



“The Perseverance in the Gospel”

Galatians 6:7-10

Theme: *A believer will persevere in seeking the glory of Christ in the lives of others.*

Introduction: This text is an extension of the previous section about how believers are to care for the spiritual condition of those around them. Our own spiritual struggles so often dominate our focus – we are constantly battling the flesh. Some of us are weak kneed in our struggle – battling such severity that it brings a perpetuated exhaustion, and we need those around us to help us remain upright. Others of us have the strength needed to “bear our own load” to help others bear their burden in the struggle with sin. However, it is only a matter of time until those who are strong enough to help others will be the ones needing the help of others.

But life is not about your struggle, your passions, pleasures, priorities & preferences, it is about how your life matters to the glory of Jesus Christ. Those who come to faith in Jesus Christ are converted ... from lives of selfish indulgence to a live of sacrificial investment to the glory of Christ. To continue to live in selfish indulgence is to sow to the flesh and our text informs us such living is disastrous. However, the sacrificial investment in the interests of the Holy Spirit, which is the glory of Christ brings joy and rich reward in the glory of Christ.

Our text convinces us of the need to get serious about this – both dealing with our own sin and investing ourselves in the effort to see Christ magnified in life – ours and in the lives of those around us. Hence, a **“believer will persevere in seeking the glory of Christ in the lives of others”** ...

I. THE PRINCIPLE OF FERTILITY – 6:7-8

A. The Admonition to Fear the Lord – v. 7

1. Having addressed the “spiritual” – those who are walking in the Spirit, exhorting them to bear the burden of the one who is struggling having been overtaken or “caught” in a trespass, it appears he focuses on the one who has been “caught.”
2. We ought not think that sinful activity is “no big deal,” that it is common, or to be tolerated since we are all human.
3. Paul provides an admonition to fear the Lord – **“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked.”**
 - a) **“deceived”** [πλανᾶω] – describes the condition of being caused to go astray or misled by the “minor” consequences you have

encountered in your sin.

- b) The occasion can be generalized to refer to any perception that straying from the righteousness of Christ is “worth it.”
 - c) However, the specific “offense” that is being addressed in the greater context is the notion that righteousness is gained through the Law and not through faith in Christ.
 - d) They had been convinced – bewitched – that obedience to the Mosaic Law (circumcision) was the means of righteousness and proper Christian living - [Galatians 3:1](#).
4. Such a self-righteous dismisses God’s holiness and mocks Him who has said that righteousness cannot be found through the Law - *“God is not mocked”* [μυκτηρίζω] – lit. “turn up the nose at” someone.
 5. Here, the assertion of self-righteousness is to mock God – as is to tolerate the presence of sin in your life without repentance and contrition.
 6. Paul clearly warns us that to think we are somehow immune from God’s standard of holiness is to turn up the nose at God and treat Him with contempt.
 7. By stating that *“God is not mocked”* does not mean one cannot mock God, it means one cannot “get away with” mocking God.

B. The Axiom of Fertility - v. 8

1. He then provides an “axiom” or “self-evident truth” - *“... for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.”*
2. If you mock God, you will be mocked by God - [Proverbs 1:23-27](#).
3. We cannot think that we can sow “wild oats” and have it come back enriched wheat - cp. [Hosea 8:7; 10:12](#).
4. This is an established “law” of agronomy – and is no less true in morality – cp. [Romans 2:9-10](#).
5. Paul, having established the principle, now applies it specifically - *“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.”*
 - a) First, *“sows to his own flesh”* – refers to essentially give in to the urges, impulses, and cravings of the flesh – the very indulgences identified as the “deeds of the flesh” – cp. [Galatians 5:19-21](#).
 - (1) This person is the one who rejects the ministry of the Holy Spirit and chooses to pursue the pleasures of sin.
 - (2) The **“flesh”** refers to the condition of sinful humanity out of which the believer is sanctified and in which the unbeliever is not bondage – cp. Romans 8:5-9.
 - (3) Those who indulge themselves in the flesh will **“reap corruption”** – [φθορά] – a term that means ruination, or the destruction associated with the eternal wrath of God.

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- (4) For the believer who casts off the restraint of the Holy Spirit and indulges in sin, God's disciplinary hand will fall upon them – not in condemnation, but in no uncertain vexation and conviction – cp. [Hebrews 12:6](#).
- b) The ability to “*sow to the Spirit*” – refers to the submission to the Holy Spirit's influences to walk according to the Word of God to the glory of Jesus Christ.
- (1) It is to willingly yield to the guidance of God's Spirit to live in a way that deliberately seeks to display a high regard for Jesus Christ and evoke a high regard for Jesus Christ by those who observe your life.
 - (2) It is to surrender yourself as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God to glorify Christ – [Romans 12:1](#).
 - (3) It is to cultivate the “fruit of the Spirit” so that Christlikeness is furthered in your character and conduct.
 - (4) It is to set one's mind on things above and to abide in Christ.
 - (5) It is to be a doer of the Word and not a hearer only.
 - (6) The reaping of such “*sowing*” is “*eternal life*” – not in the sense of earning it, but those whose lives are so impacted by God's grace that they “*sow to the Spirit*” are the ones to whom “*eternal life*” is the ultimate prize.

