

ZOE / BROKEN RELIGION 14

Warren Bailey died July 14, 2000 in St Marys, GA. A member of the local Methodist – he rarely attended but every year he gave a \$100,000 gift. Their budget was \$300,000 for the year. It was no surprise when he died that he remembered the Methodist church in his will. It was a surprise when he left everything he had to that church - \$60 million dollars.

Why? He said he wanted to leave a legacy that matters. He believed legacy was about \$ and doing good for the church.

Leaving a legacy means different things to different people.

Shannon L. Alder said, "Carve your name on hearts, not tombstones. A legacy is etched into the minds of others and the stories they share about you." *Legacy was the memories you left behind in others.*

Christian Renaldo said, "I don't just want to be the best – I want to be the best of all time."
Legacy was being the best ever.

Miley Cyrus said, "I want to leave a legacy of infamy." *Legacy was scandal.*

John Green, The Fault in Our Stars, said, "The marks humans leave are too often scars. You build a mini-mall or start a coup or try to become a rock-star and you think, "They'll remember me now." (a) They don't remember you, and (b) all you leave behind are more scars. Your coup becomes a dictatorship. And, your mini-mall becomes a hideous cancer,"

What legacy do you want to leave?

Jesus said, "I have come that they (you) may have life (zoe), and have it abundantly." **JOHN 10:10**

The legacy that Jesus, the son of God, came to leave – was life – an abundant, overflowing, vibrant – life.

The word used for life here is zoe. Bios – life of the physical body. Psuche – soul life. Zoe literally means zoe = lit., vibrant life. The writers of the Bible used this word to mean so much more. It is always used to describe eternal life, never-ending life, God's life. Zoe in God's word - is life eternal as God has in Himself.

JOHN 3:16 (ESV) "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (zoe)" - Jesus

Jesus is zoe and His legacy is and was zoe. *We can have God's life with us and in us through Jesus!*

As we wrap-up this series today on Broken Religion – God is inviting us to something extraordinary. Not only can we know "zoe" in us, but we can see "zoe" working thru us. We can see God's life – moving thru us to others.

GAL 6:8 (ESV) - but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. (zoe) *Do you hear God's invitation?*

Submitted to His Spirit – "zoe" becomes our legacy. God has a warning & an invitation in this passage & he is urgently & passionately sharing both. 1st, God's warning, before we press into His invitation.

01. God's Warning

GALATIANS 6:7 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.
deceived – careful about believing a lie / mocked – to turn the nose up at one, to ridicule or taunt

The context of this passage has a specific meaning for the type of mocking that is happening toward God.

1. **This is being addressed Christ followers – this is not a warning to unbelievers who mock God.**

GALATIANS 6:1 (ESV) 1 Brothers, if anyone ...

2. **God is loudly and lovingly telling his followers – One more warning of many in this letter – please hear me!**

You and I mock God. How? In vs 8 God continues to explain how we as believers mock God.

GALATIANS 6:8 (ESV) 8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption,

When we sow to our flesh – **we mock God.**

What is sowing to the flesh? **It is anything we do - apart from God's Spirit.** (Remember God's word)

GALATIANS 5:16-17 (ESV) 16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. *Not walking in the Spirit (submission) leads us to gratify our flesh. When we're not in submission to the Spirit, we are walking in the flesh. There's no neutral option.*

Not living in submission to (under) the Spirit's ways, power, and love is living apart from God.

You were rescued from the judgment of your sin – to be with God. Choosing not to submit to the Spirit – *is to live apart from God* – in the corrupted ways, power, and love of my and your flesh.

What is the result of sowing to the flesh? – **Corruption** (vs 8 says – we will reap corruption)

When we walk in the flesh – our own ways, power, & love – we will sow into that which is and always will bring corruption: death - in a slow, progressive, infectious way. **Word picture here is a decomposing body.**

How do we sow to the flesh?

Let's continue in the example or metaphor God is using here of sowing seed in fields and reaping a harvest.

There are two bags of seed we can sow into this field God is calling our flesh – our corrupted ways, power, & love.

