

Galatians 6:9-10 – Don’t Stop Helping Your Brother

JFB, TSK, GreekLexicon, Henry, Gill, Poole, Reinecker, Handfuls, Calvin, Barnes, Clarke, Robertson, PNT, Luther, Family, Geneva, Gaebelein
Brothers and sisters in the Lord: Christians were freed from keeping the Jewish ceremonial laws, but they were not freed from keeping the moral law.

In keeping the moral law Christians had to be *grounded in love – love that is not merely talk but action!*

Part of that action of showing love was *helping their brothers with their burdens* – physical, mental, and spiritual burdens.

And another part of helping their weaker brothers (showing them love) was working with elders to do so. You saw that last time.

The Galatians were to do this...this corporate effort...and not stop doing this! This is what you will hear about today.

Our headings are:

Galatians: Keep doing what was good

Galatians: This is the order for doing good

Our goals are: That you will learn why and how you must keep doing good works and so bring honor and glory to your Savior.

Galatians: Keep doing what was good

9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

1. There are many reasons the Galatians might have wanted to stop doing good.

a. Complacency. They knew their salvation was by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, so they became careless about their response.

(Sometimes free things make people complacent...like giving your children too much.) This makes them lazy and dependent.

b. Rejection. There were those who wanted nothing to do with the Galatians – as some of them may not have been Jewish and the Jews wanted nothing to do with their non-Kosher meals, for example.

Being rejected, the Galatians stopped doing good.

c. Opposition. There were always those who opposed others from doing good. This usually comes from those who want others to do good for them, not for others.

Sometimes the root is envy!

This was what the Pharisees had done to Christians. “*Give to us; forget your parents.*” So facing opposition, they stopped doing good.

d. Delay in reward. When the Galatians could not immediately see the reward for doing good, they became impatient and stopped doing good. The harvest might have seemed to be too far away to keep planting and watering!

James 5:7 Therefore **be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord.** See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain.

2 Corinthians 9:6 But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

But the warning was: **Don't become lazy.**

There was about 4 months for planting and waiting to reap. That surely required perseverance!

2. Because some Galatians stopped helping others and stopped helping their elders, weak believers were crushed by their load of care.

3. Apostle Paul gave strong negative arguments for the Galatians to continue to do good and so help their needy brothers.

Galatians 6:7 **Do not be deceived, God is not mocked;** for whatever a man sows, **that he will also reap.**⁸ For he who sows to his flesh will of the **flesh reap corruption**, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

- a. Those who used excuses to not help their needy brothers were **deceiving themselves.**
- b. Those who used those excuses to not help their needy brothers **were mocking God.** They were telling God his children - especially the weak ones – were useless.
- c. Those who used those excuses to not help their needy brothers would be **treated according to their actions.** And what **they would reap would be “corruption.”**

That meant they would **suffer ruin, temporal and eternal.**

Apostle Paul meant: *A covetous miser who sows only for fleshly returns, things that eventually turn to nothing, will eventually perish with the things for which he lusted.*

4. Apostle Paul then gave them a strong positive argument to continue to do good for their needy brothers.

There was great future gain for those who helped their needy brothers. He used the picture of harvest time-the best time of the year for a farmer. And what joy reaping good things brought!

As long as there was proper planting and watering, the harvest (the reward) was going to come.

5. Lessons:

a. Do good (and help your elders too) – physical, mental, and spiritual good to your weak Christian brothers.

If he is poor, but not lazy, help him with his necessities.

Maybe you know a single (or married Mom) who needs some help, give it.

If a Christian brother needs someone to listen to him, and he is not trying to manipulate you, but needs someone to unburden himself, listen to him.

If a sister needs counseling - even a rebuke- do it, or get others to help her.

Notice, there is no thought here about denominations. All Christians are part of God's family! Do good and continue to do good.

b. There will always be obstacles that come your way to prevent you from doing good.

You might forget to whom you belong.

You might fear the one you are trying to help might reject you.

You might find your own husband or wife might oppose you.

You might forget you will be judged for not doing good.

You might be disappointed you don't get the reward quickly for doing good.

Ask God to help you overcome those obstacles and then do good.

c. Remember, when you help others with your time, money, ears, and giving spiritual advice, it is sowing into the future.

(This is the type of sowing you care called to do...not what TV preachers call “sowing,” when they say, “send me \$20, and God will send you back \$200.) That is not sowing. That is a Ponzi scheme.

d. How large is your field?

