

THE THREE BEARS

(Galatians 6)

- Introduction:
1. Far from a fairy tale, the three "**bears**" listed in Galatians 6 are vital to our security in Christ and our salvation.
 2. We need to spend some time thinking about these "**bears**" and evaluate what our response to them has been in the past.
 3. Allow me to introduce these "**bears**" to you.

I. "BEAR" ONE ANOTHER'S BURDENS

- A. (Galatians 6:2).
- B. The burden bearing is present tense which denotes continuous action, not simply a one time act.
- C. In context, the burdens seem to relate to the sorrows, distresses, and frailties brought about by sins.
- D. When a brother sins, we must come to his aid.
- E. (James 5:16) We must make clear our own weaknesses, and that we do understand the weaknesses in others.
- F. Illustration of a man who comes to Christ from a horrible moral background.
 1. Some of it still clings to him.
 2. He longs to be like others who "don't struggle".
 3. To confess what he is personally ashamed of is hard enough, but to do so to those who would be embarrassed by him or those who wouldn't understand is too much.
 4. So he withdraws and receives no help.
- G. (I Peter 2:17).

II. "BEAR" YOUR OWN BURDENS

- A. (Galatians 6:5).
- B. This passage teaches the need for personal responsibility that another cannot carry for us.
- C. (II Corinthians 5:10).
- D. We have many responsibilities in regard to:
 1. Sin.
 2. God.
 3. Family.
 4. Church.
 5. World.
 6. Self.
- E. (James 2:24).

III. "BEAR" THE MARKS OF CHRIST IN YOUR BODY

- A. (Galatians 6:17).
- B. Those marks in his body were "battle scars" obtained in warfare for Christ.
- C. (II Corinthians 11:23-33).
- D. (Philippians 1:20).
- E. While we may never have to bear physical marks in our bodies, are we

willing to bear the marks that come from:

1. Ridicule.
2. Anger.
3. Misrepresentation.
4. Isolation.

- Conclusion:
1. If we acquaint ourselves with these three bears, we will be well pleasing in the sight of God.
 2. Let us bear one another's burdens, bear our own burdens, and bear in our bodies the marks of Christ.