

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY



Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ — *Galatians*, 6:12.

This beautifully simple, but profoundly significant plea, written by St. Paul to the Christians of Galatia and imbued with the fervor of a heart completely dedicated to the Cause of Christ, presents a tremendously important truth for every spiritual aspirant, just as vital today as it was when penned nearly two thousand years ago. Those who embrace it with ardor are wise, for actually it constitutes a fundamental steppingstone to the spiritual heights. It is a treasured ideal of those on the Way of the Christ.

It has been the all-too-common practice, even among so-called Christians, to criticize and judge, if not actually to condemn, when a brother or sister is "overtaken in a fault," utterly oblivious or forgetful of the fact that we are all *one* in the great body of God, and each responsible in a measure for the "faults" of our brothers and sisters, who are indissolubly bound to us by the tie of Spirit. And who of us is without fault, having any right to judge or condemn another? If we have not evolved the *Christ within* sufficiently to carry out St. Paul's injunction in the true "spirit of meekness," we will at least do well to heed the injunction of Christ Jesus: "Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged."

However, it is not enough that we merely cease to judge and condemn. We must take the initiative and put our powers into constructive use in serving

our fellow men. We must evolve the humility and compassion that will enable us cheerfully to embrace the privilege of bearing "one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

Fulfill the law of Christ! Yes, that is the task which confronts humanity today. The Age of the Race Spirits, during which separativeness and selfishness have been fostered, is to give way to the Age of Christ, when unity and brotherhood will prevail. We are now in the transition period from the former into the latter—a last opportunity, we may say, for those who wish to take the next step upward on the evolutionary ladder. It is a time when a decision must be made: to go forward under the Christ's banner of unselfishness and service, or to be retarded in our progress. There is no third choice.

Students of occult philosophy have more responsibility than others in striving to "fulfil the law of Christ," for they have the knowledge which has been given to satisfy the reasoning mind and thus make possible the living of the spiritual life. They understand the great cosmic mystery of the Christ: that He, the mightiest of all the Archangels, came of His own free will to the earth and became its indwelling Planetary Spirit so that humanity might be lifted out of the mire of its materiality and selfishness. Thus He is continually suffering in the cramping confines of the earth as He sends forth His tremendous Love Power to redeem humanity, and only by living according to the precepts He taught can we liberate Him from His prison.

The transformation of the proud and haughty Saul into the humble, selfless Paul, who served his fellow men so nobly, should challenge us to heed his admonition and thus aid in strengthening the tie of brotherhood and fulfilling "the law of Christ."