

Devotional Thoughts :: BEAR ONE ANOTHER'S BURDENS...

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TEXT: GALATIANS 6:2

"Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ."
(KJV)

"Stoop down and reach out to those who are oppressed. Share their burdens, and so complete Christ's law."(MSG)

To shoulder or take upon one's shoulder a load belonging to another person is to submit to Christ's principle of life: conversely, to ignore and hide from a needy person is a denial of all that Christ stands for. What is a burden within the perimeter of our present meditation? A burden is something that is carried, a load, duty, and responsibility; it could also mean something oppressive or worrisome. From this simple definition and description of burden, it becomes very clear that any form of responsibility, duty and obligations passes for a burden. Also, anything that is oppressive, irksome or worrisome is a burden.

As long as the earth subsists, there would never be a time that a man would be free of responsibility or duty. This duty may be financial or moral. A pastor owes his flock a duty to see to their total wellbeing; a father owes his children responsibility: this life's reality cannot be avoided at all. Any man that attempts avoidance would be looked upon as worse than an infidel.

There is no man upon the earth that is without one concern or the other: anxieties and worries loom and loom in this terrestrial plane. Jesus, attesting to this fact said, "...your heavenly Father knows that ye have need of these things..." In what is widely known as "Our Lord's prayer" there is such a thing as "...give us our daily bread..."

Our Lord knows that what to wear, eat and drink are important to the children of men: He knows how grievous a burden sin has laid on them. Especially those called His own! We all have what weighs us down...we have responsibilities that are so diverse and unique. Life and the status which nature has inevitably thrown on us, come with certain pressing needs and responsibilities, of which we cannot pretend or feign ignorance, it is a must-faced!

The law or life principle of Christ is manifested or shown in bearing another man's burden: this is the summary of our faith! A faith that is devoid of this is questionable and not accepted before God. The act of shouldering a burden or responsibility that is another's is a practical obedience to and fulfilment of the law of Christ. Believers are enjoined to shoulder one another's worrisome load. This is Christianity!

Individualism is one of the major cause of stinginess amongst the saints: we ask for individual blessings; whatever we possess belongs to us and those related to us. Selfcenteredness reigns supreme among us. The needs and woes of a fellow believers matter nothing to us. We are divinely summoned to bear one another's burden! The ailments, anxieties, worries and concerns of our fellows are supposed to be given attention to. Oh what a law! Individualism, Selfcenteredness and self-pity are banished by reason of this light known as the "law of Christ." This law compels Christ to lay His life down for us all!

The instruction and commandment is to bear one another's burden. There is nothing wrong in walking into a brother's house and telling him that the school fees of one of his children would be on you throughout the current year. We can relieve our fellow brothers of their house rents! We can undertake to follow a brother that is a farmer to his farm to help him out.

There are several ways we can practicalise this law of Christ: seek a fellow with a burden and relieve him of same and you would have fulfilled the law of Christ!