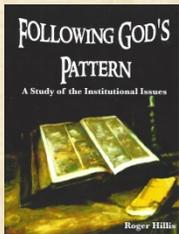


Lesson 11

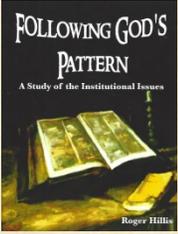
Two Misunderstood Passages



Lesson 11 - Two Misunderstood Passages

Introduction

1. There are several key passages that have ***figured prominently in the division*** between **institutional** and **non-institutional** churches.
2. Two that we have not previously studied are:
 - ***Galatians 6:10***
 - ***James 1:27***
3. The ***key to understanding*** these verses lies in remembering the differences between the ***church*** and the ***individual Christian***.
4. Both Gal 6:10 & James 1:27 apply to the ***individual Christian***.



Lesson 11 - Two Misunderstood Passages

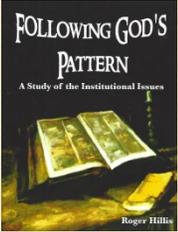
Galatians 6:10

Gal 6:10

*“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us **do good to all**, especially to those who are of the **household of faith**.” NKJV*

Plural Pronouns:

1. Some claim that because this was written to the **“churches of Galatia. . . .”**
2. “. . . and because the **plural (“we”) is used**, this must refer to church action. But such **is not** the case.
3. Let’s review **2 New Testament** Examples:
 - **Rom 6:3-4**
 - **2 Cor 5:10**



Lesson 11 - Two Misunderstood Passages

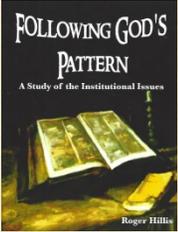
Galatians 6:10

Rom 6:3-4:

3 Or do you not know that as **many of us as were baptized** into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

4 Therefore **we were buried** with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so **we also should walk** in newness of life. NKJV

1. Paul used plural pronouns (**us, we**)
2. He was speaking of something **“we”** did – one person at a time, as individuals as **we were baptized** into Christ.
3. **More than one person did this** – but it does not follow that this is “church action”



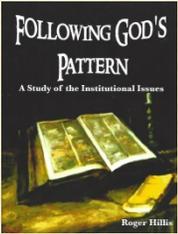
Lesson 11 - Two Misunderstood Passages

Galatians 6:10

2 Corinthians 5:10

“For we **must all** appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one **may receive** the things done in the body, according to what he **has done**, whether good or bad”. NKJV

1. Paul says “**we**” (plural) “**must all appear** before . . . Christ”
2. Does that mean we will appear as a “**church group**”?
3. But Paul continued to refer to the **individual nature** of the judgement.
4. We will all appear, **one at a time**, not as churches
5. The plural pronoun indicates **more than one person** will do this, **but it does not follow** that it means it is “**the church**”

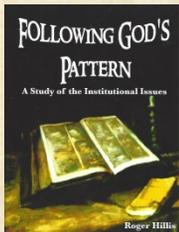


Lesson 11 - Two Misunderstood Passages

Galatians 6:10

Looking at the Context:

1. We must note the **context** of a verse to reach its **correct** meaning.
2. Since Galatians 6:10 is **clearly** talking about **individual Christians**
3.let's carefully **examine the context**
 - Going back to **verses 1 & 2**, Paul encouraged us as **individual Christians** to restore an erring brother.
 - We are to help bear **one another's** burdens



Lesson 11 - Two Misunderstood Passages

Galatians 6:10

- Going back to verses 1 & 2, Paul encouraged us as *individual Christians* to restore an erring brother.
- We are to help bear *one another's* burdens
- In verses 3-5, Paul reminds us that we are to personally examine ourselves to be sure we are faithful; each one (that's the individual) must bear his own load
- In verse 6, he deals with the duty of each one to support those who are teaching them the truth

Note this comment from Roy Gogdill in his book "Walking by Faith, circa 1950's on this text

