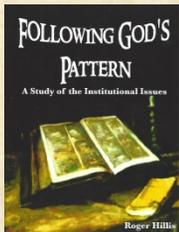


# Lesson 11

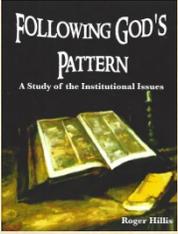
## Two Misunderstood Passages



## 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

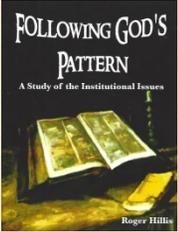
### Galatians 6:10

#### 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

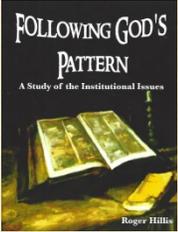
### Galatians 6:10

#### 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”



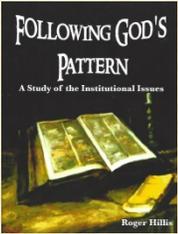
## Lesson 11 - Two Misunderstood Passages

### 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”**

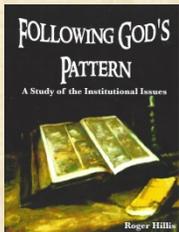


## Lesson 11 - Two Misunderstood Passages

### 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*

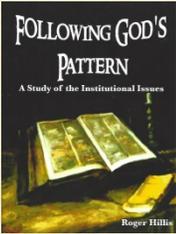
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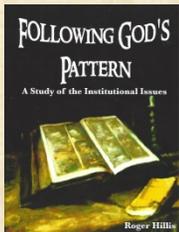
“Sometimes it is **objected by those** who want to apply the teaching of this passage to **congregations rather than individuals** that, *“Let him that is taught communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things”*, if **individually applied** would justify individual support for teachers. **But this 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.**

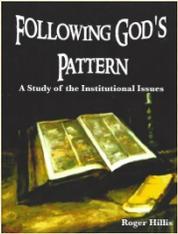


## Lesson 11 - Two Misunderstood Passages

### 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?



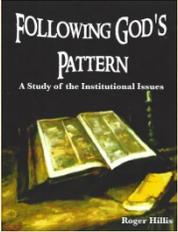
## Lesson 11 - Two Misunderstood Passages

### 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*



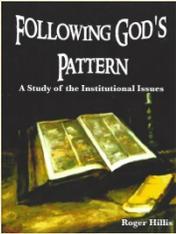
## Lesson 11 - Two Misunderstood Passages

### 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*

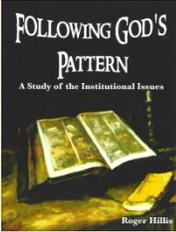
1. Another verse that is **often misapplied** to the church.
2. To note the **setting for verse 27**, we need to go back to verse 12



## Lesson 11 - Two Misunderstood Passages

### James 1:27

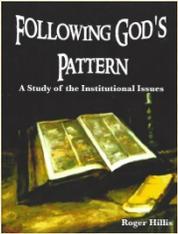
- In verse 12 - James says that ***“the man”*** (not the church) who endures temptation . . . ***“will receive the crown of life*** which the Lord has promised . . . “
- In verses 13-15 – James says ***“nor does He”*** (God) “tempt ***anyone***” – “each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own 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

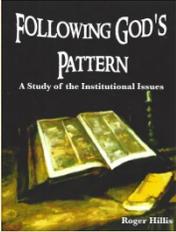
- In verse 22 - James instructs Christians to *“**be doers** of the word, and not **hearers only**, deceiving yourselves”*
- In verses 23-24 – James says that *“**anyone**”* who is a hearer of the word and not a doer, *he is like a man observing **his** natural face in a mirror”*; for ***he*** observes *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

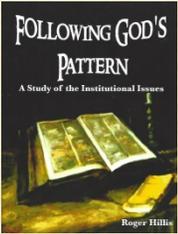
26 If **anyone** thinks **himself** to be religious, and yet does not bridle **his** tongue but deceives **his** own heart, this **man's** religion is worthless. NAS

## 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*





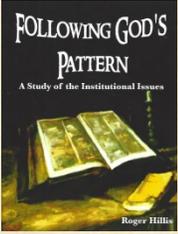
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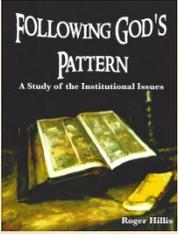


## Lesson 11 - Two Misunderstood Passages

### 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



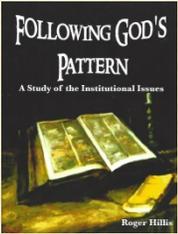
## Lesson 11 - Two Misunderstood Passages

### 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**.



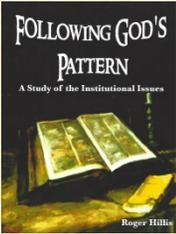
## Lesson 11 - Two Misunderstood Passages

### 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!***

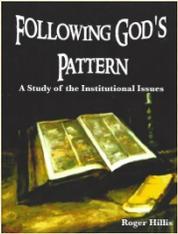
**I'll try to do that next.**



## 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

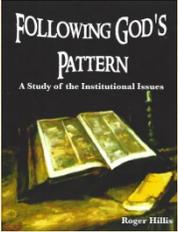
#### Please Consider the Following:

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*