

Let Us Not Grow Weary Of Doing Good

----- Galatians 6:7-10 -----

“7 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. 8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. 9 And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. 10 So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

Doctrine:

The Saints must do good and not give up in the effort.

Introduction:

Here we have Paul’s letter to the church of Galatia. There were a lot of folks trying to lead them astray into traditions and additions to what the true Gospel is. They were doing this to “keep the peace” and to please those who crucified Christ so as not to have to bear their own cross. Paul corrects a lot of that in this letter. The portion we are focusing on today deals primarily with faithful living in the midst of confusing voices and narratives around this church. We can relate today. With the current turmoil and confusion in our own nation it can be hard to know where to direct our efforts and how best to live the lives God has providentially and gracefully given us in Christ. Also, what a great comfort that evil people who refuse to bend the knee to Christ, get exactly what they deserve. Evil people get hell. Good people, by the grace of God in Christ alone, converted from evil to good as the greatest mercy, get eternal life. So, today I got to pick what to preach on. As a break in our current sermon series, I hope this serves you well. Both as an aid in the current series, a spur to your side as it were, and as a help in the current political “climate”. We have much to learn and apply from this letter today. It is our duty to God to take it up and to love Him with this gift of faith that He has granted us by doing so.

1: God Will Not Be Mocked And His Moral Law Is Absolute

(Vs 7)

“Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.”

(Universal Application)

1.) There were false teachers seeking to lead the Galatians astray like this, but this is something we could easily lead ourselves astray in today (Vs 7a)

-We can easily start pointing fingers at the false teachers around who are seeking to lead people astray. We should be wiser than them though. Wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Able to call a spade a spade and to stick to our gut on folks trying to lead us astray. It is our job as the pastors to help to this end, certainly. But, it is also a personal duty to refuse to buy into what smells “off”. I believe a far more dangerous scenario is when we point our own finger but refuse to audit our own soul.

-James 1:14 – *“But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.”*

- We do this today by “rationalizing”

-If you start rationalizing your sinful desires, they will ensnare you. You run the real risk of being convinced in your own mind that what you are doing is fine and may actually be good. Justifying sin is the end you are getting at with this line of thinking. We must all take God’s word as the standard on all things and adhere to it.

-Here we have stern warning. “Do not be deceived”

-Whether it be deceived by others, or deceived by yourself.

-Galatians 1:8-9 *“But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.”*

-You may say, “Okay, I don’t want to be deceived.” And you may ask, “What is it we must not do then?”

2.) That is, you must not “mock” God, or “ignore” Him thinking to achieve different results than what He has designed (Vs 7b)

-Do we sin so that grace may abound? BY NO MEANS.

-To believe this way and operate under this understanding in our daily lives is to make a mockery of God by denying what He clearly states throughout His word. This verse clearly states what some in the Galatian church had come to be deceived in. That they could ignore God and not reap what they had sown. That they could plant carrots and harvest grapes. That they could plant poison and reap medicine. That they could sow what is bad for them and reap what is good for them.

-This is dealing with living in violation of scripture and is clearly obvious in God's natural order to be the results.

3.) "Whatever one sows, that will he also reap" (Vs 7c)

-This is UNIVERSAL:

-God's law is absolute and this applies to ALL mankind. Though it is different for saints vs sinners. The truth of it still applies.

-How ultimately sad for sinners who sow in sin and ultimately reap death and hell forever more.

-If you are not saved by Christ, all you have ever sown has been sinful and all you will reap from it will be just punishment.

-How ultimately happy for saints that ultimately reap what Christ alone has sown.

-He has purchased our forgiveness by His blood and cleared the end of this curse. Yet the earthly results of this truth remain similar for saints and sinners alike. Do bad, get bad. Do good, get good. For saints, if you sow sin, you will reap earthly sadness and God's discipline. If you sow good, you will reap earthly gladness and God's pleasure.

-This is NOT THE FIRST TIME IT'S MENTIONED IN SCRIPTURE:

-Proverbs 1:31

*"therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way,
and have their fill of their own devices."*

-Proverbs 11:18

*"The wicked earns deceptive wages,-
but one who sows righteousness gets a sure reward."*

-Hosea 8:7

*“For they sow the wind,
and they shall reap the whirlwind...”*

-Hosea 10:12-13

*“Sow for yourselves righteousness;
reap steadfast love;
break up your fallow ground,
for it is the time to seek the Lord,
that he may come and rain righteousness upon you.
You have plowed iniquity;
you have reaped injustice;
you have eaten the fruit of lies.
Because you have trusted in your own way...”*

-There are clearly two ways to go, o’ man, which will you choose?

2: You Have Two Options On What To Sow, Each With Their Own Harvest

(Vs 8)

“8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.”

(Divided Application)

1.) Option 1, because it comes first, not because it is best (Vs 8a)

-This means that those who plant the desires of the flesh, living to satisfy sinful desire, will reap decay and death. Imagine a field of feces and someone elbow deep digging in it, covered in filth, planting sinful acts in seed form. Of course they are going to get infections. Of course the sores are going to fester. Of course it’s only going to get worse and worse the more they toil in their labor. The further they get down this disgusting plot. They will decay and they will die. So it is for those who sow to their own flesh.

