

## LESSON 2

# WHEN YOU ARE TIRED OF DOING GOOD

GALATIANS 6:6-10

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*Reading before class: Galatians 6 and 1 Corinthians 15:50-58.*

Last week we settled that God placed you in this body on purpose. This week we take up what happens ten years later, when you are still here and still working and nobody has said anything about it in a long while.

1. Think of something you have kept doing for years that nobody thanked you for. Do not write what it was. Write what kept you doing it.

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2. In your own words, what is the difference between a person who quits and a person who slows down until he has quit without noticing? We will come back to this.
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## TWO THINGS THAT GO WRONG, AND ONE COMES FIRST

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I asked you last week to watch for two bad things in Galatians 6:9. Let us start there.

3. Read Galatians 6:9. Write out the two things Paul says can happen to a person who is doing good.

The first: \_\_\_\_\_

The second: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Notice the order. Which one does Paul put first, and which one is the thing everybody around you can actually see?

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5. In your own words, what is the difference between the two? Say it the way you would say it to somebody at work.
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6. Here is the one to think hardest about. If the first one comes first and nobody can see it, how long can a person be in trouble before anybody knows?
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**LET'S SUMMARIZE HERE**

1. Paul names two failures, not one.
2. The inward one comes first and it is invisible.
3. The visible collapse is the second thing, not the first.
4. Therefore by the time a congregation notices somebody has quit, the quitting happened a long time ago.

**THE LAW UNDERNEATH THE WHOLE PARAGRAPH**

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7. Read Galatians 6:7. What does Paul say about God, and what does he say about sowing?
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8. Read Galatians 6:8. Paul gives two sowings and two harvests. Set them side by side.

Sows to the flesh, reaps: \_\_\_\_\_

Sows to the Spirit, reaps: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Now put verse 9 back against verses 7 and 8. Verse 9 begins with a promise about reaping. What is that promise resting on?
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10. In your opinion, why would a man who believes verse 7 still grow tired in verse 9?
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**THE PROBLEM IS THE TIMING**

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11. Read Galatians 6:9 again and find the phrase that tells you when the reaping happens.
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**12.** Whose "due time" is it? Look at verse 7 again before you answer.

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**13.** A farmer plants in the spring and he is not discouraged in June that there is no harvest yet. Why not? And what does he know that a discouraged Christian has forgotten?

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**14.** Paul does not say we will reap if we work harder. Read the verse once more. What is the condition he actually attaches?

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### **DRAW THE LIFETIME**

Get a pencil for this one. Draw a line all the way across the space below. Put the year you were born at the left end and put today somewhere along it.

**15.** Mark on that line every stretch when you were serving somebody in this congregation or in your family. Then mark the stretches when you were not.

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**16.** Look at your gaps. What ended each one of them? Was it a decision, or was it just a season running out?

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**17.** Now mark the place on that line where you are standing today. In your opinion, is the stretch you are in now the longest one, or does it only feel that way?

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## WHILE WE HAVE OPPORTUNITY

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**18.** Read Galatians 6:10. Paul puts a time limit on something. What is it?

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**19.** He also puts an order on it. To whom do we do good, and who gets named especially?

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**20.** Note carefully that "especially" is not "only." What would go wrong in a congregation that read it as "only"?

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## FOUR WORDS FOR A TIRED WORKER

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**21.** Read 1 Corinthians 15:58. Paul stacks four things there. Pull each one out.

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**22.** The last one is not an action at all. What is it, and why would Paul put a thing you KNOW in a list of things you DO?

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**23.** Read the last five words of that verse. What exactly is promised, and what is not promised?

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**24.** Now look at 1 Corinthians 15:58. Read 1 Corinthians 15:50-57 first, then read verse 58 again. What is the "therefore" there for?

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### LET'S SUMMARIZE HERE

1. The command is to keep working.
2. The reason attached is not results. The reason is knowledge.
3. That knowledge is the resurrection, which is the whole chapter standing behind the verse.
4. Therefore a worker's endurance rests on something that has already happened, not on something he is waiting to see.

### IN SEASON AND OUT OF SEASON

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- 25.** Read 2 Timothy 4:2. Write the command and the two seasons.

