



# OIL AND WATER

## Studies in Galatians

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*Growing in Spirit & Truth*

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## So How's Your Crop? Galatians 5-6



**Anything of true value is worth waiting for.**

### The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God's pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God's family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for God's mission

Most of us have attempted to grow something at some point. Some of us were successful; others, well, not so much. As Paul closes out Galatians he leads up to this final illustration with a discussion of what the real indications of spirituality are. Chapter five is begun by a final emphasis on the freedom we have been given in Christ that he was discussing in the end of chapter four. Paul then points out that circumcision, which is he uses as a symbol for legalism, cuts us off from the benefits of Christ. We become so caught up in keeping rules that grace gets shoved out the door; we "fall from grace." Faith is the only thing that matters and that is worked out through love. Paul questions how the Galatians could take the steps away from the Gospel that they

have taken. The "new" legalistic gospel that they are following is not from God but men. Paul reassures them, however, that he knows they will be led back by the Lord and that the false teachers will face judgment from the Lord for leading them astray. Paul's zealous love for the Galatians is shown in his desire that the false teachers mutilate themselves rather than continue to lead the people astray. He then returns to the theme of freedom, cautioning against excess. The way to prevent that excess, he points out, is to always use that freedom to serve in love. That will prevent misuse of it. He then contrasts the works of the flesh with the fruit of the Spirit and emphasizes that the life marked by the fruit of the Spirit will not be boastful or envious. Rather, we should

bear one another's burdens. This leads into the picture of sowing and reaping. Paul points out that we are given the Word to be good stewards of it. It is seed that must be sowed, not hoarded or used for our own purposes. If we sow only to our flesh, our own selfish purposes, the result is corruption and death. However, if we sow to the Spirit, we will reap life. Paul closes out by pointing out that these false teachers' desired crop is to be able to boast in the legalism of the people of Galatia. This, of course, is sowing to the flesh. Our challenge is to be able to echo the words of Paul in chapter six verse seventeen, "for I bear on my body the brand-marks of Jesus."

## Study Questions for Galatians 5-6

(For answers go to <http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf.html/study questions>)

<p>1. Reading in 5:1-4 what does Paul want the Galatians to avoid(v1 and 4:21-31)? How does this manifest itself literally and symbolically(v2)? What is the result according to Paul(v3-4)? How could you apply this to your own life?</p>	
<p>2. In 5:5-6 if you are living in the Spirit, what are you waiting for(v5)? How is this gift we are waiting for applied to our lives(v6)? What is the difference between this and what Paul says to avoid(v1)?</p>	
<p>3. Continuing in 5:7-12 what did Paul ask the Galatians? why(v7)? How had the problem occurred(v8-9)? Who would correct the error and the one teaching it(v10)? How did Paul see those preaching legalism(v11-12)?</p>	

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