

**Galatians 6: 10; “Let us Do Good to All”, Message # 60 in the series –
“Christ has Set us Free”, a Bible Study conducted on October 19th,
2016, by Pastor Paul Rendall at his home.**

“Let us do good to all” is an appeal made by the apostle Paul to the churches in Galatia in light of the fact that they might grow weary in well-doing, and lose heart. Losing heart sometimes takes place in the heart and mind of a Christian because they are not seeing the answers to their prayers in the time that they expect. They have sown what is good, in word and deed, and yet they have not seen the fruit that they were looking for, at the time in which they hoped for it. Paul would have them continue to sow and to continue to expect that they would reap in due time, and this would glorify God. So this evening I would like us to look 1st of all at the duty which we all have as Christians – To do good to all men. Then 2nd, I want you see – That this duty has a special focus of concern – Doing good, especially to those of the household of faith. And 3rd – We will conclude by looking at the time related to doing this good.

1st – The duty which we all have as Christians – To do good to all men.

This doing good to all men flows out of having a good and right relationship with God. Turn with me over to Micah chapter 6, verses 3-8. O My people, what have I done to you?” “And how have I wearied you?” “Testify against Me.” “For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, I redeemed you from the house of bondage; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.” “O My people, remember now what Balak king of Moab counseled, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him, from Acacia Grove to Gilgal, that you may know the righteousness of the Lord.” “With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before the High God?” “Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?” “Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, ten thousand rivers of oil” “Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sins of my soul?” “He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?”

Here we see what it really means to worship the Lord, and to learn to do the good that we should do, as a loving response for all that He has done for us. God had sent the children of Israel 3 examples of good people to lead them; to teach them righteousness. He had sent them Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. God reminded them that it was not through the false prophet Balaam that they came to know the righteousness of the Lord. Balak wanted to know how he could get God on his side; how he could curse Israel. Balaam the false prophet tried to curse the people of God for Balak, but he was forced by the Spirit of God to prophesy good of them. This was because they were God’s chosen people. You don’t get God on your side by seeing how He might curse other people whom you might not get along with. God only has one people, and He does them good through our Lord Jesus Christ. In Numbers 23: 18, Balaam says to Balak – “God is not a man that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent.” “Has He said, and will He not do?” “Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?” “Behold, I have received a command to bless; He has blessed, and I cannot reverse it.” “He has not observed iniquity in Jacob, nor has He seen wickedness in Israel.”

So God was most definitely going to do good to Israel because He has purposed to do so; having freely justified all of his elect people among the children of Israel. God knew that since He had saved Moses and Aaron, and Miriam, and others among Israel, He knew that they would be attempting to do His will. They would be going about to do good works for Him, and doing good works in relation to others around them, according to what He had revealed to them, was His will. And so the question comes to the prophet’s mind– What shall I come before the Lord with; what should I bring to Him in worship? And what should I do, that is good, so that He would be pleased? And the answer comes to him: He has shown you, O man, what is good: “To

do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God”. It is – To do what is right, to love your neighbor as yourself, and show him mercy; and to walk humbly with God. This is how we as believers can do good to all men; to do good in a way which will really honor and glorify God, and which will truly help other people around you. In order to be able to do this, you must be a good person yourself. You must know God and pray to walk closely with Him. You must pray that you will have regard for the good work of grace which He performs in your heart in relation to keeping His commandments. And then, having come to know this goodness and mercy from the Lord, you will want to show goodness others.

Turn with me over to Luke chapter 6, verse 43. “For a good tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit.” “For every tree is known by its own fruit.” “For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush.” “A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil.” “For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.” So here, Jesus is teaching his disciples how they might be like Himself. If you look at verse 40, it says: “A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.” Here we see, that every “tree”, that is every person, is known by their own fruit; that is, whether they speak and do good, or whether they do evil. Other people around you cannot gather good things from your speech, or receive good things from your actions if you are a bramble bush. A bramble bush is full of stickers. It represents the person who is hard to get close to. People look, and they cannot find anything good coming from their life because of their selfishness and their meanness.

But the good man will have a good treasure in his heart. He will have been storing up this good treasure of the good things which God through Christ has been giving to him in grace, and truth which he finds in the word of God; and out of that storehouse he will want to do good to others. Jesus gives us a list of these things from verse 27, on to verse 38. Listen to verses 27-31 – “But I say to you who hear: ‘Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you.’” “To him who strikes you on the one cheek, offer, the other also.” “And from him who takes away your cloak, do not withhold your tunic either.” “Give to everyone who asks of you.” “And from him who takes away your goods do not ask them back.” “And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise.” So you can see here that we are to do good to all men, even those persons who hate us. We are to bless those who curse us and pray for those who spitefully use us. All of this flow out of keeping that golden rule – “Just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise.” This is how we can show goodness to all men.

Look at verse 35 – “But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High.” “For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.” “Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.” “Judge not, and you shall not be judged.” “Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned.” “Forgive, and you will be forgiven.” “Give and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom.” “For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.” Further, you see from these words that being merciful is an act of goodness. Not unrighteously judging others is an act of goodness. Forgiving others who have sinned against you is an act of goodness. Giving to others to help them is an act of goodness. Going about to keep all of these commands of Jesus, realizing what He has done for you to show you goodness and mercy; this is how God would have us to live.

