

Let's Worship God

8th-13th July 2024
Galatians



Galatians

Monday - Galatians 6:6-8 - You Will Reap What You Sow

The big contrast here in v8 is between sowing to the flesh and sowing to the Spirit. Paul is showing what the consequences will be of each of these types of lives. If someone sows to the flesh, if they live lives of sensuality, idolatry, drunkenness, and so on - they will reap corruption. But if someone lives a life marked by the fruit of the Spirit, they will reap eternal life.

Now nearly the whole of the letter of Galatians has been arguing that you're saved by Jesus, not by what you do. But clearly Paul doesn't see it as inconsistent with that to say: if you live this way, you're not going to Heaven. But if you live this way, it will be a sign that you aren't. That's how important it is to sow to the Spirit and not to sow to the flesh. Because you will reap what you sow.

So what does it look like to sow to the Spirit, and what does it look like to sow to the flesh? Well it always helps to look at a concrete example. And Paul himself gives us one in v6. Those who hear the Word preached have an obligation to financially support the one who's preaching. And that, says Paul, is a concrete example of what sowing to the Spirit looks like. What's at stake is whether we value God's word or not.

With every pay cheque, we are faced with the question: 'Am I going to use this to sow to the Spirit, or to sow to the flesh?' That's equally the case for ministers as for church members. Am I going to spend this all on myself? Or am I going to give a portion back to God to invest in his kingdom? What you sow, you'll reap.

Another area of life where we have to choose between sowing to the flesh and sowing to the Spirit is our intake of God's word. If you as a professing Christian are infrequent in your attendance at church, and hardly ever read your Bible, then when temptation or trouble comes, you're going to crumble. If you sow to the flesh by filling your mind only with what's on the news or celebrity gossip or an endless diet of tv or social media, don't be surprised when you reap corruption.

In every area of your life, there will be an opportunity to sow the Spirit. And a temptation to sow to the flesh. So in light of God's Word, will you ask yourself that question in the different things you do this week. 'Am I sowing to the Spirit? Or am I sowing to the flesh?'

Questions

1. What is the consequence of sowing to the flesh?
2. What are some examples of sowing to the Spirit?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would sow to the Spirit this week.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9

Praise: Psalm 92 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Galatians

Tuesday - Galatians 6:9 - You Will Be Tempted To Become Weary of Doing Good

Have you ever started something enthusiastically, but soon got tired of it? As human beings that's something we tend to do. And as we try to sow to the Spirit, it will be a real temptation. You'll become weary of reading your Bible. Weary of sticking out as different in school or in work. Weary of the acts of service you do in church each week. Weary of giving sacrificially to God's work. Weary of raising your children in the fear and admonition of the Lord. And the flesh is always there. It's there as the easy option, the short term option, the less painful option. And the wearier we are, the readier we are to give in.

If we stand back and look at it objectively, it makes no sense to sow to the flesh. Serving God is such a great thing! He's such a great, mighty, awesome, loving God! His yoke is easy and his burden is light! But the reason we become weary is in the second half of v9. It's because when we sow to the Spirit, we don't see any instant impact. The reaping doesn't happen immediately. And that period between the sowing and the reaping is the dangerous one. Because that's when we'll be tempted to give up. After faithfully doing something for so long, we'll look around and say: 'nothing has changed, what's the point?'

But here's where you need to feel the encouragement of v9: in due season, we will reap. Coming to church, even when you don't feel like it; teaching and disciplining your children; being a faithful witness in school; doing your work as if for God and not man - in due season, you will reap. That is absolutely certain. God says you will. 'If - IF - you do not give up'.

Discouragement is one of Satan's biggest weapons. It happens in the life of a church. Congregations go through seasons - seasons of growth and encouragement and conversions and new members, but also seasons of discouragement with people falling away; those whose Christian growth seems to have levelled off; others moving away for work or study; illnesses and personal tragedies. And at times like that we'll need to encourage one another with this verse: 'let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up'.

Questions

1. When is it easy to get discouraged?
2. What does God promise here?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would not grow weary in doing good.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9

Praise: Psalm 93 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Galatians

Wednesday - Galatians 6:10 - Do Good To All

Paul finishes in v10 with another call to action. As Christians, we're in this world to do good. And we're not limited to only doing good to Christians. Remember God's word to the exiles in pagan Babylon: 'Seek the good of the city'. One of the results of discouragement is an inward focus. Heads go down. Grumbling, and complaining, and bemoaning society around us increase. But God calls for us to live with our heads up, looking out to see how we can do good to those around us.

But there is to be a priority as we seek to live in this world, sowing to the Spirit. And our priority is here at the end of v10: 'especially to those who are of the household of faith'. The tie that unites us to our brothers and sisters in Christ is stronger than any family relationship. If you don't know the truth of that, it's most likely because you're not actually in God's family. But if you are in it, this is to be our focus. Sowing to the Spirit isn't just about us and God. It's about practically looking out for and caring for one another.

The one thing above all that will help us sow to the Spirit is to look to Jesus. He never once sowed to the flesh. Everything he did in his whole life was sowing to the Spirit. There were many times he could have grown weary in well-doing as he saw the unbelief of the crowds, and the failure of even his own disciples. But he kept going, sowing to the Spirit, even when it involved facing the wrath of God. Because he knew that in due time he would reap. He would see his offspring. He above all knows the truth of these words: 'In due season we will reap, if we do not give up'.

