

Galatians Unearthed Part 20: 6:1-3; Pride; Tithing (6/9/2018)

The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fk3oyjsiktg>

*Portions of this document have been edited from the video message to better present a comprehensive, written document. Special attention was given to preserve the original context, but this document is not verbatim. Scripture verses are in the red text with other quotes in blue. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew words are generally accompanied by the transliterate, English word. In most cases, the Hebrew is to be read from right to left.

Last week we ended up breaking into chapter six of Paul's epistle to the Galatians. We are going to draw back to where we left off with verse one—¹ Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. ² Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the **Law of Christ** (emphasis added, Galatians 6:1-2).

If you remember, when we were in Galatians 5:14 we jumped ahead for a moment to these verses in chapter six. What we found is the Apostle Paul does something very interesting given the day and age we live today, and the way Christianity views the Torah. In verse two, Paul actually likens the Torah to the Law of Christ. Let me show you these verses so you can see them together.

Galatians 6:2- Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ

Galatians 5:14- For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

They are synonymous. So Galatians 5:14 says—For all the Law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." This comes directly out of the heart of Torah in Leviticus 19:18, and we know the Torah promotes love because it is a book of love. So as we come to Galatians 6:2, Paul tells us to bear one another's burdens. That means we are to love our neighbor as ourselves. However, instead of just saying we are to fulfill the Torah as he does in Galatians 5:14, he tells us to fulfill the Torah of Machiach (Christ) because the Torah is the Torah of Messiah.

It would behoove us to start introducing Paul's terminology. The next time you go to study the Torah, what you should be calling it is the Torah of Christ. We need to start utilizing this terminology because it's going to cause people to investigate this when you tell them you are going to study the Torah of Christ, and they try to correct you and tell you, you are studying the book of Deuteronomy. They need to understand what Paul understood. They need to understand the Torah is Christ. He is the Torah made flesh. When I look through the Torah, what I see is Christ's character, His likes, His dislikes, His personality, His righteousness, and His truth. It is all Him.

This is a very different perspective from what the devil has given to the Church today. He has given them a pseudo-perspective and defaced the truth of what Torah is. The Torah is Yeshua. When I go to the Torah today, I am looking for Yeshua and all aspects of Him. That is why He said—**You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me (John 5:39)**. In that statement, Yeshua takes ownership of the Torah by declaring the Torah is Him and His commandments.

What did Yeshua say in John 14:15? **If you love Me, you will keep My commandments**. That is a direct quote out of Exodus 20:6.

We are going to move on to Galatians 6:3—**For if anyone thinks himself to be something when he is nothing, he deceives himself**. This is such a little statement, but it has a world of implication. Paul is delivering to the Galatians a very severe warning. What is the warning? It is a warning against pride.

If you study the Bible and start combing through the Scriptures, what you will find is the particular sin of pride. It's woven throughout the tapestry of the Word. We find it to be true if we look at the wisest men who ever lived, second to Yeshua. King Solomon was one of the wisest people who lived. People from across the globe had come just to hear his wisdom. I challenge you to read his book of Proverbs. What is it that consumes him? Proverb, after proverb, after proverb, the wisest man on the earth is talking about pride. That is an astounding thing because Solomon marveled at how sneaky and clever this one little sin was. This is a sin that has taken out many of the righteous men. It is so seductive.

This is a sin every single person in this room is confronted with on many different levels and degrees. I am going to tell you, pride wears thousands of different masks. Many times when you are manifesting in the flesh, you do not recognize the source is you allowing pride in your heart. This is a reality.

I can tell you, I have seen friendships destroyed because of pride. It has destroyed marriages, families, and communities. The sin of pride leaves an unbelievable path of destruction.

Given that, we are going to spend a little bit of time on this issue and draw out the severity of Paul's concern. Again, you need to feel the weight of it. Paul is amazing because he makes these little statements with profound implications.

I want to take this topic to 2 Chronicles 26. We are going to read a story about one of the kings of Judah named Uzziah. So in 2 Chronicles 26:3-5 we read this—³ **Uzziah was sixteen years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty-two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jecholiah of Jerusalem.** ⁴ **And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah had done.** ⁵ **He sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God; and as long as he sought the LORD, God made him prosper.**

The first thing I want you to notice is Uzziah was a man of God. He walked with God, and God walked with Him and prospered him. He was the king of Jerusalem and the king of Judah. It is critical we understand those things.