II. THE PERSEVERANCE IN FAITHFULNESS – 6:9

A. The Adversity in Perseverance

1. There is a recognized struggle that exists in doing what is honoring and glorifying to Christ over what satisfies our sinful impulses and flesh.
2. Paul acknowledges this struggle – this adversity – by stating “*Let us no lose heart in doing good ...*”
3. “*lose heart*” [ἐγκακέω] – “... to lose one's motivation in continuing a desirable pattern of conduct or activity, lose enthusiasm, be discouraged.”¹
4. There is a relentless pressure on the believer to give in – to give up in the struggle to do what is right – and there are reasons a person would “*lose heart:*”

¹ William Arndt et al., [A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature](#) (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 272.

- a) *Laziness* – it is just too hard; takes too much effort.
 - b) *Loneliness* – no one around me cares or is struggling as I am.
 - c) *Forgetfulness* – failing to recall the misery produced by the flesh.
 - d) *Envy* – looking at the “pleasures” those who sow to the flesh are “enjoying.”
 - e) *Impatience* – I want fulfillment now.
 - f) *Myopathy* – failing to realize that there is a season to come in which we will reap incomparable blessing.
5. The pressure is to “*grow weary*” [ἐκλύω] – become exhausted in strength or to “give out” – to “faint.”

B. The Advantage of Perseverance

- 1. But Paul reminds the believer of the precious reality that keeps us going – “... *for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.*”
- 2. Paul is not here speaking of eternal life but the notion of eternal reward for faithfulness – cp. [2 John 8](#).
- 3. What struggle we endure here is worth it considering what it produces in us and secures for us – cp. [Romans 8:18](#); [2 Corinthians 4:17](#); [1 Peter 4:13](#).
- 4. Our anticipation is the eternity to come will reduce our earthly temporal struggle into an asterisk in our lives.
- 5. Those who have this hope persevere in purifying themselves even as Christ Jesus Himself is pure – [1 John 3:3](#).
- 6. Jesus Himself set the example for us – [Hebrews 12:2-3](#).

III. THE PRIORITY OF FRUITFULNESS – 6:10

A. The Priority of Fruitfulness in Efforts to Evangelize

- 1. Considering the “due time” in which our reward will be provided for “sowing to the Spirit” we must seek the glory of Christ in the holding forth the primary ministry of the Holy Spirit to us – “*So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people ...*”
- 2. What is lost in the English translations is the emphasis on effort Paul is exhorting us to put into this ... the term “*Let us do ...*” [ἐργάζομαι] emphasizes the arduous effort or “work” required to accomplish a task.
- 3. This “work” is the “sowing to the Spirit” in which we cooperate in what the Holy Spirit was sent to accomplish in us and through us – cp. [Acts 1:8](#).
- 4. The “*opportunity*” [καιρός] – refers to the “period of time” or the “season between now and when we reap what we’ve sown – cp. [2 Corinthians 5:10-11](#).
- 5. “*good*” [ἀγαθός] – describes what meets the highest standard of worth and merit – what is most beneficial.
- 6. Hence, the greatest way to “*do good to all people*” – those in distinction from the “*household of faith*” is to preach the Gospel.

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7. The context continues to be the desire to fulfill the interests of Christ – the passion of God’s Spirit – and for the unbeliever this is their need for faith in Christ.
8. This does not negate the obligation to show charity, benevolence, compassion, and respect to those who are in need, but the context clearly is in respect to the preeminence of Christ.

B. The Priority of Fruitfulness in Efforts to Edify

1. Likewise, we are told *“do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.”*
2. The reason for this is *“those who are of the household of faith”* are in constant connection with you – cp. v. 1.
3. This takes us back to the efforts to “restore” a brother who is “caught in any trespass” – cp. [James 5:19-20](#).
4. Our love for other believers is a primary way by which our love for God Himself is placed on display – cp. [1 John 3:14](#).
5. In the most immediate context, when we love *“those who are of the household of faith,”* we are loved by *“those who are of the household of faith,”* especially when we struggle under the weight of our own sin.

So What?

1. If we desire God’s blessing, it is necessary that we pursue what He has promised to bless; otherwise, we can expect His resistance.
2. Faithfulness is hard – it takes grace, intentional effort, and relentless focus on the ultimate reward.
3. If you care about the spiritual condition of others, you will know their care when you are the one struggling.

A believer will persevere in seeking the glory of Christ in the lives of others.