*Comment from Roy Gogdill in his book
“Walking by Faith,” Page 67*

“Sometimes it is **objected by those** who want to apply the teaching of this passage to **congregations rather than individuals**

*Comment from Roy Gogdill in his book
"Walking by Faith," Page 67*

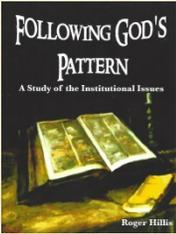
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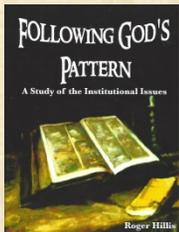
“Sometimes it is **objected by those** who want to apply the teaching of this passage to **congregations rather than individuals** that, *“Let him that is taught communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things”*, if **individually applied** would justify individual support for teachers. **But this is no objection** for the **Bible certainly teaches that individuals as well as congregations did support teachers and preachers of the Gospel.** When the above passage is applied to the **church**—the congregation—a **collective body of Christians** it is **wrested from its context or setting and misapplied.”**



Lesson 11 - Two Misunderstood Passages

Galatians 6:10

- In verses 7-9, Paul is obviously dealing with our *individual duty* to overcome the lusts of the flesh and walk by the Spirit
 - verse 7 says “*whatever a man sows*” – not the church
 - verse 8 says “*he who sows to the flesh*” and “*he who sows to the Spirit*” – not the church
 - verse 9 says “*not to grow weary*”, “*not to lose heart*”
- This means **individual *Christians***, should never give up serving the Lord - It is **not speaking of the church.**

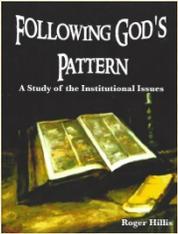


Lesson 11 - Two Misunderstood Passages

Galatians 6:10

Concluding Thoughts on Gal 6:10

1. The workbook, bottom of Page 48, states “verse 10 tells us one of the obligations we have as Christians, is to help those *less fortunate* than we are. The verse includes *all people*, but emphasizes *our duties to each other as Christians*. It is not talking about what we do collectively, but *what we must do personally*. Other verses tell us who the church is to help and under what circumstances. This verse does not deal with church action”
2. Is verse 10 talking about *individual benevolence*?
3. Or perhaps something else?



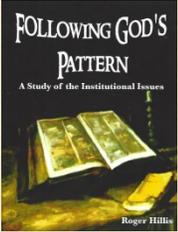
Lesson 11 - Two Misunderstood Passages

Galatians 6:10

Concluding Thoughts on Gal 6:10 – Another View

1. The **context** of this passage, which begins in verse 1, while speaking of the individual Christian as opposed to a local congregation, is **not addressing benevolence at all**. Rather, the “good” of Galatians 6:10 has to do with **spiritual good**.
2. There is **not anything in the context** about **physical relief**, but there is much about **spiritual matters**. The belief that the “good” of this passage is **physical benevolence** is widely held among brethren but there is simply **no contextual** basis for such a position.

Jesse Jenkins, December 2007



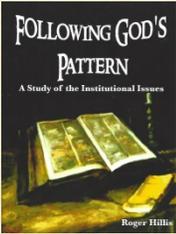
Lesson 11 - Two Misunderstood Passages

James 1:27

James 1:27

*“**Pure and undefiled religion** before God and the Father is this: to **visit orphans and widows** in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.” NKJV*

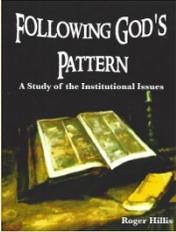
1. Another verse that is **often misapplied** to the church.
2. To note the **setting for verse 27**, we need to go back to verse 12



Lesson 11 - Two Misunderstood Passages

James 1:27

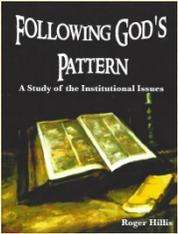
- In verse 12 - James says that ***“the man”*** (not the church) who endures temptation . . . ***“will receive the crown of life*** which the Lord has promised . . . “
- In verses 13-15 – James says ***“nor does He”*** (God) “tempt ***anyone***” – “each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.”
- In verses 19-20 – James tells us “let ***every man*** be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath” (Christians, not churches)
- In verse 21 – James says ***“receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls”***. Are we saved as individuals or churches?