We're going to jump ahead to 2 Chronicles 26:14-15—¹⁴ Then Uzziah prepared for them, for the entire army, shields, spears, helmets, body armor, bows, and slings to cast stones. ¹⁵ And he made devices in Jerusalem, invented by skillful men, to be on the towers and the corners, to shoot arrows and large stones. **So his fame spread far and wide, for he was marvelously helped till he became strong (emphasis added).**

Where did he get the strength? It was from the Living God. When the LORD is with you in such a mighty way, the world is going to know it. His fame was spreading far and wide.

Continuing in 2 Chronicles 26:16—**But when he was strong his heart was lifted up, to his destruction (emphasis added).** It was God with him who gave him the strength, power, and fame. When Uzziah started tasting the glory, honor, and fame, instead of falling to his knees and thanking the LORD God for being with him, Uzziah let it go to his heart, and he starts looking at himself as the source of his success. Pride starts to sink in. It is so sneaky, and it feels so good. Uzziah became intoxicated with the feeling.

I have to tell you something. You can confess it or not confess it because that's between you and the LORD; however, the reality is every single day your flesh wants glory and honor. Your flesh wants to be worshiped, and how good it feels when people adorn you, hold you up, and respect you. It feels so good. It is intoxicating. This is one of those sins that is so nasty. Our entire society is built to get you to embrace pride. Our entire society is built for this one thing, the glory of men. We desire it. It is inherent in our flesh.

Think about Hollywood and all the stars who are out there. The whole point of the Hollywood scene is, "Look at me. I'm in the spotlight." You have all these rock stars and actors doing this. I played guitar and did all that stuff, and as you sit in the garage fantasizing, your dream is you're going to be on a stage in front of thousands so they can adorn you by lifting their hands to you in honor of what you're doing.

I grew up in a conservative Christian home and then walked away from the LORD, so I hadn't been exposed to all that Hollywood stuff. I remember the first rock show I went to. In my fleshly body, it was so amazing and awesome, but I recognize something unusual. I was like, "Wow! I'm seeing everybody's hands up in the air glorifying those on the stage." I was thinking, "This is awesome! This looks like being at church, but it is not because they are all raising their hands to men." You see, I grew up in a church where we raised our hands to the LORD. We did this to give honor and glory to the LORD, and here I am in this venue where they are giving the honor and glory to men.

We have to come to grips with the fact every single one of us wants the glory. Your flesh desires it, and I challenge you to start searching your motives as to why you do specific things in life because you're going to find out oftentimes the motive is not pure. We do things to get the respect of those around us.

We live in a generation of YouTube and Facebook where we get this idea we have to post every idea on Facebook because "Everyone wants to know what I think because I matter." In fact, we believe whenever we get a thought, we need to post it on Facebook because "that is how important I am." We believe people crave who we are and what we have to say. This sounds funny, but I'm telling you this is the generation we live in. It is deadly. This is intoxicating.

So here we see a man, Uzziah, anointed of God, and he falls victim to this very sin, but here's the problem. When you embrace pride, there are strings attached. There's a natural order of events that is going to follow, and we see that right here. What is it we read at the beginning of 2 Chronicles 26:16? We read—**But when he was strong his heart was lifted up, to his destruction.** What's the next thing we read? **For he transgressed against the LORD his God by entering the Temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense (emphasis added, 2 Chronicles 26:16).**

Uzziah transgressed by embracing pride. Embrace pride and you will sin. It's inevitable. It is the natural Law of pride. You will not avoid it. Pride comes before destruction. When I see a man embracing pride, I don't need to be a Prophet to know his end; it is destruction. He came around professing Yeshua and looked like a sold-out Christian, but if pride is in his life, I know where he is going to be. I don't know this because I am a Prophet. I know this because the Bible tells me what is going to happen. God's Word is true. It will not fail.

Remember those words. When you're confronted with pride, His Word will not fail you. If you embrace pride, you're going down. Destruction is in your future.

So here we see Uzziah who was intoxicated with vainglory, and we now have another aspect of pride. He is entering the Temple, which is forbidden. He is transgressing. He's walking over the commandment of God. It's called Rebellion. He is entering rebellion. Rebellion is a manifestation of pride. This is what freaks me out about looking at today's progressive, modern-day Christianity. They don't recognize rebellion against God's holiness and against His commandments. It is pride! I told you, pride will wear a thousand different masks and come at you in different ways.

