Don’t Give Up
Galatians 6:7-10

Objective: Encourage @ to persist in doing what is right and good.

Reading: Galatians 6:7-10.

Memory: Galatians 6:9, “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

Introduction:
1. Most of us start out our Christian walk with a little bit of zeal and excitement. We understand that we have been blessed. We have learned some marvelous things. We have responded to a Good News Message. We have entered a new and wonderful relationship directed by God.
2. Somehow, sometime, most of us tend to get discouraged. Our enthusiasm mellows.
3. Not only mellows, but yellows. Like a letter hid in an attic, it gets discolored with age and disuse. Maybe even yellows out of fear from the opposition and criticism we receive from family, “friends”, co-workers, Or, we get discouraged because we don’t see wonderful results we hoped for for efforts.
4. It is easy to get tired when struggling against a personal sin. When you try and try to help someone else and see very little results, it is easy to grow weary of trying. When the good we try to do as Christians seems to touch no one, affect no one, bear no results, we may feel like quitting. Don’t! We need to keep on doing what is right and good! (WHY?)

In the first century, Christians throughout the region of central Turkey that was then known as Galatia, faced many discouragements; false teachers, hardships, apparent ineffectiveness, perhaps persecution in business dealings and “shunning”. In Galatians 6:7-10, Paul the Apostle is writing to renew their vigor and eagerness to work in service to Almighty God. His effort is to restore their courage and their determination to continue in their efforts, not only in Christianity themselves, but to reach out to others with their Godly influence and bring others to salvation. You may notice, that the Apostle’s emphasis is in the context of how they use their material resources to promote spiritual rewards. The principles he uses apply to money, but go beyond money to all facets of our lives. Read with me and see what principles Paul relates to motivate Christians who are feeling weary.

The first principle he relates to keep them going in their good works and good efforts is the truth that:
I. God cannot be fooled. (Verses 7-8) “Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.”

A. God knows what is going on.
1. Imagine one with back turned to God going “tee he” because he thinks he is pulling a “fast” one.
   a. Has told God that Jesus is Lord, but “secretly” that person does what that person wants.
   b. Told God that Christ is Lord, but continues to not do what God says.
   c. Calls Him Lord but continues in foul language; to forsake the assembly, to booze it up.
2. People can’t pretend to be faithful and think they are fooling God.
3. “Do not be deceived” (verse 7) is for you/us, not for God.
   a. You can get fooled or make a fool of yourself.
   b. You might convince yourself you are a faithful Christian when you are not faithful.
   c. “If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless.” (James 1:26) Might deceive self. Not God.
4. God knows everything that goes on.
   a. If you are faithful in church and worldly at home or at work, God knows it.
   b. “What he did on Sunday’s he did very well, what he did on Monday was on the road to hell.”
   c. If you are faithful around Christians and sneak evil things in when you are alone, God sees.

B. One does reap what one sows. (“A man reaps what he sows”.)
1. When you plant corn, you get corn back, not tomatoes.
2. When you pursue sinful things, God will give the fruit of sin which is death.
3. When you pursue bitterness; reap bitterness. Short temper yields short temper.
4. Sow harsh judgment, receive harsh judgment.
5. Sow love, compassion; receive love and compassion.

C. Expect reaping to be proportionate to sowing.
   1. 2 Corinthians 9:6, “Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.”
   2. Cannot expect to plant one pea and harvest 300 bushels, but it doesn’t happen.
   3. If you expect to reap the right stuff, you have to be working toward the right stuff - abundantly.
   4. 168 hrs. in week. Can’t sow 1 hr/ week on spirituality and expect a rich harvest spiritually.
   5. Sow much love, reap much love. Sow much respect, reap much respect.

Most folks are willing able to endure and struggle at doing good and right things for a short time, but get discouraged and give up when they see too many see poor results. Paul tells them in Verse 9 that they should keep on because; at the proper time

II. The harvest is sure. (Verse 9) “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” If the necessary preparation is done …

A. God promises a return for your efforts.
   1. Like a farmer. Digs, plants, waters, weeds, waits.
      a. James 5:7-8, “Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near.”
      b. Your reward also will come in due time.
   2. What we “shall reap” is the rewards for “doing good”; when the time is right.
      a. Might be spiritual strength in time of need. Might be souls won for Christ.
      b. Might be hands of others lifted to praise and honor God.
      c. Might be a full and abundant life; vastly better than one sown in worldly confusion and strife.
   3. God is in control of when the harvest is ready and how much the harvest will be.
      a. The harvest is not yours to schedule anymore than you can dictate when an acorn should ripen.
      b. It might be a short time or a long time before your efforts will blossom and bear fruit.