Lesson 11 - Two Misunderstood Passages

James 1:27

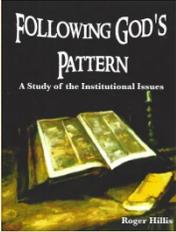
- In verse 22 - James instructs Christians to *“**be doers** of the word, and not **hearers only**, deceiving yourselves”*
- In verses 23-24 – James says that *“**anyone**”* who is a hearer of the word and not a doer, *he is like a man observing **his** natural face in a mirror”*; for ***he** observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of **man he** was”*.
- In verses 25 – James tells **people** to look into the Bible and do it – that this *“one will be blessed in what he does.”*



Lesson 11 - Two Misunderstood Passages

James 1:27

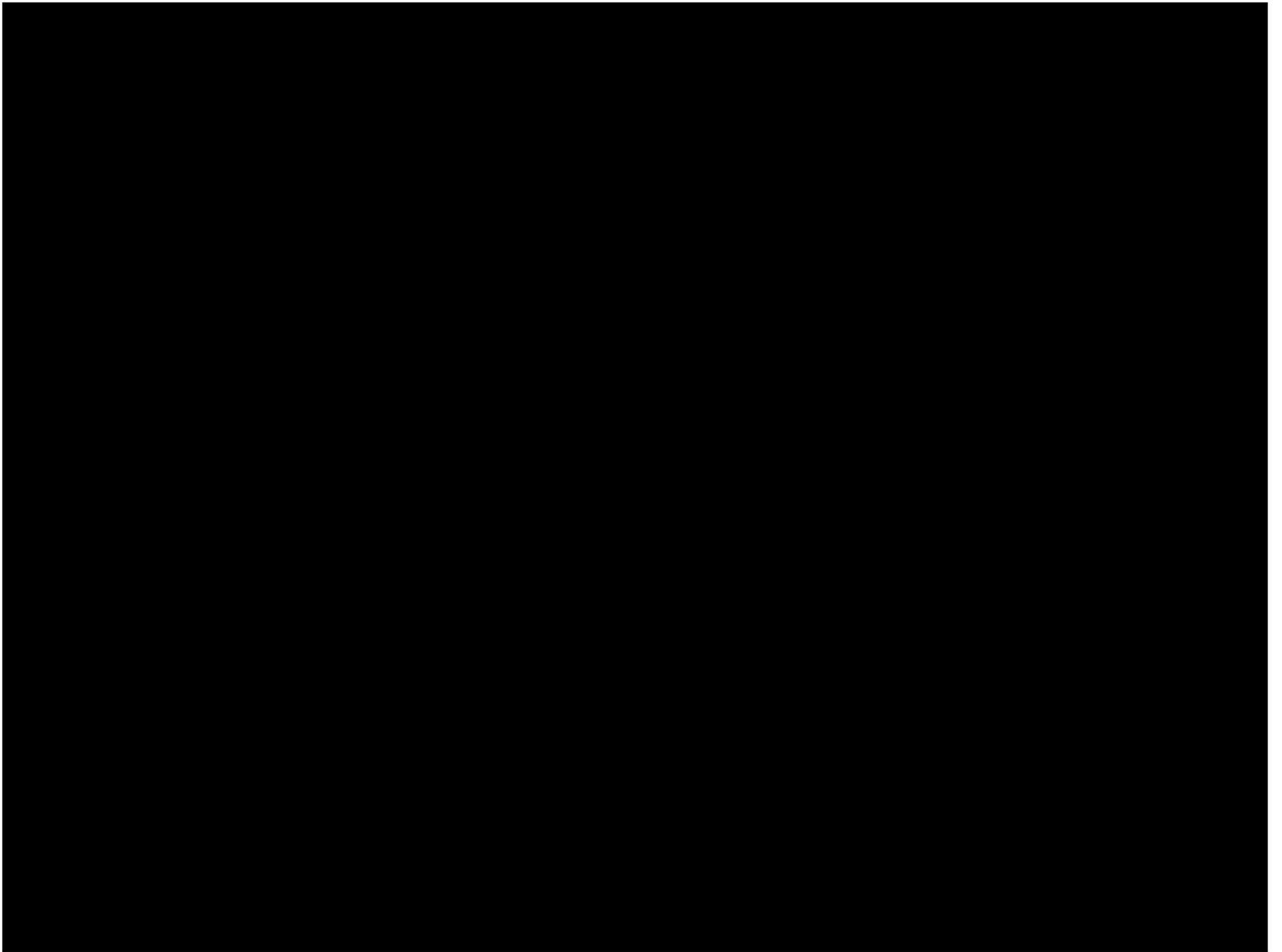
- In **verse 26**- James writes:
“If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless”. NKJV
- 3. **And so in verse 27** James writes:
*“**Pure and undefiled religion** before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to **keep oneself unspotted** from the world”. NKJV*
- 4. The **whole chapter** is speaking of the **individual** and his/
her **relationship to God**.
- 5. In the **entire first chapter** of James, **the church is not mentioned even once**.