So Uzziah goes into the Temple. The problem is only the Kohanim (High Priests) can go in to offer incense in the holy place. This is where we pick up the story again—¹⁷ **So Azariah the priest went in after him, and with him were eighty priests of the LORD--valiant men.** ¹⁸ **And they withstood King Uzziah, and said to him, "It is not for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the LORD, but for the priests, the sons of Aaron, who are consecrated to burn incense. Get out of the sanctuary, for you have trespassed! **You shall have no honor from the LORD God**" (emphasis added, 2 Chronicles 26:17-18).**

There is one thing I can promise you. If you embrace pride, you will lose the honor of the LORD. That is devastating! If you fear Yeshua, the number one thing on your docket is to gain His honor. If you embrace pride, honor will be stripped from you. It will be totally taken from you. That's scary!

Here is something from the book of John 12:42-43—⁴² **Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue;** ⁴³ **for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.** They would rather have the honor of men than the honor of God.

What did Uzziah do? He wanted the honor that was bestowed upon the Kohanim, and he took it, but he didn't want the honor of God. If he had wanted the honor of God, he would not have gone into the Temple to offer incense. He would not have done that if he feared God. When you are seeking to honor God and have His honor bestowed upon you, that is when you're seeking to please Him and be a

worshipper of Him. You will be very different. You will be a peculiar people when you embrace that kind of obedience and humility.

Continuing in 2 Chronicles 26:19. So the Priests rebuke Uzziah. How does Uzziah respond? It says—¹⁹ **Then Uzziah became furious.** Remember what we read last week in Psalm 141:5? **Let the righteous strike me; It shall be a kindness. And let him rebuke me; It shall be as excellent oil; Let my head not refuse it.**

A righteous man yearns to be set straight, but here with Uzziah, what do we find? Pride set in. He is not letting go, and now he is angry with the Priests. This is the opposite response of what he should have had. He is in total rebellion, and the source is pride.

Continuing in 2 Chronicles 26:19-21—**and he had a censer in his hand to burn incense. And while he was angry with the priests, leprosy broke out on his forehead, before the priests in the house of the LORD, beside the incense altar.** ²¹ **King Uzziah was a leper until the day of his death. He dwelt in an isolated house, because he was a leper; for he was cut off from the house of the LORD. Then Jotham his son was over the king's house, judging the people of the land.**

Look at the effects of pride. It was total destruction. Uzziah wanted the honor; he wanted the glory of man. What he got was the rejection of the LORD. He was humbled. He had exalted himself, but the LORD brought him low to the point of being cut off from the house of the LORD.

Think about how many people would have looked at what Uzziah and said, “Look at what the LORD has done. You're the king. It is amazing. You've become so strong. Who could come up against you because the LORD stands with you? Nobody.

Uzziah is taking this in, and it becomes intoxicating. No one will go see him because he is a leper, and he's cut off from the very house he desired to go to. It is total devastation! He has lost everything for the sake of pride.

Proverbs 16:5—**Everyone proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD; though they join forces, none will go unpunished (emphasis added).** Think about this the next time you're going to embrace pride. There are a few passages for me that are go-to passages. This is one of them. Every time you go to embrace pride, know you're an abomination to the LORD. No matter how you try to spin it, do not be deceived. All the sacrifice you've done for Yeshua and His Kingdom mean nothing if pride is involved. Unfortunately, that's what pride does. It deceives.

I want to share a story with you that, for me, is probably the most pivotal story that has brought realization and fear to me regarding pride. It is a story found in Ezekiel 28. It is a prophecy about Satan. I want to read this to you because we are going to learn a lot about pride in this story. Ezekiel 28:12—¹² **"Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, 'Thus says the LORD God: "You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty (emphasis added).**

Now I want to be very clear. This was a lamentation for the king of Tyre, but it is also a prophetic revelation of HaSatan. You will recognize this as we go on in verse thirteen because it talks about him being in the Garden of Eden. We are not going to get into that, but there is no question here this is the adversary, and what we read is HaSatan was the seal of perfection.

Now I ask you, how many of you have been called the seal of perfection? Not me. I have never been called the seal of perfection. However, the one talked about in this verse was— **full of wisdom and perfect in beauty (Ezekiel 28:12)**, and we understand why as we continue to the next verse. **You were the anointed cherub who covers (Ezekiel 28:14)**.

