

The University Heights Messenger

January 30, 2010

Be Careful

By Dee Bowman

Galatians chapter six is one of the most practical passages in the inspired record. It contains information pertaining to piety, improvement, dedication, perseverance. Its enjoiners are immediately useful. The message of Galatians six is clear. It says, "Be careful."

To be careful is to be cautious--about what you say, or think, or do. It means to be prudent, balanced, deliberate, vigilant. The sixth chapter of Paul's letter to the Galatians has pertinent warnings regarding this caution. It says:

Be careful about criticism (verses 1-2). First of all, be sure you are properly motivated before you criticize. "Considering thyself" has several implications. It means you should make sure you are operating from a spiritual perspective before you sally a criticism ("ye which are spiritual..."). No correction is appropriate if it is based on a carnal motivation, one such as pride or self-righteousness. Correction for the sake of correction is erroneous; correction for improvement is righteousness at work. Be careful about having one law for others, another for yourself.

"In the spirit of meekness" means having your position of strength under proper management. You can be right and still be wrong if you are not meek. It's one thing to have the truth, another to manage it properly ("handling aright the word of truth...").

"Bear ye one another's burdens" calls for patience and understanding. We are too often prone to correct without proper long suffering. Toleration of error is never approved in Scripture; but it is everywhere assumed that those who correct error should do it with the

spirit of Christ (1 Peter 3:8; 15; Ephesians 4:1-3).

Be careful about personal responsibilities (verses 3-4). Begin with humility or you are not His disciple. When a man thinks himself to be somebody when he is nothing, he deceives himself; certainly not God. Every man must "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling."

Every man must prove his own work. No one will answer for another. Each individual will bear his own burdens. To this end every man must examine his own talents, his own opportunities, his own weaknesses. Only after having done so can he properly discern his own responsibilities.

Be careful about what you consider important (verses 6-9). The law of sowing and reaping is as sure as the law of gravity or any others of God's laws. It will not be violated. You cannot sow evil and reap good. You may sow little but you will reap much. That means if you sow a little evil, you will always reap more than you sowed; the same with good. Too many people go out and sow their wild oats on Saturday night then go to services Sunday morning and pray for a crop failure.

A man who sows to education will reap knowledge. A man who sows to retirement will likely attain his goal. One who sows to politics will reap political rewards. But all these rewards are only relatively important. The man who sows to faith, hope, and love will reap the substance of his faith, the reward of his hope, the treasure house of love. And remember, "He that winneth souls is wise."

Be careful about the tendency to rest too early (verses 9-10). It is not time to rest. Even though we become very tired, we must stay the course. We are told that a rest remains for God's people in Hebrews 4:9. It is not yet.

We must continue to labor all the way to the end, “forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 15:58), and “in due season ye shall reap, if ye faint not.” In order to retain our vitality let us “remember him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.” Further, he says, “Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.” (Hebrews 12:3-5). We have to keep on.

When Winston Churchill was asked to speak at the school where he had attended as a boy folks expected some example of great speech-making. His message was simple, but powerful. “Never, never, never, never quit,” he said and took his seat. It is good advice.

We must seize every opportunity, respond to every challenge, accept every providential allotment and through them all, persevere to the end. “I must work the works of him who sent me, while it is day: for the night cometh when no man can work” (John 9:4; see 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6; 2 Peter 3:11-12).

I have chosen to read this chapter often. It helps me. It will help you, too.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Jeff Howerton is back home, though he continues to need our prayers.

Both **Richard and Janett Brundige** have been struggling with sickness.

Tabetha Lynn (niece of Gina Seabolt’s sister-in-law) continues in critical condition after a very serious car accident.

Shelly Stewart (friend of the Wallace’s) had very serious surgery done Friday. Expect an update today.

Our members: **Jim Edwards, Glenn Davis, Glenn Kimberlin.**

Others: **Vina Krassow, Marples family, Glyon Hill, Tom Curtis, John Bennett, Dennis Brennan, Robert and Sarah Brundige, Donald Dawson, Jean Gartland, Wes Kidd, Gail Stein, Shannon Gilbert**

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Streaming Bible study every Tuesday at 7.

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

Sun: Zech 10-14, Ps 149, Rev 20-21

Mon: Mal 1-4, Ps 150, Rev 22

Tue: Gen 1-2, Ps 1, Matt 1-2

Wed: Gen 3-4, Ps 2, Matt 3-4

Thu: Gen 5-6, Ps 3, Matt 5

Fri: Gen 7-8, Ps 4, Matt 6

Sat: Gen 9-10, Ps 5, Matt 7

If you’ve been following the schedule than you have now read the entire Bible. If you haven’t been doing the reading, Tuesday would be a great day to start. It takes about ten minutes to do the daily reading. Get started, stick with it, and you’ll be shocked at how quickly your knowledge and understanding of Scripture increases.

SERMON TOPICS:

Sunday AM. Four ways to kill a church
(Revelation 3:1-5)

Sunday PM. “The foolishness of God is wiser
than men.”
(1 Corinthians 1:18-19, 23-25)