Lesson 11 - Two Misunderstood Passages

Conclusion

1. Failure to *properly distinguish* between the personal obligations of an *individual* Christian and **biblical authority** for the *church* to act . . .
2. has resulted in *many churches of Christ* and *all human denominations* getting involved in many **unauthorized activities**.
3. Churches (including many churches of Christ) are involved in numerous *improper activities* which have nothing to do with the work of **Christ's church** and *do not please the Lord*".



Lesson 11 - Question 3

Gal 6:3-5

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.

NAS

Lesson 11 - Question 4

Gal 6:6

*6 And let **the one** who is taught the word share all good things with **him who teaches**. NAS*

Lesson 11 - Question 5

Gal 6:7-9

7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever **a man** sows, this **he** will also reap.

8 For **the one** who sows to **his own flesh** shall from the flesh reap corruption, but **the one** who sows to the Spirit shall from the Spirit reap eternal life.

9 And let **us** not lose heart in doing good, for in due time **we** shall reap if **we** do not grow weary. NAS

Lesson 11 - Question 6

Gal 6:10

*10 So then, while **we** have opportunity, let **us** do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith. NAS*

Lesson 11 - Question 7

James 1:13-15

13 Let **no one** say when **he** is tempted, "**I** am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt **anyone**.

14 But **each one** is tempted when **he** is carried away and enticed by **his own** lust.

15 Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. NAS

Lesson 11 - Question 8

James 1:21-25

21 Therefore putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save **your** souls.

22 But prove **yourselves** doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude **themselves**.

23 For if **anyone** is a hearer of the word and not a doer, **he** is like a **man** who looks at **his** natural face in a mirror;

24 for once **he** has looked at **himself** and gone away, **he** has immediately forgotten what kind of **person he** was.

25 But **one** who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become **a forgetful hearer** but **an effectual doer**, this **man** shall be blessed in what **he** does.