I want to stop right there. When you look at the Arc of the Covenant, you'll notice two Cherubim are covering the Mercy Seat of God. These angels spread out their wings over the throne of God. Lucifer was a covering Cherub. Out of all the angles of heaven, he was the one closest to God. He was so close he was absorbing God's radiant glory. You need to think about that. Being that close, one couldn't help but be the seal of perfection and perfect in beauty. Think about all the beautiful radiance God is emanating, and HaSatan, who is hanging over the throne of God, is taking that in. That's the kind of beauty even the other angles of Heaven looked upon in awe. You will see this in a second as we continue.

Continuing in Ezekiel 28:14-15—¹⁴ **I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.** ¹⁵ **You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you.** What was the problem? What happened? We find the answer in Ezekiel 28:17—¹⁷ **Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty.**

I want to stop right there. It says—your **heart was lifted up because of your beauty**. What is interesting is these covering Cherub are over the Arc of God, and both of them are looking at the Throne; their eyes are on God. HaSatan, however, has taken his eyes off of God and started looking at what God has made him. He is thinking, "I am beautiful. I'm incredible. There's no question the other angels recognize that fact." He took his eyes off God and started looking at himself and his own accomplishments.

The verse continues in Ezekiel 28:17—¹⁷ **you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor.** I want you to think about that. Here you have HaSatan who is seeing God for what He is because HaSatan is literally positioned over the Throne of God. He is given all of this perfect wisdom, yet all of it was for not. It was all corrupted the moment he grabbed on to pride. It evaporated.

Think about all the miraculous things the LORD has done in your life. One of the things I cherish more than anything, as I go through the Word, is how the LORD builds into my relationship with Him. He reveals Himself to me through His Word and gives me all of its wisdom, truth, and righteousness. Should I grab onto pride, that very moment, it will go up in smoke. It will avail me nothing. I will lose everything.

Think about that the next time you are confronted with pride and have selfish motivations. Think about that when you want glory and want to be exalted and respected.

The verse is not done. We learn something else about pride—**cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, that they might gaze at you (Ezekiel 28:17)**. So what does God do with Satan when he embraces pride? He cast him out of His presence. Is that something that any of us want? Remember Isaiah 42:8—**I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another**. Put that verse on your fridge and live by it. We should be living by that principle. He will not give His glory to another. So then in all our actions, we need to meditate on that very thing. Do not underestimate the destructive power of pride.

There is something else regarding pride I want to point out. Remember it was because of pride the devil attempted to take the Throne of God. I want you to think about the context of that for a second. It was pride that drove him to try to take the Throne of God. Now I ask you, did Satan ever have a chance? You are probably laughing, scoffing, and thinking that is ridiculous. What was Satan thinking? He was so foolish thinking he could actually destroy the LORD God who made him.

You need to learn something significant from this. With pride comes delusion. I want you to understand something. Not for a moment did the devil believe he couldn't take the Throne of God. He fully believed he could do it. I'll take it a step farther. He was so beautiful in his ways, so full of wisdom, and so revered, he convinced the third of the angels in heaven he could take the Throne of God. How do you convince a third of the angels who serve and minister to God and see God for who He is that they can take the Throne of God?

You need to think about this. Not for a moment did he believe he couldn't do it. When you embrace pride, you will be delusional. You will not see things for what they really are. The devil will completely distort the picture for you. You will think you're going through reality, and you think you are going to accomplish things and reach the goal you want, which is this total worship of you. Essentially, it's not going to happen. God is not going to give His glory to another.

There is one last thing I want to point out in regard to what Satan did and the effects, the fruit, of pride. So when Satan gathers a third of the angels in heaven and goes to make war against the angels who stayed faithful to God, what happened? The Kingdom of God was divided. That's a manifestation of what? Pride.

It is hard to wrap your mind around the idea of the Kingdom of God being divided. Do you think it's going to be any different than that here on Earth? Look at what this says in Proverbs 28:25—**He who is of a proud heart stirs up strife**. He stirs up division. Again, show me men who have gone out to cause division in communities and I'll show you the problem. It's pride. They are doing exactly what HaSatan had done in heaven.

I want to give you one more example. It's the story of Hezekiah. The backdrop is the king of Assyria has come up against Hezekiah and is threatening to destroy him. Assyria is telling Hezekiah he needs to totally submit and make peace with them. Assyria tells Hezekiah they are going to take Jerusalem captive, but if Hezekiah does the things the Assyrians ask, they will survive. The Assyrians remind Hezekiah it was the Assyrians who took out the Northern Kingdom of Israel, and no city has ever survived an attack of the Assyrians.

