



Sunday, May 10, 2020

Pastor Don Denyes

## **Intro to Galatians 6:1-10**

Some of us have a powerful tendency to focus on the negatives in Scripture. If we had been with Adam and Eve in the Garden, we would have been tempted to focus on the prohibition, “don’t eat...” rather than on the blessing, “you may eat...” If they had remembered the blessing, they may not have doubted the goodness of God the way they did. This seems to be the way it often goes with other passages in Scripture like this one in Galatians 6. We focus on the negative rather than on the positive.

When we come to verse 9, we are tempted to beat ourselves up. “Let us not grow weary of doing good,” it says. So, we focus on not growing weary and continue to tell our weary bodies and souls to press on simply out of dutiful obedience. But that is not the whole counsel of God! The reason we must not grow weary is because there is a harvest coming! To press the metaphor further, as Paul says elsewhere, we can be confident that the harvest is coming because it is God who gives the growth (1 Cor. 3:7)! May we continue to seek Him for rest and reassurance that our labors are not in vain!

## **Context**

This passage, of course, comes near the end of the letter to the Galatians. Paul has been expounding to them the doctrine of justification by faith alone and telling them that the whole of the Christian life flows from that. It is not by works that we are saved, and it is not by works that we continue. Rather, it is by faith alone in Christ alone that we are saved, and it is by the work of the Holy Spirit producing fruit in us that we continue and produce good fruit. Thus, as Paul conceives of good works, they are both necessary, requiring effort, and they are themselves gifts from God.

**Read and Reflect** *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Galatians 6:1-10

“A Memo to Moms”

- Good work produces weariness
  - o Which can lead to discouragement
  - o Which can lead to quitting
- Good work produces a harvest
  - o This is God’s law
  - o This happens in God’s time
- Sow good seed wherever you can!
  - o Beauty for many...
  - o Blessings for thousands...
  - o ...and fruit for years to come!

## Discuss

- 1) What about your mom are you most thankful for?
- 2) If you were to carefully examine your schedule over the past eight weeks (since we began this quarantine), what would it reveal about what you are “sowing” or hoping to “reap”?
- 3) How have you seen God grow your desire for good works since you became a Christian?
- 4) What causes us to grow weary in doing good?
- 5) How does the promise of reward shape the way we persevere in doing good?