NAS

Lesson 11 - Question 9

James 1:26

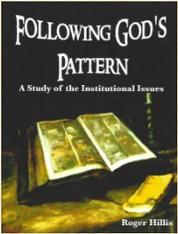
26 If **anyone** thinks **himself** to be religious, and yet does not bridle **his** tongue but deceives **his** own heart, this **man's** religion is worthless. NAS

Lesson 11 - Question 10

James 1:27

*27 This is pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father, to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep **oneself** unstained by the world. NAS*





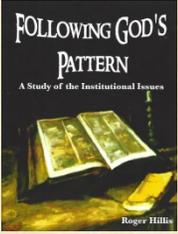
Lesson 11 - Two Misunderstood Passages

Galatians 6:10

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Jesse Jenkins, December 2007

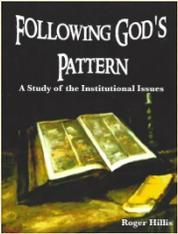


Lesson 11 - Two Misunderstood Passages

Revisiting Galatians 6:6

Gal 6:6

6 And let **the one** who is taught the word **share all good things** with **him who teaches**. NAS



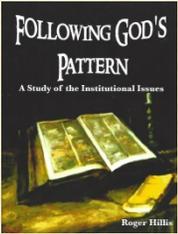
Lesson 11 - Two Misunderstood Passages

Revisiting Galatians 6:6

Gal 6:6

6 And let **the one** who is taught the word share all good things with **him who teaches**. NAS

1. A few in the class last Sunday, **questioned my comments** regarding the **scriptural meaning** of this passage.
2. I had maintained that the passage would allow for those taught to **monetarily compensate** the teacher, i.e., a local group to pay one to teach or preach.
3. I Cor 9:11-13 is a passage that authorizes a preacher or teacher to **be compensated**.
4. Gal 6:6 **DOES NOT**.
5. After further study and counsel, I have come to understand that **I miss taught this passage**.



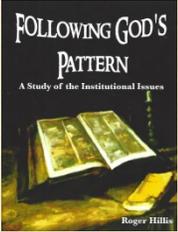
Lesson 11 - Two Misunderstood Passages

Revisiting Galatians 6:6

So when a **Christian**, through **bible study** and **counsel** from **faithful brethren**, comes to the conclusion that he/she has ***misapplied or miss taught a passage***, in any setting, what would God expect one to do?

Correct it!

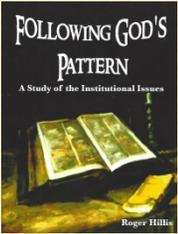
I'll try to do that next.



Lesson 11 - Two Misunderstood Passages

Revisiting Galatians 6:6

1. Previously, what did we *prove was the context* of Galatians 6:1-10?
2. Was it not *“spiritual good”*?
3. So if *“spiritual good”* is the context of the first 10 verses of Gal 6 (and we know it is), does this then not *demand that the application* of the first 10 verses *follow that context*?
4. Would it not be *illogical* to do otherwise?



Lesson 11 - Two Misunderstood Passages

Revisiting Galatians 6:6

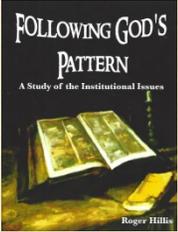
Please Consider the Following:

WUEST'S Word Studies (Kenneth Wuest – noted NT Greek Scholar)

*The verse is translated: "Moreover, let the **one who is being taught** the Word, **constantly be holding fellowship** with the **one who is teaching** in all good things." This is the exact idea of the verse."*

VINCENT'S New Testament Word Studies (Marvin Vincent – noted Greek Scholar)

*The exhortation therefore is, that the disciple **should make common cause with the teacher** in everything that is **morally good** and that **promotes salvation**.*



Lesson 11 - Two Misunderstood Passages

Revisiting Galatians 6:6

1. There is nothing about *congregational* action or *benevolent* work here.
2. Nor is this verse, as many suppose, teaching that the taught *ought to monetarily support* the teacher.
3. The verse is teaching that *the taught* (the Galatians) should *jointly participate in all the truths* taught by the teacher (Paul).
4. Rather than **fellowship of money** from the taught to the teacher, it is *fellowship* of the taught and teacher in *all good things taught by the teacher*; it is *fellowship* of the taught and teacher in the **PRACTICE** of the **things taught**.

Jesse Jenkins, March 21, 1997 – the Eastside Bulletin