So Hezekiah is freaking out because this is a real situation. He not sure what he should do. This is where we pick up the story in 2 Chronicles 32:20-22—²⁰ **Now because of this King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah, the son of Amoz, prayed and cried out to heaven.** Hezekiah was righteous and did what was right. He acted wisely. We see this going on to verse twenty-one—²¹ **Then the LORD sent an angel who cut down every mighty man of valor, leader, and captain in the camp of the king of Assyria. So he returned shamefaced to his own land. And when he had gone into the Temple of his god, some of his own offspring struck him down with the sword there.** ²² **Thus the LORD saved Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem from the hand of Sennacherib the king of Assyria, and from the hand of all others, and guided them on every side.**

I want you to understand what the LORD did when he came against the 185,000 Assyrians. They fell at the hand of the LORD. Talk about mass slaughter. I guarantee you, word of this battle went to the ends of the earth. The LORD waged battle on behalf of Hezekiah because he turned and prayed. Think about that story regarding our world today. This is a beautiful story of deliverance.

Now, look at what we read as we continue in 2 Chronicles 32:23—²³ **And many brought gifts to the LORD at Jerusalem, and presents to Hezekiah king of Judah, so that he was exalted in the sight of all nations thereafter (emphasis added).** Because of this impressive victory of the Living God, Hezekiah received glory and honor. I understand why these people are looking at him like this. They did so because this man was favored by God and had the power of God. This was incredible.

Continuing in 2 Chronicles 32:24—²⁴ **In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death, and he prayed to the LORD; and He spoke to him and gave him a sign.** The sign was Hezekiah's shadow going back ten degrees. Then the LORD tells Hezekiah to put his house in order because he was about to die. Hezekiah goes back to the LORD and prays, and the LORD delivers him from death. We can find in Hezekiah's history testimony after testimony and deliverance after deliverance.

We move on to 2 Chronicles 32:25—**But Hezekiah did not repay according to the favor shown him, for his heart was lifted up (emphasis added).** I want you to think about everything the LORD had done for Hezekiah. I am sure there are things that were done for him that are not recorded. Even after all of that, Scripture records—**Hezekiah did not repay to the favor shown him for his heart was lifted up.**

This is interesting because we just learned something about pride. Those who have an ungrateful and unthankful spirit have an issue of pride somewhere. I told you pride wears thousands of different masks. Things you think are not pride actually are. I'll turn the spotlight to myself for a moment and give you a personal example. When we first started this ministry, I felt I needed to do everything. I had to have my hands in everything and be in control of everything. I am a firstborn, type-A all day long. In my mind, when I am not in control, the whole house is out of control. I would tell myself, by doing these things, I was being a responsible person. It's amazing how you look at this. I am going to tell you, it was pride.

Fortunately, the LORD dealt with that, and I started delegating responsibilities. What you find out is, "Oh! The LORD is the boss, and He's in control. This is His community and Kingdom. Therefore, I need to step back." What the LORD did was He brought in people who are better than me, more talented,

more gifted, and more capable. So I was standing back watching this happen thinking, “Your right, LORD. Your way is better.” Yet it is amazing how you don’t identify little things like that as pride. You justify them, turn them, and twist them, and you come to wrong conclusions. Then you find yourself on this hamster wheel of insanity, and you wonder why your life doesn't change. It is crazy.

So here we read in 2 Chronicles 32:25—**his heart was lifted up**. Now you need to pay close attention because there's something else here. Because his heart was lifted up, there's an effect; there's fruit—**therefore wrath was looming over him and over Judah and Jerusalem (2 Chronicles 32:25)**.

Do you remember that little proverb in Proverbs 16:18? It says—**Pride comes before destruction**. You don't need to be a Prophet to know once Hezekiah grabbed pride in his heart and harnessed it, that was when wrath was coming. It is like the natural consequence. The LORD cannot deny himself; therefore, wrath will come forth. However, here's the good news. In 2 Chronicles 32:26 we read—**Then Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart, he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of the LORD did not come upon them in the days of Hezekiah (emphasis added)**.

Do you see the power of humility? The power of humility has the power to save. Do you want salvation? Then you need to embrace humility. We read this in Psalm 149:4—**For the LORD takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the humble with salvation (emphasis added)**.

