exodus 15:9

        To come upon; to fall on afterwards. Vengeance shall overtake the wicked;

        To take by surprise.

        - Galatians 6:1"

- The translated "overtaken" occurs in two other places in the New Testament.

    - Mark 14:8—"aforehand" or in anticipation of his burial.

    - I Corinthians 11:20-21—"taketh before" or anticipates eating his own supper.

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- Galatians 6:1—there are strong reasons to believe that Paul is talking about a "fault" that has not occurred yet but might occur unless appropriate restorative action is taken by another member of the body of Christ. That said, it seems that the same admonition would apply to "faults" that come to light after the fact.

- **Fault**—is defined as follows by Noah Webster:

  o "Properly, an erring or missing; a failing; hence, an error or mistake; a blunder; a defect; a blemish; whatever impairs excellence; applied to things.

  o In morals or deportment, any error or defect; an imperfection; any deviation from propriety; a slight offense; a neglect of duty or propriety, resulting from inattention or want of prudence, rather than from design to injure or offend, but liable to censure or objection."

    - Genesis 41:9

    - Galatians 6:1"

- The word translated "fault" occurs 23 times in 20 verses in the Greek text supporting the King James Bible. It is various rendered as trespass 9x, offence 7x, sin 3x, fall 2x, and fault 2x.

  o Matthew 6:14-15

  o Romans 5:15-20

  o Ephesians 1:7

- Galatians 6:1—Paul is clearly speaking here about someone who is on the verge of getting themselves involved in some type of sin.

- **ye which are spiritual**—who are the spiritual ones? Following the context, it seems to make sense that they are the ones manifesting the fruit of the Spirit in chapter 5. These are those who are walking in the Spirit and not in the flesh.

  o Galatians 5:25

  o I Corinthians 14:37

- **restore such an one in the spirit of meekness**—the English verb "restore" carries a host of meanings according to Noah Webster:

  o "To return to a person, as a specific thing which he has lost, or which has been taken from him and unjustly detained. We restore lost or stolen goods to the owner;

    To replace; to return; as a person or thing to a former place;

    To bring back;

To bring back or recover from lapse, degeneracy, declension or ruin to its former state;

To bring to a sense of sin and amendment of life.

- ▪ Galatians 6:1"

- Matthew 4:21—James & John were "mending" their nets when the Lord called them. This is an excellent word picture for the type of conduct Paul is taking about in Galatians 6:1.

- Galatians 6:1—those who are spiritual have the responsibility to bring those overtaken in faults back to a place of truth and proper conduct. Christians today make a big deal about not judging or being judged. I am against being judged by people who are not rightly dividing the Word of truth or those who are not exhibiting the fruit of the Spirit.

  - o I Corinthians 2:14-16

- Galatians 6:1—notice that this restoration is supposed to be done in the Spirit of meekness and with self- reflection. The responsibility of those who are spiritual is to restore and not to condemn. This is an application of the fruit of the Spirit.

  - o Galatians 5:23

  - o II Timothy 2:24-25

- **considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted**—Paul makes it clear that those who are involved in the rebuke and restoration need to consider themselves and their own fleshly propensity to do the same thing. That is why meekness is necessary in these situations.