

**Galatians 6:7-10**

7 Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. 8 If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. 9 So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. 10 So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

The Apostle Paul continues to educate the Christians in Galatia in regards to human relationships. There were two groups, pro-freedom and pro-law. The freedom group held the position that it is faith in Jesus that saves us. Therefore, the Gentiles do not have to adopt Jewish customs to be faithful. The law group held the position that the church began as a Jewish movement; the very 1<sup>st</sup> Christians observed Jewish regulations; sacrifices, circumcision, kosher foods. Therefore, those that join the faith must do the same.

The Apostle Paul establishes his position of authority as an Apostle. It is Jesus Christ himself who gave him the job to take the good news to the Gentiles. His position is that you do not receive the Holy Spirit by observing the law but because you believe in Christ. He then explains that Abraham was attributed as righteous because of his faith and the children of Abraham are righteous because they put their faith in God. Now that faith has come to us, we no longer need the law as our guardian; the Holy Spirit is our guardian. The Holy Spirit comes to us through faith and those who trust in Christ are guided by the Spirit not by observing traditions.

There are several points in today's Scripture: a caution against deception, reap what you sow, and corruption. However, the main point is to not grow weary in doing what is right. Whenever we have an opportunity we are to work for the good of all. There is also a word of caution against the lapsed. We will reap at harvest time if we do not give up. The word "if" is a hinge word - if we do not give up. It is a call for tenacity and a caution against complacency. We are not to be satisfied with our own achievement when there is much more that can be done. The call is to do more, not just once in a while, not just when we feel like it, not just when we are comfortable, but whenever we have an opportunity we are to work for the good of all.

The lesson is a call to action; putting your faith into action and not settling for average but stretching beyond your comfort zone. It is a lesson on being proactive not reactive by engaging in every opportunity that presents itself. The lesson takes it a step further by encouraging us. Do not grow tired and do not become discouraged. Never stop doing whatever you can do for God's glory here on earth. Let us not grow weary in doing what is right. Whenever we have an opportunity let us work for the good of all.

The Apostle Paul presents a theological argument to two groups with conflicting attitudes. His argument has movement. First he identifies righteousness as an action of Christ and our faith is in Christ not obedience to the law. Then he identifies that faith is legislated by the Holy Spirit not the law. Then he presents practical instructions for the church. Christians live by the Spirit. When one member falls to the forces of temptation then the other members, guided by Spirit, guide the fallen to righteousness. When we live

by the Spirit, we restore the other person to the community with gentleness, kindness, and understanding. Paul reminds us that we all face temptation and since all believers have to endure setbacks we must bear the burdens of each other. This fulfills the law of Christ; the law of love. When you sow the seeds of the spirit, you produce the fruits of the spirit.

I was talking with a colleague several years ago and we were talking about the risk of burnout. Within the conversation we both agreed that when you do what you love to do you risk getting tired, weary, and frustrated. However, you do not burnout. When you help those in need you can grow tired and weary because there is so much need out in the world. But you do not burn out because of the great reward. There is a great deal of satisfaction in doing good. The challenge is that there is more need than we have resources available to meet that need. We do not grow weary and we do not give up because we reap from the Holy Spirit. As a matter of fact, we seek opportunities to do more because it is the Lord's work and it is for the good of all.