The LORD’s Word is true. The only people who will be beautified are those who are prostrate. It is those who are not seeking respect and recognition. They are not seeking to be acknowledged or to be glorified and lifted up. The people the LORD is going to give salvation to are those who humble themselves. Humbled yourself in the sight of the LORD, and He will lift you up. Amen?

Psalm 38:18—**The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit**. If you feel distance from the LORD, you need to go looking for pride because He will not dwell with pride. He will only draw near to those who will humble themselves. We need to be people who are clothed in humility.

I want to take you to Proverbs 25 where we find something interesting said about Hezekiah. **These also are proverbs of Solomon which the men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied (Proverbs 25:1)**. So the men who were with Hezekiah and saw everything we just read about and everything Hezekiah went through, copied specific proverbs from Solomon. Here's what's interesting about this. Look at what they copied—**Do not exalt yourself in the presence of the king (Proverbs 25:6)**.

I want to stop right there. When it says—**Do not exalt yourself**—there is deep spiritual connotation. As believers in Yeshua, there is only one who should come to mind above all else. That is King Yeshua. He and He alone, and the text is very clear—Do you not exalt yourself in His presence.

I want you to think about Psalm 139:7-8 for a second. What does David say? **⁷ Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? ⁸ If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there.** In other words, the point he was making is there's nowhere I can go from the presence of the king. If that's the case, you're not exulting yourself

anywhere. No matter where you are in this world or no matter what situation, it doesn't allow for us to exalt ourselves. We must humble ourselves in the presence of the King.

It goes on in Proverbs 25:6 to say this—**and do not stand in the place of the great; ⁷ For it is better that he say to you, "Come up here," Than that you should be put lower in the presence of the prince, whom your eyes have seen.**

Does this sound familiar? Does this sound like a passage you might have heard before? Look at Luke 14:8-11—**⁸ When you are invited by anyone to a wedding feast** (I highlighted that because this is talking about the marriage supper of the Lamb; there is deep spiritual connotation here), **do not sit down in the best place, lest one more honorable than you be invited by him; ⁹ and he who invited you and him come and say to you, 'Give place to this man,' and then you begin with shame to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down in the lowest place, so that when he who invited you comes he may say to you, 'Friend, go up higher.'** Then you will have glory in the presence of those who sit at the table with you. **¹¹ For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted** (emphasis added).

This is exactly what was just said in Proverbs 25:6. It all relates to humbling yourself in the sight of the One who invited you to come into the Kingdom of God. That One is Yeshua.

So when we read Paul's statement in Galatians 6:3-4—**³ For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.** This is a powerful statement when you have this backdrop of what Paul knew regarding pride and the destruction it rocks against the communities and against us individually.

Continuing in Galatians 6:4-5—**⁴ But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. ⁵ For each one shall bear his own load.** Paul is taking this right out of the Torah and Prophets whether we're talking Ezekiel, the book of Deuteronomy, or Jeremiah. I will give you an example from Jeremiah 31:29-30—**²⁹ In those days they shall say no more: 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge.'** **³⁰ But every one shall die for his own iniquity; every man who eats the sour grapes, his teeth shall be set on edge** (emphasis added).

In other words, in Deuteronomy 24:16 the LORD says— **Fathers shall not be put to death for *their* children, nor shall children be put to death for *their* fathers; a person shall be put to death for his own sin.** This is what Paul is bringing out. He is bringing out a very important point, which is you're going to bear your own load. You better wake up because you're going to have to account for it. Nobody else is going to account for you.

Moving on to Galatians 6:6—**Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches** (emphasis added). When you look at how Paul utilizes this word *share* in the Greek, which is *κοινωνέ*, you find he is specifically using it in the same context he uses this term in Romans and Philippians. To give you an example of what it is not, this is not a situation where you hear a sermon, and afterward, you run down to the one who gave the sermon and tell them, "The Holy Spirit really spoke to me through that sermon. The sermon really ministered to me today. That's exactly what I

have been dealing with, so I really appreciate that sermon.” That is not what Paul is dealing with regarding the use of the word *share*. It is dealing with contributions in supporting the material needs of the shepherds, pastors, and the teachers.

You need to appreciate why Paul is bringing this to the table. I want to be very clear regarding something. The Apostle Paul is not concerned about lining the pockets of pastors, preachers, and teachers so they can fly around in forty-five million dollars planes. This is not what he is concerned about. He is making the statement because he knows how vitally important it is to the community this principle be carried out.