Questions

1. To whom are we to do good?
2. Who should be our example?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that Christ is our perfect example.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9

Praise: Psalm 94 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Galatians

Thursday - Galatians 6:11-13 - Beware of Those Living By The Flesh

Rather than leaving the closing lines of this letter to be dictated, Paul takes the pen and writes it himself to show the Galatians just how much he personally cares about this letter and how they respond to it. He really wants his readers to sit up and pay attention at this point. So what's the message of this final section? It's quite simple. It's that there are two different types of people in the world. There are those who boast in the flesh. And there are those who boast in Jesus Christ.

In vs 12-13 he gives us three characteristics of the first type of people. They are those who boast in the flesh. In other words, their big concern is how their actions appear to others. Their big concern is what other people think of them. Their eyes aren't on God and on what he thinks of them - but on other people. And obviously someone who's aim is to please man will live very differently from someone who wants to please God. If someone wants to please man the most important question won't be: 'is what I'm teaching true' -- but, 'is it popular?' We see something similar in the second half of v13. 'They desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh'. The great concern of these false teachers wasn't the salvation of those in the churches. It wasn't their eternal spiritual good. It was so they could boast at having brought people over to their side. It was so that they could count heads. It was to make themselves look better.

The second mark is: 'They would force you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ'. We could sum it up by saying that they will always choose sin over suffering. And this second mark really follows on from the first one. They're concerned not just with what other people think of them, but what other people might do to them.

The final mark of false teachers that we see in these verses is that they're hypocrites. Look at v13. Those who talked so much about law-keeping -- they didn't even keep it themselves. Often this final characteristic isn't easy to spot. But look out for a disconnect between what someone teaches, and how they live their life. Of course, we all fall short. But if someone's life and teaching are going in completely different directions, you'll know something's badly wrong.

Questions

1. What are three characteristics of those who boast in the flesh?
2. How do we see these today?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would be on guard against boasting in the flesh.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9

Praise: Psalm 95- See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Galatians

Friday - Galatians 6:14 - Boasting in the Cross

Normally, boasting is wrong. It's when we make a big deal of something, in order that we will look good. That's what the false teachers were doing in v13. They were boasting in the flesh of those they had dragged aside from the true gospel. But Paul says that there's also a type of boasting that is good. And that's boasting in, or glorying in, the cross of Jesus Christ.

All false teaching diminishes the cross of Jesus Christ. The false teachers in Galatia diminished the cross of Christ by saying that, yes it was important, but what really got you over the line and into heaven was getting circumcised. False teachers today diminish the cross by preaching that your good works will get you into heaven. And by false teachers, I'm not just thinking about the cults, but about many who stand in churches where the gospel was once preached. But there's no mention of sin, and therefore no need for the cross. The human problem is played down, and so the divine solution is no longer needed. Some diminish the cross by saying that it was Jesus doing his bit, but now it's up to us to do ours. Some diminish the cross by putting their confidence in eloquent preachers, new buildings, and nice aesthetics. But Paul himself says in Corinthians that God didn't send him to preach the gospel with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. Some diminish the cross by telling people that it doesn't matter how you live. As if Jesus bled and died for us to be no different than those around us - for us to be no different than we were before we were Christians.

But those in whom the Spirit of God truly dwells glory in the cross. If you ask them what their hope for Heaven is - they say it's the cross. Every part of their lives is lived in light of the cross. And why do we glory in the cross? Because it has totally transformed our lives, both in this world and for eternity.

It's easy to glory in the cross as a symbol. But if someone really glories in the cross, then the second part of this verse will be true for them as well: 'by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world'. If something is crucified, it's dead. So we can rephrase that line: by which the world has died to me, and I have died to the world. It means that our hopes and dreams are no longer dependent on this world. It means this world no longer has power over us. Yes, sometimes we'll still be tempted by what the world offers -- but its hold over us is broken.

Questions

1. What kind of boasting should we do?
2. How do we glory in the cross?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for all that Christ has done.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9

Praise: Psalm 96 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Galatians

Saturday - Galatians 6:15-18 - The Joy Of Walking By The Spirit

V15 tells us that if someone walks by the Spirit, they will be concerned about the inside rather than the outside. The example here is circumcision. For those who walked by the flesh, the most important question was whether someone was circumcised or not. But for those who walk by the Spirit, a mark on someone's body is of no importance in the grand scheme of things. Those who walk by the flesh are concerned about obedience to the law -- but only outward obedience. They're not concerned about the heart -- whether their own hearts, or the hearts of those who listen to their teaching. But the big concern of those who walk by the Spirit is inward -- not merely outward, behavioural change, but a new heart. And for this to come about takes a new creation. As Paul says elsewhere, if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation. You may have been interested in the things of God - but for you to become a Christian it has taken God to perform a miracle of new creation in your life. You can't become a Christian by going to church any more than you can become a car by living in a garage. It takes a supernatural work of God.

And look what those who have experienced this great miracle have in v16: peace and mercy from God. That's what's at stake if the Galatians embrace the false teaching. They'll lose God's peace, and they'll walk away from his mercy. And yet this is what we're constantly tempted to give up.

Who is this peace and mercy for? It's for the Israel of God. That's the phrase Paul uses in v16. It's a description of all God's true people, whether Jew or Gentile. Those who have faith in Jesus and so are the true children of Abraham, who Paul has described earlier in this letter.

The Apostle Paul doesn't want to leave us focusing on what makes us different from one another. He wants to leave us focusing on the one thing that unites us -- the cross of Jesus Christ. Those around us may glory in many things. But far be it from us to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to us, and we to the world.

Questions

1. What happens when we become a Christian?
2. What do we have as a Christian?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9

Praise: Psalm 97 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

Let's Worship God is produced
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