

“A Challenge to Christians” Galatians 6:9

I never cease to be amazed by the fact that the Bible, the word of God, speaks to us at the very point of our personal need. One of our great needs today is remaining faithful to Almighty God and to the work which Christ gave us as His disciples. We are constantly tempted by discouragement and weariness in accomplishing our God-given mission in our communities and in the world.

The Apostle Paul speaks to this need in Galatians 6:9 where the Apostle is inspired to write: “Let us not be weary in well-doing for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” I have studied this verse in the Greek and in four or five translations. Any way you read it, Galatians 6:9 has two major parts.

1. First, there is a command, “Let us not be weary in well-doing.”
2. Second, there is a promise, “For in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”

Let’s look at the command. It is a strong one which says, “Let us not be weary in well-doing.” All of us know what it means to be tired physically. Who among us has not come to midday finding his energy well spent and wishing the day’s end was nearer. Jesus Christ Himself, during the days of His earthly ministry, knew the experience of being physically tired. In John 4:6, we read, “Now Jacob’s well was there; Jesus therefore, being wearied with His journey sat there on the well....”

We all grow weary physically. But Galatians 6:9 is not speaking about physical weariness. The verse refers to spiritual weariness. The first part of Galatians 6:9 is God’s command for His people not to give in to the disease of spiritual weariness. Jesus never gave in to spiritual weariness. No doubt, there were times when He was tempted to, but it was said of Him that He went about doing good. And in our text we are commanded to follow His great example. We are to go about doing good and not ever give in to the strong pressures to stop doing good. This command may be easy to hear but more difficult to heed. Let’s look then at the promise.

The second part of Galatians 6:9 says, “For in due season, we shall reap if we faint not.” This is one of those glorious promises found in the Word of God. The promise is that of ultimate victory for those who labor faithfully in Christ’s name. “We shall reap” is the promise. Our labors of love, our witnessing activity, and our good deeds are not all in vain as we are often tempted to believe. “We shall reap.”

Two truths about the promise must be considered.

1. First, the harvest, the time of reaping, will come not in our own time but in God’s own time. The harvest and the harvest time are in God’s hands. We are to work diligently as the Holy Spirit leads us and then leave the harvest time to God.

During the early days of one of my pastorates, I met a man who had many problems which kept him from making use of the talents he had. He came to church

occasionally. He had never made a profession of faith and did not mind making it clear that he never planned to do so. He enjoyed baseball and loved to fish and hunt. I started going to games and hunting and fishing with him. This fellowship gave us time for some serious discussions about life. We became close friends but this man resisted making a personal decision for Christ. I must confess that I became weary in well-doing, tired of trying to encourage this man to realize that he needed Christ in his life. This went on for about five years and the man became more regular in his church attendance. One Sunday morning when the invitation was extended, he made his way to the altar and made one the most sincere professions of faith I have ever witnessed. He was serious about that decision and the quality and degree of that personal profession of faith was revealed in his life. His life was transformed.

During those five years, there were many times when I was tempted to give up, tempted to give in to that spiritual disease called "Weariness in well-doing." I was impatient, forgetting that the harvest and the time of the harvest are in God's hands. He planned it that way.

2. Second, the promise is conditional. "In due season we shall reap, **IF** we faint not." What a challenge not to give in to weariness in well-doing! Almighty God is counting on us!

When we are tempted to become weary in well-doing we need to stir ourselves - or better still let the Holy Spirit stir us - and always remember to faithfully heed the challenge to Christians found in Galatians 6:9, "Let us not be weary in well-doing for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." AMEN.

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