

LET US NOT GROW WEARY, Galatians 6:1-10

"Let us not grow weary in well doing for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Galatians 6:9

I. INTRODUCTION: Growing weary is natural, normal and maybe even necessary, yet God's guidance is to never grow weary in "well doing." Even a casual reading of the scriptures shows that the Lord got tired. The disciples wore out and gave up. The Lord called attention to this human limitation by instruction the disciples to, come apart, rest and eat. Even God got tired of whole generations of His people. In fact He got tired of a whole world full of people and gave up on everyone but Noah and family. Growing weary is natural, normal and necessary but not acceptable – when what we are doing is right!

II. HISTORICAL SETTING: The Apostle Paul's general letter to the churches of the Galatia area was written to follow up on some of the Roman cities originally evangelized by Paul and Barnabas in their first missionary journey, Antioch, Iconium, Lystra and Derbe, etc. The general characterization of these people were that they "impulsive" and "inconsistent." At one point they wanted to worship the Apostles Paul and Barnabas as gods Mercurius and Jupiter. Later they stoned Paul and drew his body through the streets and threw it on the city dump in disgrace. God resurrected him and he continued his ministry in the neighboring city of Derbe. Their ministry of preaching, evangelizing and discipleship brought a, "great multitude" to faith in Christ as savior, cf Acts chapter 14.

A. The Problem: The problem which caused the writing of this epistle was that Judaizers, Jewish individuals who insisted that keeping religious laws and rituals along with faith were essential for redemption and approval from God, had misdirected new Gentile believers. It is always easier to mechanically "do or not do" certain things than live a life of personal faith.

B. The Purpose: The purpose of this epistle is to defend Paul's right to lead the church through his apostleship and to defend the great doctrine that salvation is through an individual's faith in Jesus Christ as the single and sufficient grace for the salvation of their soul. While the book ends with a

strong message of a Holy Spirit controlled, separated Christian life, it none the less has a theme "Freedom in Christ." This offsets any connection between divine grace and human achievements as having co-redemptive qualities.

C. The Practical Value: A major practical value of the book for today's believers is to prevent anyone or any church system of setting the standards to measure who is the "spirituals" and who are the "lesser" quality Christians.

D. Observation: Be careful of the tendency to judge believers on some system of cultural conduct. Be equally careful about those who are critical of other Christians. Those who want to serve the Lord will find some way of doing so. Others who don't will become critical of those who do. One way get people to stop being critical is to assign them a task in the church. They will stop – not stop being critical-- stop coming to church!

For our purpose in this paper the section under study is a portion of the book, chapter 6:1-10, which challenges all believers to "never give up."

III. NEVER GROW WEARY IN RESTORING BELIEVERS, 6:1

A. Believers will fail and fall:

1. "Brethren" implies people of the same family and negates the self-centered, vain glory seeking individual of 5:26.
2. Spiritual brethren is in difference to the one who seeks to capitalize on others, 5:26.
3. Become a believer who is not "provoked" at God's use of other people. God will often ones who have already failed, 5:26.
4. Biblical spirituality is identified by the desire of a believer to help a hurting Christian, rather than hunting for some way to advance themselves. This may be done by looking good through making the one who failed look bad.

B. Believers will need to be reached and restored:

1. Spiritual individuals will expect to be used by God to aid other who have failed.
2. Spiritual people will serve the Lord in a God given meekness rather than in a judgmental and critical spirit.

C. Believers will never be beyond potential failure:

1. Since the nature of the Galatians was to be hyper-critical, the Apostle Paul warned them to consider themselves as potential failures.
2. It seems to be a truism that judgmental people will tend to use their critical spirit to hide the very thing they are also fearing and fighting in their own lives. Because of this tendency they often later fail in the same area.

Never grow weary of helping the hurting. God will build a church around believers who have this kind of Christian love. He has enough hurting children to fill any building in any area.

IV. NEVER GROW WEARY IN BEARING OTHERS' BURDENS, 6:2-5

1. Burdens may be different from faults (sins) of 6:1, but the need for assistance is no less. Burdens in this text is, "heavy weights" that need the assistance from other to carry.
2. Bearing others burdens is helping them to carry a load that is too much for them to handle alone. Caring and sharing is Christian.
3. Internal satisfaction is a reward for helping other believers. This is true "rejoicing". It may seem difficult to help others when you may need help yourself, but it is also difficult to help others unless you have hurt as they are hurting.

V. NEVER GROW WEARY IN TEACHING TRUTH, 6:6

1. A church is not permitted to invent nor pervert Biblical teaching.
2. A church will be no more Christian than its people's understanding of Holy Scriptures.
3. It is possible to grow a church without teaching truth. In fact, that is a characteristic of the church that makes God sick, Revelation 3:14-20. It will major on keeping truth from being taught in a manner so its people will know truth from error. "Hot" and "cold" are clearly identifiable while "lukewarm" seem alright and fits all people without calling for repentance toward God as part of faith in Christ.
4. A Christian without truth is anything but Christian, no manner how much it may appear to be successful. It will major on what the Bible calls, "itching ear" programming, --- saying what pleases people and turning away from truth, II timothy 4:3.

VI. NEVER GROW WEARY IN WORKING AND WAITING, 6: 7-9

1. The Apostle Paul realized that the believers in the Galatian churches were already deceived by legalizers who taught that God is worshiped by rules, regulations, rituals and religious activities.
2. Paul used the well known truth that a farmer who works the field, plant what he expects to harvest and wait for the crop to grow and develop will be rewarded for his efforts. He can not skip the work and waiting.
3. Waiting on the Lord is never wasted time. However the church must be working while it is waiting!
4. Every believe may get tired, and exhausted, but he must never get weary in doing the right Biblical things!
5. "Weary" is a word that means to "give in to evil". It warns about adopting the church and Christian life to the pressures of conforming to the world rather than to continuing to teach clear revelational information.
6. The text teaches that God will honor His Word to the extent the church is faithful in teaching, working, caring and sharing.

V. NEVER GROW WEARY IN LOOKING FOR OPPORTUNITIES, 6:10

1. The believers were taught by Paul to look for opportunities to profitably serve the Lord.
2. The problem of the Galatian churches was that they majored on inward vision rather than looking for outward investments – opportunities to share the gospel.
3. Growth is guided. It does not just happen. It is planned and programmed. It results from reaching a community. It is the result of investment of time, energy and money.

Application: This past year has had enough difficulties and obstacles to challenge our faith in God, His Word and His promises. Giving up is not an option. Going ahead by faith is assured to be blessed by God. This is as true and just as sure as a worked and planted field will produce a crop. Our only task is to do well and keep on doing it!

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