To help you appreciate this, I want to take you to 1 Corinthians. This is a passage we looked at regarding the Spirit of the Torah, but we're going to go back and re-read this. 1 Corinthians 9:7-13—⁷ **Who ever goes to war at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk of the flock?** [Those are obviously rhetorical question] ⁸ **Do I say these things as a mere man? Or does not the Law say the same also?** ⁹ For it is written in the Law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain." Is it oxen God is concerned about? ¹⁰ Or does He say it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope.¹¹ If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your material things? ¹² If others are partakers of this right over you, are we not even more? Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ. ¹³ Do you not know that those who minister the holy things eat of the things of the Temple, and those who serve at the altar partake of the offerings of the altar (emphasis added)?

In other words, Paul takes us back to the Torah and says, "Look at the Kohanim. They're serving in the House of the LORD, and people all over Israel, including the Gentiles, are bringing their sacrifices up to the Temple, and it is the priests who are consuming these things being brought to the LORD." Then Paul comes to the punch line—**Even so the LORD has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel (1 Corinthians 9:14).** I want you to understand this is exactly what Paul is communicating to the Galatians 6:6—**Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches.**

Paul is setting things in order for the Galatian's protection. He does this for their spiritual growth. This is one of the things Paul brings to the table for the Galatians. This is not the only time he says this. He says it in 1 Timothy 5:17—**Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine (emphasis added).** These are people who are literally dedicating their lives to studying the Word, praying, and being in a relationship with the LORD. Then what they do is feed the flock by acting as real shepherds.

Paul goes on in 1 Timothy 5:18—¹⁸ **For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer is worthy of his wages."** So we just looked at three different epistles of Paul's. I showed these to you because you need to understand this is something that was of deep concern to Paul. He desired to establish this principle where all the churches were being set up, and there was a reason he wanted this principle to happen.

The first thing I want to talk about, in order to help you understand the reason Paul did this, is this was not a new thing. This is something we have been talking about since we looked at the story of Hezekiah. This was the very thing Hezekiah did. He acted in righteousness because of his concern for his people. We read this in 2 Chronicles 31:4—**Moreover he [Hezekiah] commanded the people who dwelt in Jerusalem to contribute support for the priests and the Levites, that they might devote themselves to the Law of the LORD (emphasis added).**

This is the thing Hezekiah recognized. We need to have these men immersed and clothed in the Word of God. They must devote themselves to the Law of the LORD. We are told in Malachi 2:7 the people were to seek the Torah from their mouth. They were to go as sheep to the shepherd to seek life, truth, righteousness, conviction, strength, honor, and encouragement. The sheep were to run to the words of the shepherds, but you have to have shepherds delivering the Word to the sheep, caring for them, and protecting them.

I'm going to tell you this. When this design isn't followed and communities and people begin to, as they say, muscle the ox, bad things start to happen to the community, and the Apostle Paul knows this. This is his concern. It is not about lining the pockets of preachers and teachers. He knows what will happen to communities if they don't have shepherds. All you need to do is read 2 Chronicles 15. There you can read how Israel had been separated from God. The one thing mentioned there, the one characteristic that is brought forth, is they didn't have Torah teachers going through the land teaching the Torah. If you strike the shepherds, the sheep scatter.

However, when we move ahead two chapters to 2 Chronicles 17, we find Jehoshaphat stirred revival in Israel. How did he do it? He sent out the priests and the Levites armed to the teeth with the Torah, and they stirred up revival. The fear of God came over the people, and they turned back to God. It was awesome!

This is what the Apostle Paul knows. Unfortunately, this is also what the devil knows. If you think he is not coming to interrupt and muzzle the oxen, you are deceived.

I want to give you a biblical example in the book of Nehemiah. Nehemiah is with King Artaxerxes in Susa the Citadel. He is not in Jerusalem. Nehemiah is serving the king, and his heart is broken before the LORD because news comes to him that his people are in deep distress. They are mourning because the walls of Jerusalem are broken down, and the gates are burned with fire. It is in total disarray. Nehemiah drops to his knees and prays one of the most awesome prayers you can read in Scripture for repentance and remission.