Now, 2nd – I want you see that this duty of doing good has a special focus of concern –

Our text says: “Let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.” The special concern of our doing good, as Christians, is to do good to those who are other

Christians, especially to those in the local church which you are a member of; which is here called – “the household of faith”. Turn with me over to Acts chapter 11, and we will look at verses 19-26. “Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only.” “But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus.” “And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord.” “The news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch.” “When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and he encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord.” “For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith.” “And a great many people were added to the Lord.” “Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul.” “And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch.” “So it was, for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people.” “And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.”

Now, it says here in verse 24 – “For Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith.” A truly good man is a person full of the Holy Spirit and faith. He’s not simply out to help people in a human sense, as good of a good work as that may be. He is out to help them in a spiritual and eternal sense as well. And this good man had been sent by the church at Jerusalem because a great number of people had turned to the Lord. As a good man, when he saw how the grace of God had worked, and was working among them, he was glad, it says, and he encouraged them that they would continue on in this grace. The good work that He was doing was that he was encouraging these believers to persevere in their faith. He wanted to strengthen them in their faith. And so, when he saw that there was a great need for good teaching, to be given to these young believers, he went to Tarsus and asked Paul the apostle to come over there to help him in this good work.

Turn over to Titus chapter 3, verse 8. “This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works.” And we must ask – Where would these good works be seen first and foremostly of all, if not in the context of the church which that believer is a member of. For Titus chapter 2, verse 6 says: “Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded, in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say.” And verse 14 of chapter 3 – “And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful.” So we see here that doing good means to have doctrinal integrity; knowing what you believe, and attempting to communicate this to others in your local church. Doing good means that you will have sound speech that cannot be condemned, as well. All of these good things which are being done by the Christian will be seen first in the local church of which they are a member; helping to address the pressing needs of his fellow believers in the household of God.

And then 3rd - We will conclude by looking at the time related to doing this good.

“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good. “While we have therefore time, let us do good,” some men render it. “Ἀλλὰ οὖν ὡς καιρὸν” is the phrase in the Greek. . R.C.H Lenski says: “Verse 9 is negative: let us not grow tired, not be exhausted.” “So we now have the positive: do with energy.” “The emphasis is on ‘while we have opportunity.’” “The idea is, however, not a reference to special opportunities which come now and again, “the good” then being some material help extended by us in charity.” “No; this is an ever-present *καιρὸς* (Kairos), “season” or opportunity – “now while”. He says: “It is true, verse 10 looks back to verse 6, but not in the way so commonly supposed, namely that in verse 6 we dispense material gifts to our teachers and now in verse 10 to all men in general and especially to our fellow believers.” “Quite

otherwise: we are first to make ourselves participants with our teachers in all the spiritually good things they have to offer us.” “This is to be the source of our enrichment.” “Then we are to dispense our spiritual wealth to others with all tireless energy so that they may share it with us.” “This is to be the outflow.” “It is to go on ‘while, as long as, we have opportunity,’ as long as life lasts and without weariness.” “Jesus is the example, Paul is another.”

Turn over to Proverbs 3: 27, 28 with me. It says here: “Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do so.” “Do not say to your neighbor, ‘Go, and come back, and tomorrow I will give it,’ when you have it with you.” What these verses are saying is that we ought to do good at the very time in which we have it in our power to do so. To not do so may mean that you might never do it all. Therefore, there is a very great need, in God’s sight, that we do what we can in a timely fashion; that is, when we are presently able to do so. This will glorify God. Listen to Thomas Manton in closing: “Because the season may soon slip out of our hands...” “Take and seek all occasions of doing good.” “To take the season relates to the necessities of others; to seek the season relates to our own capacity and ability; both together bind the duty stronger on us.” “He may die, and you may be discouraged and disabled; and therefore take the present opportunity, while it lasts, to do all the good you can.” “Suppose it be to relieve other’s bodily necessities...(And then he quotes Proverbs 3: 28) Then he says: “We must defer a benefit.” “Some are like hogs, good for nothing till they are dead; they will not part with anything till they are incapable of the use of it any longer.” “So for exhorting: Hebrews 3: 13 – “But exhort one another daily, while it is called today.” “So for serving public good: Acts 13: 36 – “David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep.” “They that mind to do good in the world engage themselves in a warfare, and the loss of our season is not small part of the enemy’s conquest.” (End of quote) (Vol. 19, P. 374, SGCB)

Therefore, my brethren, let us not delay to do good while we can. Proverbs 13: 21 says: “Evil pursues sinners, but the righteous, good shall be repaid.” Proverbs 10: 22 says: “Do they not go astray who devise evil?” “But mercy and truth belong to those who devise good.” Let us remember also those words in Psalm 37, verse 3 – “Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.” “Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.” That is, that you might do good to all men and especially those of the household of faith. For, if we are faithful in doing good, the Lord will say to us at the last – “Well done, thou good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things.” “Enter into the joy of your Lord.” (Matthew 25: 23)