**BCM Bible Study - 4/26-27**

**Galatians 6:1-18: Caring for One Another and Our New Creation Hope**

Paul concludes his letter to the Galatians with an encouragement of what the Spirit-led life should look like for both individuals and within the church community. After this, he offers a summary of the argument that he has made throughout this letter about the supremacy of Jesus to the Law. Within this, Paul points to the new creation and the way that it is a central part of our hope in Jesus!

**Read Galatians 6:1-10**

After everything that Paul has had to say about the Law and offering correction to the Galatians in how they view themselves before Jesus, this idea of doing good to all people (v.10) is a part of how he decides to conclude the letter.

* Why is this the direction that Paul goes and is there a connection between these two topics? (The Law not being enough and doing good to all.)
* How might Paul’s words and encouragement here set the Galatians up well for following Jesus?
* What does it look like to restore someone gently (v.1)?

**Read Matthew 22:34-40**

* With the Greatest Commandment and Gal. 6:2 in mind, what might the law of Christ be?
	+ There is likely no perfect answer as it seems like Paul created this phrase for the letter to the Galatians given their obsession with the Law of the Old Testament. However, a connection to how Jesus summarized and explained the Law like this would make a lot of sense.
	+ Why is caring for one another so important as a Christian?
	+ How do we make sure to bear each other’s burdens *well*?

**Read Romans 12:3-5 , 1 Corinthians 1:31**

* What does it mean for us to accurately value ourselves?
* How do we make sure that we are valuing ourselves AND boasting only in Christ?
* Describe the picture of discipleship and community that verse 6 offers.
	+ How does this show us as all equal before Christ?

Galatians 6:1-6 places a lot of weight on how we individually pursue Jesus AND the way that we are meant to seek after Jesus within the community of the church. These verses highlight the way that we cannot live out our faith on our own, but also are uniquely and individually accountable to God for how we respond to Him. (Moo)

* What does it mean to sow to please the Spirit (v. 8)?
* How would verse 9 serve as an encouragement to the Galatian churches and believers?
	+ How can it spur us on today?
* What should our response to verse 10 be? How should we seek to live it out?

How are all of these things impossible without the Holy Spirit?

**Read Galatians 6:11-18**

* What are some reasons that Paul would conclude his letter to the Galatians like this?
* How would you describe the tone of verse 12?
	+ In what ways do you seek to avoid hardship or difficulty?
* What does it mean for us to boast “in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ” (v.14)?
	+ “But the notion [of boasting in the cross] would have been strange and even bizarre for ancient readers… In Paul’s day taking pride in the cross would be something like taking pride in the guillotine or the electric chair today. Of course, it is not crucifixion per se in which Paul boasts, but the crucifixion of Jesus.” (Moo)
	+ What might be some practical examples of this boasting today?
* How might the Galatians have responded to verse 15 and its knocking of both circumcision and uncircumcision?
	+ Why is the new creation through Jesus the only thing that Paul is pointing to and saying that matters?
	+ “Paul broadens the idea to embrace all matters of purely worldly significance… These texts assert that the coming of Christ introduces a whole new state of affairs in the world… All “simply human” factors become meaningless in the face of God’s world-transforming work in his Son Jesus Christ.” (Moo)
* What does the grace of Jesus being with your spirit mean?
	+ It is carrying the joy and encouragement that comes from our relationship with Jesus in our souls and allowing it to impact us!

**Galatians Summary Questions**

* How did Galatians encourage your faith?
* What did Galatians teach you about the Law and how we should engage with it as Christians?
* How is the Holy Spirit essential for our life as Christians?
* In what ways will you follow Jesus differently due to Galatians?