

**Galatians 6: 9; “Let us Not Grow Weary”, Message # 59 in the series –
“Christ has Set us Free”, a Bible Study conducted on October 5th,
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There is a tendency in many Christians, I think, that after they have been doing the will of God for a long time, to grow weary of well-doing, because they think that they are not going to reap (they are not going to see all the fruit of their prayers and labors). This promise, the truth that we shall reap, was written down here by the apostle Paul, so that all of the churches in Galatia would be strengthened to continue to do God’s will in accordance with His word, even if there was no apparent immediate good fruit or result to be noticed by those believers. The exhortation, “Let us not grow weary”, rests upon the appeal made to them, and also to us, that we would not grow weary in doing good, but persevere in doing what is right, and in doing good works, realizing that there will indeed be fruit born to the glory of God through our efforts. In other words, this verse is meant to be an encouragement to continued labor and the expectation of even greater fruitfulness in our service to Christ. This evening I want us to look first at the great temptation to grow weary in well-doing. And then 2nd – The great promise of reaping if we do not lose heart.

1st – The great temptation to grow weary in well-doing.

“Let us not grow weary in doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.” The kind of weariness that is being spoken of here is not so much physical weariness, as much as it is a spiritual weariness in relation to doing good. It is a weariness in doing good in one of two ways: either in preaching the word, or in relation to doing good works. It is true that the Lord Jesus when He came to into Samaria in John chapter 4, verse 4, “being wearied from His journey, sat down by the well”. He was physically weary from his journey. But this weariness brought him no temptation to discouragement. In the midst of this physical weariness, He seized the opportunity to witness to the woman of Samaria who came to draw water from the well. He who asked for a drink of water gave the water of eternal life to a needy sinful woman. Physical weariness can be addressed by physical rest. But spiritual weariness can only be addressed by the Christian’s looking to Jesus for strength; looking to Him to be spiritually replenished. Where does the strength come from to resist the temptation to grow weary in well-doing? It comes from our understanding that even as God was with Jesus, that God because of what Jesus has done, He can be with me as well, helping me to resist the temptation to grow weary in doing good.

Look at Acts 10: 34-38. “Then Peter opened his mouth and said: In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality.” “But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.” “The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ – He is Lord of all – that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.” So, we see here, that God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and power, and He went about doing good. Christ’s doing good is the basis for your doing good. His doing good is the basis and the holy pattern for your not growing weary in well-doing. Christ has made peace between you and God. God and Christ have now sent you, the believer, the Holy Spirit, and you now have an anointing from the Holy One. This anointing is the power of the Holy Spirit which has been given to you; to labor on, to spend and to be spent. It is this anointing which enables you to spiritually labor and to good, and not to grow weary in well-doing.

It is possible however to grow weary in well-doing through the oppositions of evil people to ourselves, and to the truth that we seek to bring to them. It is also possible because of the weakness of our faith to be discouraged when we do not see the spiritual results that we long to see in relation to our labors. Let's look first at 1st Corinthians 15: 56-58 – “The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.” “But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.” You can see here that strength of sin is the law. When we realize how the law operates to convict us of sin, and to show the perfect standard of God's righteousness and holiness, it can actually be a discouragement to us as we labor for the kingdom. If I can't do spiritual work perfectly, or as well as I would like to, then why should I labor at all? This the strength of sin in relation to the law. The sin of unbelief will attempt to have us believe that all of our attempts at doing what is good and right are not going to bear fruit; they are not going to be blessed, because they have not been done well enough. They have not been done perfectly. But this is why Paul breaks out in praise in verse 57, “But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” And this is why he can then exhort us to be steadfast and immovable and always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that our labor is not in vain in the Lord. We ought not succumb to the temptation to grow weary in well-doing at all. Our labor is not in vain. It will be rewarded.

Turn with me over to Hebrews chapter 12, verses 1-4. “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of God.” “For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.” “You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.” You can see here that each Christian is to consider Jesus as the author and Perfecter of our faith. You are to realize that “weights”, those things which weigh your mind down in relation to running the race of living the Christian life of righteous and holy living, are to be laid aside.

How is that to be done? By considering that the Lord Jesus is the author and Perfecter of your faith. He had joy, even in His consideration of His going to the cross. He knew that it was in this way that He would fulfill the mission which His Father had sent Him on; to save a people of God's choosing. He would not grow weary in well-doing. He would persevere in doing good. It was in this way that He would secure an everlasting inheritance for all of God's people. And therefore, when we are tempted to be weary in well-doing, we are to consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest we become weary and discouraged in our souls. Let us remember that the way to face the temptation to grow weary is by our looking to Jesus and considering Him. It is the consideration of faith; that if Jesus faced His temptation to be weary in the working out of my salvation, then He will help me as I consider Him and His grace.

Now the “cloud of witnesses” which is mentioned here in verse 1 of Hebrews 11, this is referring to those faithful Old Testament saints, some of whom were mentioned in chapter 11. These were men and women who lived by faith in the promise of the Christ who was yet to come. And yet these were people who at some points, were no doubt tempted to grow weary in doing good. Why? Probably because there were so few people around them who were walking with God. And even though these Old Testament saints were walking with God, no matter how much they prayed and shared the truth, and did good works in relation to the unbelieving people around them, they saw no lasting fruit; they saw no real difference in the lives of people around them. They were still continually living for themselves; living according to the flesh. Nevertheless, they ran their spiritual race with endurance. They persevered in doing good. Let's

see how they did it. Verse 6 of chapter 11. “Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” They were persevering in faith, and they specifically believed that God rewards those who seek Him diligently. One of the main reasons that we should seek Him is so that we will not grow weary in well-doing.