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- 26.** Here is a real question and this class will not all answer it alike. Whose season is it? Is Paul telling Timothy to preach whether or not the PEOPLE are ready to hear it, or whether or not TIMOTHY feels like preaching it? Read verses 3 through 5 before you answer, and give your reasons.

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- 27.** Read 2 Timothy 4:5. Paul gives four more commands. Which one of them assumes the work is going to be hard?
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## WORD STUDY · LOSE HEART AND GROW WEARY

Two different Greek words, and they are not even relatives. Galatians 6:9 uses one word for "lose heart" and a different one for "grow weary," and they come off entirely different roots.

"Lose heart" is built on the ordinary Greek word for bad. Its one meaning in the New Testament is to be disheartened, to lose spirit. It is the word behind "they ought to pray and not to lose heart" in Luke 18:1, and behind Paul asking the Ephesians not to lose heart over his troubles (Ephesians 3:13).

"Grow weary" is built on the word for loosing or untying. The same root gives the word for being disabled or paralyzed. Its meanings are to be exhausted and to collapse from fatigue, and it is the word used of a crowd Jesus would not send home hungry in case "they might faint on the way" (Matthew 15:32).

So Paul names two different failures. One is the spirit going out of a man. The other is his strength coming untied and going slack.

Now here is an honest catch, and it is worth your knowing. Your English Bible does not keep these two labels fixed. In Hebrews 12:3 the same word rendered "grow weary" here is rendered "lose heart," and in 2 Thessalonians 3:13 the word rendered "lose heart" here is rendered "grow weary of." The Greek words are steady; the English clothes get swapped. So the observation above is about this verse, and you cannot take the English phrases into a concordance and expect them to hold.

Source: Logos, 4 Aug. 2026. Lemmas ἐγκακέω "be discouraged," sense to be disheartened 6 of 6, on the root √κακος; and ἐκλύω "give out; become weary," senses to be exhausted 3 and to collapse from fatigue 3, on the root √λυω. Lexicons consulted: Kittel et al.; Liddell et al. Full entries in Works Cited.

And note this: the verse does not need one word of this. Paul warns about two things in one sentence and he puts one of them first, and you can see both in plain English.

**BUT SOMEONE MAY ASK...**

*"Is this telling me I am never allowed to rest? Because I am tired."*

No, and it would be a cruel reading of the passage to say so.

Notice what Paul does NOT say. He does not say do not get tired. Tired is not the sin here and Paul never treats it as one. Our Lord slept in a boat in a storm, and He told His own apostles to come away and rest a while. What Paul warns against is the quitting, not the tiredness. Verse 9 is aimed at the man who has concluded it is not worth it, and that is a judgment about God's harvest rather than a report about his own body. So the honest answer has two halves. A tired worker needs rest. A discouraged worker needs verse 7. Those are two different needs and handing a man the wrong one does damage. If you are worn out, rest and come back. If you have quietly decided the sowing does not pay, that is what this lesson is about, and no amount of sleep will touch it.

**FOR YOUR LIFE**

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- 28.** Look back at your answer to question 2. Would you change it now? If so, what changed?
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- 29.** Think of somebody in this congregation who has been doing the same quiet job for years. In your opinion, what would it take to make that person lose heart? Be specific.
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- 30.** Verse 9 says the harvest comes in due time. Name one thing you have sown that you have not seen anything come of yet.
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- 31.** Be honest with yourself here. Is there anything you have already quit doing without ever deciding to quit? Nobody is reading this but you.
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## THIS WEEK

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**32.** Verse 10 says while we have opportunity. Name one opportunity in front of you this week that will not be there in a month.

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**33.** Write down what you will do about it and put a day on it.

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*Bring this workbook back next week. Question 29 is going to matter more than it looks like it does right now.*

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**NEXT WEEK.** Lesson 3: Somebody Else's Property.

**Read before class:** 1 Peter 4 and Romans 12.

**One thing to watch for:** in 1 Peter 4:10, notice what Peter calls a Christian who has received a gift. It is not a word about talent and it is not a word about ability. It is a word about a man handling property that belongs to somebody else.