

BURDENS: MINE, YOURS, AND OURS

Galatians 6:2

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

Galatians 6:5

For every man shall bear his own burden.

Introduction

These two verses are very near to each other in their placements in the text. Only verses three and four separate them. Cognitively, in most English translations, they seem to be miles apart. Verse two says we should help others carry their burdens. Verse six says everyone should bear their own burdens. Do these verses contradict each other? Let me answer this question right off the bat: No! In the Greek a different word is used to express "burden" in the two passages. The term in verse two in the Greek is "baros," which simply means a very heavy load. Their term for burden in verse five is "phortion. It is a common term for a soldier's back pack or a traveling salesman's nap sack. Each soldier should carry his own back pack because his equipment needs to be readily available in case of a surprise attack. With this knowledge the apparent contradiction disappears.

Moreover, in verse two of our text, Paul refers to the "Law of Christ." The whole epistle of Galatians was written to refute the teachings of the Judiazers and their erroneous interpretation of the Law of Moses. The "Law" of Christ fulfills and clarifies the Law of Moses. The Law of Christ is expressed in all of His teaching about love and forgiveness, but especially in the Beatitudes. Remember, the term Beatitude is a concatenation of the phrase, "Blessed Attitudes."

Again, there is no real contradiction in the two verses of our text; there is no discrepancy. Individual responsibility is not incompatible with Christian assistance to those in need. They are like the two sides of the same coin. They are closely related.

Let us remember, in life, we will encounter many heavy burdens. Let me say that again: in life, we will encounter many, many heavy burdens. Therefore, as Christians, we should always be ready to give and receive a little help to make our journeys a little easier, as we walk the "strait and narrow" way to our eternal, heavenly home.

Exposition

1. There Are Burdens We Must Bear.

(Personal Responsibility.)

(Innocent Suffering.)

(The Vicissitudes Of Life - Stuff Happens.)

2. There Are Burdens We Should Bear.

(They Didn't Have To, But They Did.)

(The Good Samaritan.)

(The Four Men Who Broke Through The Roof To Help A Friend.)

(Esther Saved A Nation.)

(Jethro Gave Moses Advice.)

3. There Are Burdens We Can Share.

(They Came Together Under Nehemiah's Leadership And Rebuilt The Wall In Record Time.)

(The Women Rose Early

To Anoint The Body Of Jesus.)

4. There Are Burdens We Cannot Bear.

(There Are Somethings Only God Can Fix.)

(This Is Where God Shows Up In A Powerful, Visible Way.)

(We Cannot Bear The Sin Burden-Only The Blood Of Jesus Can Bear It.)

Closing Thoughts

Sometimes we don't know what to do. We can easily enter a quandary as to how much help, if any, to provide to another person. We all want to be "useful;" but no one wants to be "used." If we seek the help of the Lord, He will show us what to do in every situation. Through it all remember, that Christ bore the sin burden on the cross for all of us. Give God Glory! Give God All The Glory!

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