

~ PROUD PYGMIES AND THE CONTRITE
CHRISTIAN....

GALATIANS 6:1 – 5

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~ Our Spiritual Safari is still moving slowly through the Galatian country hillside as we enter our fifteenth report from this epistle. The titles from our last two reports are fractured verses intentionally taken out of context — just as most today take the entire Word of God out of context. Hey, fair is fair, friends. However, I assure you that the content of those reports is completely irrefutable sound doctrine — as all my reports are; and, if you have actually prayed and asked the Spirit of God for wisdom, judgment and discernment, then you know this to be true. If you haven't asked the Lord to open your eyes, then you'll never know what sound doctrine is; because that would be impossible.

The two primary reasons for our slow progression in this book of the Bible is that we first had to learn what justification by faith meant; and we had to learn how to walk in the Spirit — and neither of those are going to happen overnight. These Galatian reports are harsh medicine for many self-professing believers to swallow and digest. I have repeatedly advised everyone to seek understanding of the Bible elsewhere; and this report — well, in this report, friends, I am just feeling plain mean. I can only give another non-read advisory warning to those who like to play church and talk about “*love, love, love.*” Those people aren't going to like this report — at all — I promise you that....

**Proverbs 6: 16** *These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: 17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, 18 An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, 19 A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren ~*

Those who incessantly mutter the baby words, “*God is love*” make me — and God — want to vomit. God *hates* — and you don't have to write that down — because He already did. These things listed in Proverbs are the

things in the heart of the natural man – you and me – before we were converted — if you have been converted. Either way, we still have that old nature, and these things still linger in the bottom of our hearts. Pride is the number one human trait God hates; and we learned all about pride in the Book of Job; which we completed our study of before we began Galatians. Pride is more hated by God than a lie or murder. Pride is what we would call a “polite” sin. But, on second thought, we could call it an *IMPOLITE* sin, too. From any perspective, pride is sin.

Pride leaves no evidence at the scene of the crime. Actually, pride goes to church undetected, and is not even slightly rebuked or condemned when it is detected; in fact, it will likely be *congratulated* by other proud and pious pygmies. Pride is a sin not addressed in the Mosaic Law, either; and, yet, it is not a secret sin. Pride flaunts itself in the face of God; He hates even a proud look. Pride produces shattered lives, divided churches, and even destroyed nations in its wake. Pride is the sin that relieved Lucifer of his exalted position in God’s government, transforming him into the enemy of God.

**Isaiah 14: 12** *How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! 13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. 15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit ~*

**Ezekiel 28: 12** *Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. 13 Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. 14 Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. 15 Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast*

*created, till iniquity was found in thee. 16 By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. 17 Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. 18 Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. 19 All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more ~*

Pride also drove Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden; because they wanted to be their own little gods instead of humble humans subject to the Creator. Pride has been the downfall of *MANY* great men and women. Pride caused Alexander the Great to weep because there were no more worlds for him to conquer. Well, Alexander didn't even get around to conquering himself, and he died a drunken homosexual pervert; he was the quintessential victim of pride, my friends. Proverbs also says pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. Does anyone care to call God a liar?

Rome was debased as a society because of gross immorality – all stemming from pride – and Rome fell apart like Humpty Dumpty did, when Humpty had a great fall. He couldn't be put back together — and neither could Rome. All the kings' horses and all the kings' men couldn't put either one back together again. Rome was utterly blinded to its miserable condition immediately preceding their disintegration. Pride is the main evil head on the multi-headed satanic monster destroying America as you read this report and as I type it. For at least a hundred years, America attempted to lead the world to fields of plenty. Those fields were elusive, of course — because they didn't exist. America is dying within, but pride prevents us from seeing our true condition. If we recognized our cancer, we could correct it. Pride goes to church every Sunday and receives a royal welcome.

It should be treated as the plague it is — but it isn't — it is celebrated. How tragic.

**Proverbs 8: 13** *The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate ~*

Again and again, God states in no uncertain terms that He *HATES* pride, friends. The great sin of the ministry isn't money, it isn't drugs, it isn't alcohol, and it isn't sex, either — it's *p-r-i-d-e*! It has destroyed *MANY* ministers. Pride always leads to laziness of Bible study, too. Paul reminds us a preacher has nothing except that which he has received from God; and we only get it from Holy Writ. Paul says, "... *I am what I am by the grace of God.*" That's something every minister needs to learn how to say with sincerity.