Are you only concerned about your immediate family?

Do you remember your co-worker and his family?

Do you remember the lost in foreign countries?

What about the zillion friends on social media?

Even if you can't go to the mission field, send. Send with your prayers and support.

e. How diligently are you sowing? It takes work – hard work. It is not always sending money! It is to become personally involved in the life of individuals. How well are you watering the fields in which you have sown?

f. You will not become lazy (and avoid working) when you rest in Jesus and remember what he did for you on the cross.

Galatians: This is the order for doing good

10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all,
especially to those who are of the household of faith.

1. Apostle Paul required that the Galatians take advantage of the opportunity they had to do good.

But “opportunity” indicated not only opportunity, but also the ability to do good – which they had.

If one were a good cook, he had to practice hospitality.

If one were a good listener, he had to make phone calls.

If he were rich, he had to seek out the poor to help them.

So opportunity and ability go together!

2. Apostle Paul pointed out the good things had to be “worked” by the Galatian Christians.

Literally: Let us work the good. So this was more than talk and well-wishes.

“Good work” includes all kinds of help. As before, physical, mental, and spiritual help.

3. Apostle Paul also warned that in doing their good work, the Galatians Christians could not be limited to brothers alone, but helping only started with brothers.

Yes, they had to do things in the right order... Just like parents should help their own children before they help other people's children. **But they could not be limited to helping brothers only!**

Look at another warning to care for your own.

1 Timothy 5:8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and **especially for those of his household**, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

Look at an encouragement to care for others:

Gill quoting: "*there were two chambers in the temple, the one was called the chamber of secrets, and the other the chamber of vessels: into the chamber of secrets, religious men used to put privately, whereby were privately maintained the poor, "of the children of good men."*"

Apostle Paul knew that many did not have unlimited resources and needed to prioritize their giving.

4. So giving aid extended to brothers from other churches, people from other races, people from other countries, and even to non-believers – people of different religions!

But the warning was this: Don't send money to foreign mission fields if you can't meet the basic needs of those close to you...your own family or your church!

5. Lessons:

a. Some people are nice to their mothers when their mothers are dead, not when alive.

They have the **best flowers delivered to the funeral home**, but they make no visits when their mother is alive.

Others are willing to help other people's children because **they might look good in the eyes of others.**

Others are quick to **give advice when they should be giving money.**

Others think **giving money absolves them of giving advice.**

Some are quick to **give help to the church and ignore their wife and children.**

Some **give advice to the pastor but don't lift a hand to help.**

Others know how to raise your children perfectly...but have no willingness to lift a single finger to help the struggling parent.

Don't be these people.

b. Instead, look for the opportunity to do good.

Learn of good opportunities. Helping can be hard.

Sometimes you might need some training to help.

Having the desire is not enough.

Don't try to give advice to your wife about her cooking when she needs help with the laundry so she can cook.

Get to know your brothers and sisters so you can help them. If you lose an opportunity to help, that opportunity is lost forever! It will never come again.

c. Cotton Mather wrote a long time ago: The opportunity to do good imposes the obligation to do it.

d. Sometimes the help good people need the most is knowing you care. They don't need advice. They don't need money. They just want to know you are there for them.

e. Get your priorities in order. God, your family, other Christians, and the world. Do good continuously. Don't stop.

Conclusion:

The Galatians were charged not to be weary doing good – keeping doing what was good.

And they had to start with those who are closest to them, though they were not limited there.

This good was much more than simply giving money. It was investing time, talents, and ears as well.

Brothers and Sisters in the Lord Jesus:

1. Don't stop doing good. Though you suffer from physical fatigue, coldness of other men, opposition from family and friends, or even when you are abandoned to do it yourself, don't stop doing good for brothers! Though you don't see an immediate reward, don't stop doing good.

2. Do good to all men, starting with your family and then those in your church. (After all, would you expect non-believers to assist Christians in difficult times?)

And then spread that help to all churches, and even to non-believers.

3. Think of what Jesus did for you in the past...your salvation...your new heart! If you do, you would be willing to give your life for him and his people.

And even think of the blessings of the future for doing good.

Finally: There is one help the Lord offers to all men, and it is the greatest thing every man, woman, and child needs: Eternal life – salvation!

God offers this gift for free. Jesus paid the full price for his eternal gift! That's how it became free to you. Just ask sincerely for this gift. Ask today. You may not have tomorrow.