Bag #1 – Overtly evil acts that in and of themselves are open rebellion to God.

GALATIANS 5:20-21 (ESV) sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, sorcery, fits of anger, envy, drunkenness, orgies

The 1st bag of seed produces known corruption. Sow this and corruption will ensue – God will not be mocked. *You cannot hide these sins, walk after God and believe there will be no harvest from sowing these seeds. God knows your secret sins and will expose them - not to cast you off, but to protect His name, you, and his body from your corrupt fruit that will bring death and corruption to many.*

Hear God – If you are sowing to your flesh from bag #1 - turn to Him. It is better for all when we repent.

Bag #2 – Ordinary things that are not in open rebellion to God and can be involved in worship of God:

praying, being a friend, working, playing, reading the Bible, eating, recreating, serving, being in love, resting, ...

The 2nd bag of seed can produce good things. But done in your own power, you are doing them in the flesh which can only produce **corruption**. Hear God – your corrupted ways corrupts simple things like eating – sensuality and gluttony follow, my corrupted power makes me believe I can control things – and makes control and idol, and our corrupted love destroys friendships and causes divisions. **All in Gal 5:20-21**

Even giving money to the church – like \$60 mill can be sowing to the flesh – when we do it apart from the Spirit. Mr. Bailey obviously did see Jesus as his Lord, God as His Master, The Spirit as his leader – rather. He saw the church as a place better than the govt to leave his money. He might get a building named after him. But is that the legacy you want or the legacy God is calling us to leave.

God says He takes ordinary things that are sown in the Spirit and transforms them into something that affects our whole life in an eternal way.

GALATIANS 6:8 (ESV) - but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

What we are saying when we sow from this bag of ordinary things apart from the Spirit is – I can be God and make these ordinary things have life that affects my heart and soul in an eternal way.

Bag #1 is full of overtly rebellious acts. Bag #2 is full of ordinary acts that I corrupt.

In Bag #1 I am saying: **I don't need God.** In **Bag #2**: **I am saying I can be god.** - Both are equally deadly!

God's warning: "Living apart from My Spirit mocks me – and bears a harvest of corruption that spreads death to many."

11 yr old – got invited to Emily's birthday. Our 6th grade year I was not kind to her – funny thing. I didn't get another invite. What's amazing – God is inviting you and I who mock his name – to be a part of something epic. Not like Emily.

02. God's Invitation

GALATIANS 6:8 (ESV) but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life (zoe)

In Scripture, "zoe" is: **the vibrant life of God that is eternal and gives life eternal**

sow- **submitting to the Spirit**

Submitting to the Spirit is how God makes our ordinary things bear vibrant life (zoe) that is eternal.

* **Submission is a willful act of putting ourselves in and under the Spirit's ways, power, and love.**

I want to be clear – this means willfully praying: God I submit to your Spirit's ways – power – love

Driving the speed limit bc we have a slow car in front of us is not submission. It is willfully doing so.

How do we know what we are submitting to?

Community Groups – *This is where we learn and actually live life in the Spirit together.*

"Miracles" Book - *We learn as we search God's word together – what are His ways, how his power works through the finished work of Christ, and how we are fixed in His love by Jesus' work not ours. (Get in a group!)*

In submission, everything we do - that is not overtly evil and rebellious to God's ways - can be done in a way that is "good" and bears "eternal life". When we reach into the 2nd bag of good seed – and sow it in submission to the Spirit – God can take these ordinary acts: praying, being a friend, working, playing, reading the Bible, eating, recreating, serving, being in love, resting, and breath life (zoe) eternal in and through us.

God's Invitation: I am redeeming and restoring all things as they were meant to be. When you walk in My Spirit – I will work "zoe" in and through you – bringing redemption and restoration to this world.

STORY – I could tell you story, after story across this body of believers of people sowing in the flesh. But what's amazing about our God – I can also tell you story after story about how God is empowering people to submit to His Spirit – sow into the flesh so redemption and restoration is happening. Marriages being saved, souls are being redeemed, drug addicts healed, parents restored to children, and more. But briefly – I want to tell you about one

group that is probably representative of many of our CGs. They are everywhere – serving, caring, love, bringing, hoping. There have been lives restored, marriages redeemed, bodies and minds healed, and more – all bc some people are sowing to the Spirit.