B. The certainty of a harvest is reason to keep trying. Don’t stop!
   1. “…let us not become weary…”
      a. Don’t slack off; don’t begin to do your part in a sloppy, half-hearted way.
      b. Weariness let’s one curl up within self rather than reach out to pursue spiritual growth, to express Christ, seek Christ, glorify Christ …
      c. Weariness brings syncretism with world rather than standing fervently for truth, righteousness.
   2. “…do not give up…”
      a. This would be to quit. Stop even trying. You can not expect a harvest if you quit!
      b. If you quit watering the tomato plants on your back porch what happens?
      c. If you stop nurturing, seeking, struggling, supporting others, reaching out what happens?
   3. “doing good”, is everything a Christian is responsible for doing.
      a. Looking after orphans and widows in their distress and to keeping oneself from being polluted by the world. Exhibiting fruit of spirit. Purifying themselves.
      b. Attending and participating in Bible classes, worship services, work efforts and projects.
c. Visiting others to encourage them. Giving them a Scripture of verse or helping hand.
d. Restoring those caught up in sin, bearing one another’s burdens.
c. Obedience to whatever God instructs or commands.
f. Personally growing in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Finally, in verse 10, Paul encourages Christians to “hang in there” in doing good because;

III. Opportunities are limited. (Verse 10) “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do
good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”

Actually, you may have many opportunities right now, but

A. Time might be short!
   1. Opportunities are limited and must be used at right time.
      a. Doors open and close. Oops! Missed it. You don’t know that you will have tomorrow.
      b. If farmer misses planting time there will be no crop. If he misses harvest time, crop will rot and
         be gone. We too, must use the right times to sow and harvest spiritually or they will be gone.
      c. Opportunities for personal spiritual growth, for reaching others, for illustrating Christ to them …
      d. If you do not sow to your children’s spirituality right now, it will possibly be too late later.
         Children grow up and leave home. Develop other interests.
      c. People die and are no longer around.
      f. The “time” might be a split second when someone’s curiosity is provoked, when they are asking
         a question, before their life is filled with something else like the problems of life or personal
         enjoyments and distractions.
   2. What “spiritual” opportunities might we miss in order to “sow to please our sinful nature”?
      a. Doing worldly or selfish things instead of pursuing godliness?
      b. Rather just sit and watch TV than extend or exert myself. Feeling too lazy or discouraged.

B. There are opportunities to do good to all men.
   1. This is what love does. It considers others and their needs.
   2. In doing so, it exalts God. Matthew 5:16, “In the same way, let your light shine before men,
      that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”
   3. We should have helped those people who were caught in a flood, who’s house burned down, who
      were laid off at work. As the body of Christ, we should have demonstrated the love of God to
      them – now it is too late.
   4. Isn’t it embarrassing if the world responds to tragedies better than God’s body does?
   5. Paul is saying that Christians should LOOK for opportunities to respond and help the hurting.

C. There is an emphasis on doing good to “household of faith”.
   1. Our resources are sometimes limited.
      a. God’s resources are never limited, but sometimes ours are. Dollars, time, strength.
      b. Was with Peter in Acts 3:6. “…Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you.”
      c. God gave us minds and expects us to set priorities.
   2. When resources are limited, take care of spiritual matters and Christ’s church first!
   3. The body of Christ ought to take care of the body of Christ. It ought to be a great place to be!
   4. We ought to know that we are loved by the body of Christ!
   5. If we are really “IN” Christ, we love Christ and understand that Christ actually lives and is present
      in other members of the church. If we did this, we would eagerly reach out to comfort, help and
      protect those who are in God’s household.

So What?
The message is to hang in there! Especially when you are feeling discouraged and
weary in your Christian efforts. Know that God knows what is going on. Know that He
will furnish success at the proper time. Know that opportunities must be used when
they are present. 

1 Corinthians 15:58, “Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”

Closing Prayer:

Invitation:
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Galatians 6:7-10

Reading: Galatians 6:7-10

Memory: Galatians 6:9

“\underline{L_u_n_b_w_i_d_g_, f_a_t_p_t_w_w_r_a_h_i_w_d_u_.}”

We need to keep on doing what is right and good!
Principles to motivate Christians who are feeling weary.

I. God cannot be fooled.
A. God knows what is going on.

B. One does reap what one sows.

C. Expect reaping to be *proportionate* to sowing.

II. The harvest is sure.
A. God promises a return for your efforts.

B. The certainty of a harvest is reason to keep trying.

III. Opportunities are limited.
A. Time might be short!

B. There are opportunities to do good to all men.

C. There is an emphasis on doing good to “household of faith”.

So What?
Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

*(1 Corinthians 15:58)*