

## One Foot in Front of the Other

6.6-10

**vs. 6,**

One who is taught  
share all his good things

the word  
with the teacher

The **teacher** - an individual who is devoting their time and energy to the instruction and edification of the community (church).

**Share** - bearing one another's burdens

The **word** - This included the teachings of Jesus, carried by the apostles and disciples (men & women). It also included the Jewish scriptures (OT).

**One** who is taught - those who participate with and benefit from the teacher. The church, the people of God, brothers and sisters in Christ, the community of faith. OT parallel -> Levites (12 tribes)

**vs. 7,** God is not mocked.

There are consequences when God's gifts are abused and misused.

Whatever a person sows they will reap.

This is a universal truth.

The absence of the law does not mean an absence of consequences.

**Proverbs 22:8** The one who sows injustice will reap disaster, and the rod of his fury will be destroyed.

**Job 4:8** In my experience, those who plow injustice and those who sow trouble reap the same.

**Hosea 10:12-13** Sow righteousness for yourselves and reap faithful love; break up your unplowed ground. It is time to seek the Lord until he comes and sends righteousness on you like the rain. **13** You have plowed wickedness and reaped injustice; you have eaten the fruit of lies. Because you have trusted in your own way and in your large number of soldiers,

Farming a crop requires the process of cultivation.

**vs. 8,**

Flesh - destruction

Spirit - eternal life

Our choices have consequences.

Do you live for the impulses of the flesh?

**-OR-**

Do you live for the cultivation of the fruit of the Spirit?

To use your time now to live in the flesh is to forfeit any future rewards given by the Spirit.

**Question:** Where are we fixing our gaze? What are the things in which we choose to invest? Where do we expend energy? How do we use our resources?

**Flesh** -> Decay -> Death

**Spirit** -> Transformation -> Eternal life

**Philippians 3:21** He will transform the body of our humble condition into the likeness of his glorious body, by the power that enables him to subject everything to himself.

Our transformation isn't simply for the present (becoming more and more like Jesus).  
Our transformation is also for the future.  
We too will experience resurrection and glorified bodies.

We experience the fullness of life through the love found in Jesus.  
Experiencing eternity is experiencing the full inheritance of God's kingdom. Which starts now!

**vs. 9**, Faith generates obedience.

Let's review (chap 5&6)

- Don't give into the pressure. (5:7-12)
- Love your neighbor as yourself. (5:14)
- Keep in step with the Spirit. Be led, live, and walk in the fullness of His fruit. (5:16-18)
- Restore those who have fallen. (6:1)
- Bear one another's burdens (share). (6:2)
- Examine yourself (individual responsibility). (6:4)
- Provide material support for those who instruct you in the faith. (6:6)

All of this is doing good. All of it is engaging in fulfilling the law of Christ (love incarnate).

Why does Paul say don't get tired?

Because he knows how hard it is to not give into the flesh.

- Love requires discipline and intentionality (selflessness).
- There are so many distractions.
- We have to deal with many difficult people who are not kind. People who are rude, foul, ungrateful, and selfish.
- There are too many need to count all around us.
- Our resources are limited and often depleted.
- Circumstances can affect our mood in a blink of an eye.
- The world very much feels like it is not on our side and for the most part it isn't.

Are you tired?

Paul says, "Don't give up".

**3:3** Are you so foolish? After beginning by the Spirit, are you now finishing by the flesh?

Sowing is a prerequisite to enjoying the harvest.

No one is saved by works, but salvation includes works.

Works (obedience) are an indication of a persons heart before God.

At the proper time -> the exact right moment, the fullness of time.

This demands dependence on God. It demands patience.

We do not have the ability to calculate the spiritual outcomes / benefits of our labor.

We rest in the promises of God. His word does not return void.

We have a hope that culminates in the future.

**vs. 10**, So let's make good use of the time we have.

- If we are to love our neighbors we must prioritize that each person bears the image of God.
- There is no room in the kingdom and in the hearts of God's children for racism, sexism, tribalism, or classism. This is not love!
- We are to be like our Savior, love incarnate.
- This is especially true with our brothers and sisters in Christ.
- There is a supernatural bond created in the family of God and there is joy in caring for and serving one another.

**Question:** Do you value people, their experience, and their need for Jesus?