**James 4: 10** *Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up ~*

Now, the opposite of pride is humility. It is said of the Lord Jesus that He humbled Himself. You and I are enjoined to learn to humble ourselves in His presence. Let's try starting a new trend, a new style, by putting on a dress or suit that will be totally different — the garments of humility. We begin by esteeming others better than ourselves and considering the welfare of others above our own. James and John both said, "... *put on humility*" — like a suit of clothes. Trust me — if you do, your friends will want to know your tailor.

In our previous three safari reports from Galatia, we carefully considered how we are saved by faith. That seems so elementary, but most people don't have a clue what it means — although they say they understand it. In our last report, we learned how the fruit of the Spirit is produced in our lives; in this report, we learn how that process actually works out in our day-to-day life. In our last report, we came down from lofty summits in God's government, and got our head out of the clouds; in this report we're continuing with our feet on the ground of life....

**1 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.**

**2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.**

**3 For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.**

**4 But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.**

**5 For every man shall bear his own burden.**

~ Many have imagined a contradiction between verse two and verse five. Candidly, they do appear to contradict themselves. However, Paul was a bit smarter than most give him credit for; and there is a simple explanation of these verses. I know those of you who make such assertions about errors in the Bible honestly believe you are super-smart people who have mastered the Bible. Interestingly, you brainiac types won't take twenty minutes to read this report, and you don't *DARE* make a comment concerning a report; and, let's keep this real: it's because you will be schooled and shown how Biblically illiterate you truly are.

Alright, verse one means any man or woman who is a Christian believer. "*Fault*" means to "*fall beside*" – it is the same Greek word used when Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane when "*He went a ways further and He fell on His Face.*" "*Overtaken in a fault*" means to stumble. It doesn't mean some profound sin of open rebellion – but it may be an egregious blunder that was made. Most people think they are spiritual as they point their finger and condemn others; but "*you who are spiritual*" are to restore – not condemn and beat other believers' brains out! When most of us see a brother or sister overtaken in a fault, we usually don't want to restore that person.

**Isaiah 63:9** *In all their affliction he was not afflicted; and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old ~*

That's one of the loveliest prophecies of the Lord Jesus in the Old Testament. I have added one word to bring out the proper meaning; and our better manuscripts read exactly this way. Now, I'm sure the Lord Jesus is with me; and I suspect you know He is with you – if you are a believer. When I stumble and fall, Jesus doesn't stumble and fall. When I fall down, it hurts me badly sometimes — but it doesn't hurt Christ in any way. No, He's right there by my side; to pick me up, and dust me off, and help me get walking again – or – He may carry me if I am unable; but, when children learn to walk, they don't usually want to be carried, unless they are tired, of course.

Remember, the Lord waited for those in the wilderness. The children of Israel went off on tangent after tangent – and He just waited for them. “*Restore*” is the same word that means to ‘*reset a broken bone.*’ When someone falls down and breaks their leg, we aren't to walk off and leave them to die; no, we're to offer aid and restoring help. Sometimes we need to reset a broken bone – in the Spirit of meekness – although, even so, that can really, really hurt for the patient. Let's learn how to restore kindly, compassionately, and with care. That means we must learn the Word of God properly, correctly and completely. Then, we can restore such a one with the nourishing fruit of the Spirit of God.

That brings us to verse two. The resident atheist safari free-thinker, who believes they are right about everything, always asserts arrogantly that this verse and five contradict each other. Most people have *NO IDEA* how to answer a paradox. Well, I'm going to make it as simple as I possibly can. Verse two refers to burdens we can share with and bear *for* others; verse five refers to those burdens that *cannot* be shared and must be carried alone. If you cannot understand that, then you simply don't want to understand truth and wisdom. We all have burdens, and our burdens are not the same. There is not a home anywhere on earth that a hush does not come to, sooner or later. Everyone thinks their own burden is the heaviest burden of them all, too, by the way! Well, no one knows the weight of

another man's burden, that's for sure. Even the youngest children have burdens. Further, two wholly separate words for "burden" are used in these two verses in the Greek.

So, our Spiritual Safari ends this leg of our expedition with Paul making another poignant remark, *"if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself."* That's a gem of a statement that should be a motto on the wall of our churches – and I mean *EVERY* church in *EVERY* city, town and country in the world. If you think you are something, you aren't kidding anyone except yourself. You need to recognize that. A whole bunch of us seriously overestimate ourselves. We all need someone to help us bear our burdens. At the same time, don't run around trying to get everyone else to carry your burdens. See, there is a very definite balance to be struck in the Word of God; and we will never strike that balance by being willfully, totally, and completely ignorant of Scripture ~

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