

## **The Three Bears**

No. 201

### **Introduction.**

I. Paul penned these words in Galatians 6:1-5 and in Galatians 6:17.

**GAL 6:1 Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ. 3 For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. 4 But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another. 5 For each one shall bear his own load.**

**GAL 6:17 From now on let no one cause trouble for me, for I bear on my body the brand-marks of Jesus.**

II. Most of us are familiar with the famous fairy tale of "The Three Bears." This fairy tale has been told millions of times to children throughout the world.

III. Tonight, I would like to preach on "The Three Bears."

A. This lesson is not, however, a review or exposition of the famous fairy tale, but it is a study of "the three bears" Paul discussed here in Galatians the sixth chapter.

B. Let us study "the three bears" one by one.

I. **First Bear** - The first bear is found in Galatians 6:2.

A. Paul here recognizes that all of have burdens or troubles. (Job 14:1).

1. An **airline company** was disturbed over a high percentage of accidents. They decided to eliminate human errors by building a completely computerized plane. On the initial flight came a voice of the P.A. system, "Ladies and gentlemen, it may interest you to know that you are traveling in the world's first completely automated and computerized plane. Now just sit back and relax because nothing can go wrong....go wrong....go wrong....go wrong....."

a. Things do go wrong on even so-called perfect airplanes.

b. **Things do go wrong in life no matter how perfect or organized we may be.**

c. We may have to suffer physically, emotionally or mentally. Much of our suffering comes from bad choices we have made in our lives. Sometimes it is a result of the sin of others. Sometimes it is the result of accidents or acts of nature.

2. These burdens or problems can be overwhelming. They can discourage us. They can cast us down and destroy us. We must not try to run from them. It is vital that we allow others to help us. It is especially vital that we seek the help of the Almighty God of heaven. (Psa. 55:22; 1 Pet. 5:7).

**PSA 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, And though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea; 3 Though its**

waters roar and foam, Though the mountains quake at its swelling pride. 4 ¶ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, The holy dwelling places of the Most High. 5 God is in the midst of her, she will not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns. 6 The nations made an uproar, the kingdoms tottered; He raised His voice, the earth melted. 7 The Lord of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our stronghold. 8 Come, behold the works of the Lord, Who has wrought desolations in the earth. 9 He makes wars to cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two; He burns the chariots with fire. 10 "Cease striving and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." 11 The Lord of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our stronghold. Selah.

B. Paul said, **"Bear you one another's burdens."**

1. The Greek "baros" refers to a heavy load that can be properly relieved and lightened by the help of others.
2. As Christians we are charged here with the responsibility of **helping others bear their burdens**.
3. We must not be indifferent or apathetic toward the burdens of one another, but must be concerned and willing to share them. The "law of Christ" will not permit us to shun the shareable burdens of the weak, the young, the aged, the lonely and all the others who need our help.
4. **There are a number of things involved in keeping this commandment.**
  - a. In the first place, we are to **restore our brother if he is overcome by sin**. (Gal. 6:1).
    - 1) Some are harsh and unsympathetic toward the fallen brother.
    - 2) These scriptures set forth we are not to denounce our brother or throw stones at him or even be indifferent toward him, but we are to seek in love to "restore" him to the fold and favor of God.
  - b. In the second place, we are to **exhort an courage our brother**. (Heb. 3:13; 10:24).
    - 1) Brethren, when we see our brother drifting, let's exhort him to return to his first love.
    - 2) When we see him stumble, let's pray with him and encourage him to repent and accept God's grace.
    - 3) When we see him do good, let's praise him and encourage him to do even greater works.
  - c. In the third place, we are to do **nothing that would cause our brother to stumble**. (1 Cor. 8:13;10:32).
  - d. In the fourth place, we should **show sympathy to our brother**. (Rom. 12:15). Weeping with our brother and showing genuine sympathy for him will go a long way in helping him bear his burdens.
  - e. In the fifth place, we should **not misunderstand his response**.

- 1) Quite often I have seen a brother or sister respond to the invitation and come forward and ask for forgiveness and prayers of strength. It is so easy for us to conclude this brother is all right now and ignore him.
- 2) Most often **when people respond to the invitation** it is a cry for help. They need God's help and forgiveness. They are also crying out for our help. They are saying, "I need your help, I need your prayers, I need your encouragement, I need your fellowship and acceptance.
- 3) If we do not respond to this cry, we will likely see the burdens of life once more defeat our brother and perhaps take him down to hell.
- 4) When a brother responds to the invitation or in any other way reveals he needs our help, let us do all we can to help him and keep him in the fold of God.

## II. **Second Bear** - Let us now consider the second bear.

### A. Paul said. (Gal. 6:5).

1. The word "burden" is from the Greek word "phortion" which means "pack." One version of the Bible renders this phrase, "For every one must shoulder his own pack.."
2. Every Christian must bear his "own pack." The "pack" is the whole of one's individual duties to God.
3. **While some burdens can be shared, others are non-transferable.** They cannot be pushed off on another person, neither can they be delegated to some organization or institution including the Lord's church.
  - a. The Lord has given each man his own work. (Phil. 2:2).
  - b. No one can believe on the Lord or repent or confess faith in Christ or be baptized in our stead.
  - c. No one can pray, give, win souls, visit the sick, or perform the other Christian duties for us.
  - d. No one can answer at the judgment for us. (Rom. 14:12). Yes, each one of us will give account of our lives in the judgment.

### B. **There is one thing that lightens the load.**

1. It is love.
2. Just as love makes it not burdensome for a father or mother to provide for their family, love makes it easier to serve God. (Jn. 14:15; 1 Jn. 5:3).
3. The "pack" of the Christian life is made lighter and more enjoyable by the love of God.

## III. **Third Bear** - Let us now consider the third bear.

### A. Paul said. (Gal. 6:17).

1. Paul affirmed that he had branded on his body the “marks of Jesus.”
2. The word “marks” comes from the Greek word “stigma” and means “brand marks, scars.”
  - a. As slaves were marked by their own owners, Paul also had the physical marks of Christ on his body.
  - b. He had suffered often and much because of his loyalty to Jesus. (2 Cor. 11:23-27).

**2CO 11:23 Are they servants of Christ? (I speak as if insane) I more so; in far more labors, in far more imprisonments, beaten times without number, often in danger of death. 24 Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep. 26 I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren; 27 I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.**

3. Paul also bore the **spiritual marks of Jesus**. He was one who was imitating Christ, and drawing men to Christ because of his Christlikeness. He was a man who was full of love, zeal, courage and joy. (Phil. 1:20, 21).

**B. Today it is essential that we bear the marks of Jesus.**

1. We must be willing to **bear the physical marks of Jesus**. We must be willing to suffer for Christ and even die for him. (Mk. 8:35).
2. We must be willing to **follow Him and imitate Him**.
  - a. We are not sinless and never will be in this life, but this is not an excuse for wreck less and sinful living. Men still ought to see Christ living in us.
  - b. Every Christian should be **different than those of the world** and be one who brings glory to God by his manner of life. (Matt. 5:16; Phil. 2:15b).

**Conclusion.**

- I. **May none of us ever forget “The Three Bears” of this lesson.** We must seek God’s help and the help of others in bearing our shareable burdens, we must help others bear their burdens, we must bear our own loads or burdens which are not transferable, we must bear the scars and likeness of Jesus. These three bears will assure us salvation by the One who was willing to bear our sins on the cross.
- II. **Won’t you accept Him tonight.** Come and give your life to Him and then faithfully bear his name all your days. Come as we stand and sing.

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