Look at verse 7 of chapter 11 of Hebrews for an example of this. “By faith, Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.” Now, there cannot have been all that many people before the time when the judgment of the flood came, who were walking with the Lord. In Genesis 7: 1 God says to Noah, “Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation.” The New American Standard version supplies the word “alone”; “because I have seen that you (alone) are righteous before Me in this generation.” Now, let us remember that Noah prepared this ark by which he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith. But he must have, at times, felt very alone in his following of the Lord and living according to His word. There was no one else to talk over spiritual things with except his own family. He was doing good; he was surely loving his neighbor as himself.

But during that 120 years that he was building the ark, he must have been tempted to grow weary of well-doing. The love of many around him, if they ever had any human love at all, had grown cold. The world was filled with sexual immorality and violence. How did he persevere? He persevered by exercising faith in God day by day. He had found grace in God’s sight, and He no doubt sought the Lord in prayer often, and spoke with Him often. Let’s think also about Moses. Hebrews 11: 24-27 – “By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.” “By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.”

So Moses, being the son of Pharaoh’s daughter had great worldly privileges when he became of age. He could have become a young man of great wealth and power if he had not come to know the Lord. He could have pursued all of the sinful pleasures of the world for a season, but instead he chose to be more concerned with the welfare of his enslaved kinsmen according to the flesh; the people the Hebrews, and to learn what was needed to become their leader. By faith he forsook Egypt. He did not fear the wrath of the king. He endured, he did not grow weary in well-doing, for he endured as seeing Him (that is God) who is invisible.

When you read the story of Moses from beginning to end, you will certainly see that over the years of his ministry and service to God, there were many temptations that must have come to him; temptations to grow weary in well-doing, in this regard. How did Moses face all those temptations? He faced them by doing all of his works in the meekness of the wisdom which God alone could give. He learned by grace to submit to God’s will in both precept and providence. And he faced the temptation to grow weary by laboring in faith; looking to the reward. What is the reward that these verses are talking about? It was the reward of obtaining the lasting approval and inheritance which comes to the person who is trusting in God. It is the reward of the person who is looking to Christ, and then labors to fulfill the ministry that they are given and holy calling that they are called to. They are laboring at doing what is right, and thus they are rewarded according to the good works that they do. God rewards them both in this life and in the life to come. This is sowing to the Spirit, and sowing to the Spirit is nothing other than going about to do what is right, by the power and leading of the Holy Spirit, in order to glorify God, and in order to have an eternal reward. See James 3: 13-18

Now 2nd – We want to see the great promise of reaping if we do not lose heart.

“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.” We have been thinking about Moses as an example of a person who sowed to the Spirit and who reaped everlasting life. He was looking to the reward. Reaping, spiritually speaking, is not only being fruitful in righteousness, it is also eventually seeing the reward for your labors. We want to understand this truth, of the certainty of our reaping if we do not lose heart, by looking at Christ and His reaping and His not losing heart. Turn with me over to Isaiah 49, verses 1-4. “Listen, O coastlands, to Me, and take heed, you people from afar!” “The Lord has called Me from the womb; from the matrix of My mother He has made mention of my name.” “And He has made My mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of His hand He has hidden Me, and made Me a polished shaft; in His quiver He has hidden Me.” “And He said to me, You are My servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified.” “Then I said, ‘I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and in vain; yet surely my just reward is with the Lord, and my work with my God.”

This is most certainly a prophecy of our Lord Jesus Christ. He was called by God from the womb of His mother Mary; mention being made of His name, Jesus, just before He was formed in her womb. The Father watched over and protected the Lord Jesus from the plots of wicked men; preserved His life all through His early life, and during the whole time of His earthly ministry. He made His mouth like a sharp sword to preach the truth to the Pharisees, Scribes, and rulers of Israel. And then, at the right time, He delivered Him up for us all. The Lord Jesus would be God’s servant in whom He, the Father, would be glorified. And yet we see there was a temptation to lose heart, which came to Jesus, when He saw just how much He was opposed; He who was trying to do good to all men. “I have spent my strength for nothing and in vain”, are the words of His heart. But He combats it with faith. He says: “Yet surely my just reward is with the Lord, and my work with my God.” He was tempted, but He did not lose heart. We know that all of God’s work of redemption was done to perfection through Him. And He did not grow weary, nor did He lose heart. And therefore we should not lose heart either.

There is a due season for our reaping if we will persevere in our faith in God and in all of His promises. Listen to John Gill on this verse – **for in due time we shall reap** – “either in this world, sooner or later; in proper time, in God’s own time, by enjoying an increase of the fruits of righteousness; for the seed sown shall spring up again; the bread that is cast on the waters will be found after many days; and such as honour the Lord with their substance shall be blessed with plenty of temporal good things, either they or theirs: or else in the other world, or at the end of this; which will be the harvest time, the reaping time, the time of enjoying eternal life: **if we faint not**; but continue to the end, persevere constantly in doing acts of beneficence, and patiently wait, as the husbandman does, for the precious fruits of the earth; for there must be a distance of time between sowing and reaping; men must not expect to reap as soon as they sow; and therefore should not be weary of sowing, nor impatient in waiting, though they do not see as yet the appearance of the fruits thereof; for in their season they will be seen and enjoyed.