-This looks like:

-Galatians 5:19-21: *“Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these.”*

-Can these attributes be applied to what you're sowing? Repent of them now! Stop! No more sowing sin in the devil's dirt!

2.) Option 2, because it comes second, not because it is not best (Vs 8b)

-This means that those who plant the desires of the Spirit of God, living to satisfy and please the Lord, will reap blessings and eternal life. Imagine a field of beautiful, rich, fertile soil and someone elbow deep working it, with a huge smile on their face, planting holy acts in seed form. Happy to be making God happy. Of course there is going to be joy in their good work. Their efforts unencumbered by vanity and full of pleasure doing what pleases the Lord. Of course it's jolly labor. Even if the sun isn't shining. The more they work in their labor, even against the weather of the day, they know they can hang their hat at the end of it glad, though tired, with a clean conscience. The further they get down the beautiful plot the happier they get in spite of any odds stacked against them, because they know the return on their labor is true, because the one they are working for is faithful and He has promised the greatest harvest. They will receive the greatest return on their investment of effort. This is truly the best sweat equity. So it is for those who sow to the Spirit.

-This looks like:

-Galatians 5:22-23: *“the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control”*

-Can these attributes be applied to what you're sowing? Praise the Lord and keep it up! More! Further down the plot till you see Christ's face!

3.) This is terribly sad for sinners stuck in option 1, but not hopeless

-Again, to you who are not in Christ... this is the only thing you can do. So turn to Christ and come to His land. Work it happily. Know that He is faithful and just to forgive you of all unrighteousness. He will take you on. Accept His job offer. Be hired by the King of Kings to do good unto Him.

4.) This is incredibly sad for saints sowing two fields

-Saints going back and forth from these two fields. Does the stench of Satan's sewage not taint the work in Christ's pristine plot? This is holy discipline from your loving Father. Does smelling the foulness from the one not inhibit the effort in the other? I know it does. Does it not rot your gut to plant seeds of sin with the same hands that plant good seeds and to plant good seeds with nasty hands? In your spirit I know the blessings are tainted with guilt. The flavor of what is reaped in good soil but picked with foul hands is tainted. So it is with the guilt of working the two. Sow to the Spirit my friends. Forsake the flesh field and focus all your efforts on the Spirit's. There is forgiveness for this and true repentance. Seek it and keep with it.

3: No Matter The Circumstances, Let Us Remain Steadfast In Doing Good

(Vs 9)

"9 And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."

(Christian Application)

1.) Let us not grow weary of doing good or in the midst of doing good. (Vs 9a)

-Here Paul shifts to specific saint application. "and let US..."

-Though the world rages around us (expound)

-Christ is our peace

-Though it may not be appreciated (expound)

-Our Father sees the work

-Though earthly kingdoms fall (expound)

-Christ's kingdom is everlasting

-Though it is hard work (expound)

-The Holy Spirit helps us

-Though we may be utterly confused or at a loss in our understanding of why things are the way they are (expound)

-Our Father is omniscient

-Though things may all be well (expound)

-Christ is the prize and we run this race

-Though our vision be stunted (expound)

-God promises a return on our investment

-Though it may not seem to be working (expound)

-We plant the seeds and God causes the growth

2.) If we do not give up, we will reap the good harvest of what we've sown. (Vs 9b)

-There will be good in this life from our efforts (expound)

-To taste the goodness of eternal life now

-We should sow in a way that there will be good in the lives of generations to come (expound)

-To plant now what will grow for our children, our grandchildren, on until Christ returns

-There is the solid promise of the harvest of Heaven (expound)

-Ultimately all we reap here, all we've sown in the Spirit, is but a foretaste of eternity. Even if our efforts are all thwarted, we are promised to reap a harvest of perfection with Christ in glory.

-None of your efforts to this end are futile.

-What a waste to give up

-Stay faithful in your efforts, saints.

-Think on Christ in your plodding

-Remember His promises

-A faintly burning wick He will not extinguish and a bruised reed He will not break. Praise be to Christ.

4: Do Good To All, With The Right Order Of Priority

(Vs 10)

“10 So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

(Church Application)

1.) We have opportunity and must make room for it (Vs 10a)

-“as we have” means that we do have opportunities. It is our duty to find them out.

-Our current sermon series is a huge help to this end in learning the foundation of spiritual gifts and being exhorted to figure out what ours are and to apply them. To get really good at them, to the glory of the Lord, is wonderful exhortation.

2.) We must do good to everyone (Vs 10b)

-Our faith is proven to them in our practice. To do good even to our enemies, proves Christ to whom we were once enemies. This does not mean to condone their sin, or some limp wristed sin accepting “love”. It is to do good to them. To help them with good things. To be a good neighbor. That, I think, puts it well.
-Even if they hate it, or us for it.

-A local mosque was denied, as I understand it, in a town close to us. Some hate it. But, this is good.

3.) We must be sure to keep our fellow saints at the top of our priorities (Vs 10c)

-Especially those in our local church

-Our “finger is on the pulse” of our local church because it is the pulse that runs even through us as a local body.

Conclusion:

2 Thessalonians 3:16 - *“Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.”*