The next thing we read, we find the LORD gives him favor to go back and get God's house in order. When Nehemiah gets there, what do you read? You read how the people were not keeping the Sabbath. Nehemiah comes against them, "What are you doing? We have been destroyed because we have not kept the Sabbath." He recognizes they've married pagan women who are leading them astray to their false gods. He rebukes them for that, but look at what else he rebukes them for. This is the very thing the Apostle Paul knew—I also realized the portions for the Levites had not been given them; for

each of the Levites and the singers who did the work **had gone back to his field** (emphasis added, Nehemiah 13:10).

They abandoned their posts. The shepherds left and went home because the enemy came in and muzzled the oxen. You can see the effect. They are in total disarray because no shepherds are going forth.

Continuing in Nehemiah 13:11—¹¹ **So I contended with the rulers, and said, "Why is the house of God forsaken?" And I gathered them together and set them in their place** (emphasis added). This is Paul's concern. He does not want the house of God forsaken. To prevent it, this has to happen.

Obviously, I bring this up, because Paul makes that point in Galatians 6:6, but I also want to warn you of a new trend that is happening. This trend is blowing my mind. I first saw this several years ago, and I have to be honest with you, I was baffled beyond compare. Look at what a Christian scholar said, stating tithing is not biblical. He says tithing was an Old Testament thing, and we don't need to do it because we're now under the New Testament.

This really took me back because I am thinking, "Oh my goodness! You're grabbing the one thing New Testament Christians have actually kept out of the Old Testament. How is this possible?" I mean the earth shook for me, spiritually speaking. I heard this statement maybe five or six years ago, and I thought nothing would come out of this.

Well, hold on a minute. Have you noticed what's going on in the last couple years? In fact, just recently I had a few articles sent to me, and we're just going to close with these articles to show you how crazy it really is getting. This should help you understand Paul's concern. After seeing these articles, Paul's concern will mean a lot more to you.

This came out of the *Daily Post*. It is titled, *Payment of Tithe Not Mandatory, No Curses Attached*. The article is from a message preached by Pastor Adeyemi. This is what it says—[According to the cleric \[the pastor who preached this message\], curses attached to failure to pay tithe have expired and only worked in the Old Testament. The pastor said this while addressing his congregation yesterday, where he also pointed out that tithe was paid in the Old Testament as a law with curses attached to failure to pay.](#)

I will give this pastor one thing, he recognized the command is in the Tanakh. There's no question about it. Tithing is commanded. There is no debate about that, but when you throw out the Torah, the sky is the limit. Anything is possible when you throw out the Torah. The enemy is coming to remove the shepherds. There are still many good shepherds in Christianity today who are full of integrity and are preaching their hearts out. They're willing to die for the Gospel.

The article continues—[He said Christians should not be pressured or forced to pay tithe, adding that not paying tithe does not attract a curse for a Christian anymore. He said, "Since we are under a new covenant, giving is a choice. Everyone should decide the percentage they want to pay with the knowledge that you will be blessed based on how you give" \(Published on February 26, 2018, by John Owen Nwachukwu\).](#)

So I guess, according to this man, the commandments of God are a suggestion. Isn't that nice? That's fantastic! You decide to do whatever you want to do. If it feels right, if it feels good, if the Spirit moves you, by all means, keep the commandments of God. But you don't have to keep the commandments anymore because that doesn't matter. This is obviously sarcasm on my part.

I want to show you one more article. This came out of the *Christian Post*. [In an op-ed for The Gospel Coalition in 2017, Thomas Schreiner, the James Buchanan Harrison professor of New Testament Interpretation and associate dean for Scripture and interpretation at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, outlined several reasons why tithing is not a requirement for Christians. "The commands stipulated in the Mosaic covenant are no longer in force for believers" \(By Leonardo Blair, Christian Post Reporter/ Mar 2, 2018\).](#)

Satan is coming after the oxen. The enemy is coming to muzzle the oxen. I'm telling you this because of the day and age we are living in. One thing we at Corner Fringe do, and I am not boasting, is we support other shepherds because we believe what Paul says here in Galatians 6:6.

We need people laboring in and dedicated to the Word of God. We need them clothing themselves in the Word and in prayer. I am not just talking about Corner Fringe. I am talking about people around the world. We are in desperate need of these people. If you get in conversations with your Christian friends and family, you need to tell them to support the good shepherds. These are not the ones flying around in forty-five million dollars planes. These are the ones who are sacrificial and are serving their community. These are the ones who, when they take the pulpit, they preach the Word of God without reservation. They are not intimidated. They're going to stand against the evil, and they're going to speak the truth. This is what true shepherds do, and this is what we at Corner Fringe do.