GAL 6:9-10/9 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.

- Sowing in the Spirit from bag #2 means all the ordinary things we do become “good” things.
- In time, God’s time, all these “good” things will produce zoe - and be used to redeem and restore.

Don’t grow weary – and try and do these things in your flesh, or give up altogether.

Sometimes we get like little kids and we want to plant and harvest in the same day. Like a child in on a 14-hour car trip to Disney says – “there yet” – 20 minutes into the ride. As a parent – you know there is a lot more time in the car, but the end of the trip – if we endure – is a good thing – a great harvest if you will.

God gives us opps to encourage each other to keep submitting. Look for them. Here are a few we are facilitating.

- Pray for divine opportunities to “do good” to all - and God will produce “zoe” in and through you.

Some opportunities:

1) Redeeming Meal Tonight – a place to do good, bring someone and let’s sow in the Spirit tonight.

2) Good Friday Service – a place to see how God has done good to us – giving us zoe.

3) Devos: in Miracles books and on-line at this link: www.thesummitstl.com/easter

* We are asking God to do “zoe” in us through His Spirit – using these devotionals.

* We are also asking God to work “zoe” through us. Pray for those outside the body.

* We are asking God to work “zoe” through us – into live of those in the body. **Where can we serve another?**

Imagine what God could do in us in 1 week – **if we walked in the Spirit together** – will you join me?

4) Fasting - On Saturday, the day before Easter, the devo is going to ask you going to ask you to join our body in fasting before Sunday morning. This is an ordinary thing – fasting – not eating to focus on prayer - that if done in the Spirit – allows us to focus our hearts and minds on the wonder and power and beauty of Jesus.

* Last meal on Saturday sometime around 1 to 4 pm.

* Use the rest of the night to be together as friends or family.

* Play, read the word, pray for friends, pray for the body, pray for those you want to invite to Sunday or CG.

Then – let the first food that touches your lips be communion on Easter morn.

Why are we doing this? Our hope: Zoe in us, through us, enter Sunday expecting zoe in this place.

5) Easter Sunday– worship, baptism, “Miracles”

Imagine what God could do thru His Spirit in this place if we all came in expecting God to do Zoe in this place.

What do you want the legacy of your life to be – “zoe”? Let it be zoe.

What do you want the legacy of this body to be – “zoe”? Let it be zoe.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church – 122 yrs old. Once housed over 1000 congregants with a gospel influence. Today less than 70 – no gospel influence. For a while their legacy was their building. Then it fell some 6 months after we shot the video. What happened? A lot of things - but ultimately – the brokenness of this world won and left a legacy of corruption that eventually destroyed a body and a building. Because of that - their legacy is not what they thought it would be 100 years ago. What will be ours be?

Jesus’ legacy – was not that he was the best ever, or that he left the world a better place, or that he worked hard for his disciples, or that he left some great memories. These are all true about his life to some degree but if these are all he did – we would not be here today and every week worshipping Him. We would not be trying to orient our lives in him every day. No – he would have been one in millions of the countless people that have lived on this earth hoping to make some kind of difference – only to be a forgotten in history. **Jesus’ legacy was that he gave his whole life – so we could be with him and have his life – zoe – the very life of eternal God.** This is why we worship Him. This is why our whole life is to be oriented in Him. How? He submitted himself to his Father. Submission – Jesus, Son of God, submitting – left a legacy of zoe. The only way we get to get in on this grand redemptive legacy – is through submission.

* **Sounds scary – if I submit, I lose control. (Lies – you are not in control anyway – the cross says zoe happens in subm.**

* **Jesus let go – submitted – died – but GOOD came – zoe, God’s life was given to us.**

* **Today, one day at a time – submit to His Spirit – his ways, his power, his love. Pray with me.**

Submitted to His Spirit – “zoe” becomes our legacy.