

## Sha'ul of Tarsus & His Letters ~ Part 30

### Shaul's Letter to the Galatians ~ Part 15

**Note:** To examine the graphics in this series, click on them for a pop-up version.

We pause the ongoing story of **Sha'ul** to examine his **Letter to the Galatians**.

In our last post, we left off in Chapter 5:26 with **Sha'ul** describing **Flesh and Spirit**. In this post, we continue to explore his **Doctrine on Messianic Liberty**.

#### Mutual Responsibility

**6:1** *Brothers, suppose someone is caught doing something wrong. You who have the Spirit should set him right, but in a spirit of humility, keeping an eye on yourselves so that you won't be tempted too.*

This verse follows 5:26, which we ended with in our last post without a break in thought: **26** *Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.*

**2** *Bear one another's burdens - in this way, you will be fulfilling the Torah's true meaning, which the Messiah upholds.*

Stern writes: *Here, the question is whether **Yeshua** instituted a new **Torah** different from the **Torah** given to **Moshe** at **Mount Sinai**. In other words, is fulfilling "the law of the Messiah" different from fulfilling the **Law of Moshe**? I express my negative answer in my interpretive rendering, which by its wording excludes the common, but in my opinion mistaken, a traditional **Christian** view that **Yeshua** abolished the supposedly legalistic **Torah of Moshe** and inaugurated in its place a "Law of Love." **Yeshua** Himself reassured His hearers that He had not come to abolish the **Torah** (Mattityahu 5:17). However, the eternity of the **Torah** does allow for changes in its historical manifestation and application to society; indeed, **Judaism** itself provides numerous examples. Moreover, **Jewish** tradition includes a significant strand of expecting that when the **Messiah** comes, there will be a transformation of the **Torah** (see Acts 6:13–14, Messianic Jews (Hebrews) 7:12). **Messianic Judaism's** search for common ground with **non-Messianic Judaism** on the subject of the **Torah** must be carried out in this challenging terrain of change within sameness.*

**3** *For if anyone thinks he is something when he is really nothing, he is fooling himself. 4 So let each of you scrutinize his own actions. Then, if you do find something to boast about, at least the boasting will be based on what you have actually done and not merely on a judgment that you are better than someone else; 5 for each person will carry his own load. 6 But whoever is being instructed in the Word should share all the good things he has with his instructor.*

**Teachers of the Good News** are to be supported by their fellow **Believers**. But **Sha'ul** used his entitlement only when he was confident that his doing so would not inhibit response to the **Gospel** itself (see Acts 18:3, 1 Corinthians 9:1–18, 2 Corinthians 11:7–12).

Our present actions are not trifles, for they will decide our everlasting destiny. Everything we do is, to some extent, a sowing of which eternity will be the reaping.

Charles Spurgeon

<sup>7</sup> **Don't delude yourselves: no one makes a fool of God! A person reaps what he sows.** <sup>8</sup> **Those who keep sowing in the field of their old nature, in order to meet its demands, will eventually reap ruin; but those who keep sowing in the field of the Spirit will reap from the Spirit everlasting life.**

The **law of the harvest** is not only that a person reaps what he sows, whether good or bad, but that the harvest is always more significant than the planting - **"thirty, sixty or a hundred times as much"** (Mattyahu 13:8, 23).

<sup>9</sup> **So let us not grow weary of doing what is good; for if we don't give up, we will in due time reap the harvest.** <sup>10</sup> **Therefore, as the opportunity arises, let us do what is good to everyone, and especially to the family of those who are trustingly faithful.** <sup>1</sup>

In contrast with **the fruit of the Holy Spirit**, the fruit of legalism and the **Judaizers'** teaching is **"feuding, fighting, becoming jealous and getting angry; selfish ambition, factionalism, intrigue, and envy"** (Galatians 5:20–21 previously).

In our next post, we will conclude our study of **Galatians**, starting in chapter 6:11.

---

<sup>1</sup> Galatians 6:1–10.