

Galatians 6:9-10

(title) It had been approximately thirty years since the young man had set out on his journey to Damascus to arrest Christians. He was focused. He probably packed his bags, locked the door behind him, as he turned to Damascus and set his course. He left Jerusalem with legal documents in hand and he rehearsed in his mind what he would do once he arrived. It was a long trip, about 150 miles, and he was preoccupied and distant from those who were traveling with him. He was a man on a mission and nothing would interrupt his plan.

Then a voice rang out, *“Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?”* He asked, *“Who are you Lord?”* Saul’s life would never be the same again. Saul had set out for Damascus to arrest Christians, but along the way he was arrested by Jesus and his life was forever changed.

For the next thirty years he proclaimed the Good News, traveling from town to town, and sharing his story of the One who had changed his life forever. He was not welcome in most towns. He was persecuted and harassed. In Lystra, he was beaten and left for dead outside the city (Acts 14:19). In Philippi, he was severely beaten and thrown into prison. (Acts 16:22-24). He was shipwrecked, mocked, and scorned.

After meeting Jesus, Paul knew that his life was not his own. His mission had changed. His passion remained at a high level, but focused in an entirely new direction. His purpose had been redefined. Detractors couldn’t distract him. Critics couldn’t cause his love to grow cold. The taunts couldn’t weaken his tenacity. Setbacks couldn’t slow him down. Enemies opposed him, but they couldn’t silence him. Officials harassed him, but they couldn’t stop him. He was a man on a mission, a mission of love, a mission of grace, a mission of salvation, and he was marching under the orders of His King.

When you study the life of the Apostle Paul you can see that love was the driving force of his life. The love of God had filled his life and it had radically affected everything about his thinking and the way that he lived. Because of what he had experienced and what he believed, he was able to endure, he was able to thrive in threatening situations, and he

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was able to maintain his focus throughout his life regardless of the circumstances or situation.

After some thirty years of ministry Paul knew that his days were numbered. He sat in a lonely prison cell in Rome and wrote letters to his friends. He was a battle scarred warrior who had faithfully served the Lord for thirty years when he wrote these words, *For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. (7) I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: (8) Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. (9) Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me: (2 Timothy 4:6-9)*

Paul never threw in the towel when it came to serving the Lord or blessing those the Lord had put into his life. What a stark contrast this is to many today. So much of the goodness that we see is a reciprocal goodness. *“You scratch my back and I’ll scratch yours. If you do good for me, then I will do good by you.”* That is not the mentality of the Apostle Paul and it is not the essence of the Scripture that we are going to study today. Open your Bible me to Galatians 6:9-10 as we begin our study.

Galatians 6:9-10 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. (10) As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith. Previous verses focuses on Sowing and Reaping. Here Paul continues this theme concerning sowing and reaping. As we consider this passage, there are some points that I would like to share with you.

First of all, we see that we are not to become weary and we are not to give up. If you look at verse 9 you will see that the heart of the passage is *“doing good.”* We who have been blessed are to bless the lives of those around us. Bracketing this central thought are two cautions: *Do not become weary* and *do not give up*. Paul penned these words because we tire easily. We will throw in the towel quickly if we do not see a return for our

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efforts. It's been said that we are naturally lazy in the duties of love, and many little stumbling blocks hinder our good intentions. It's easy to become weary when we meet many unworthy and many ungrateful people. Some become overwhelmed simply the vast number of the needy; we are drained by paying out on every side. Our warmth is damped by the coldness of others. Paul tells us not to faint through weariness.

The Greek word that Paul used for weary means, *"To be utterly spiritless, to be wearied out, or exhausted."* When we get involved in sharing our lives with others, there will be an abundance of people who have needs. Sometimes those needs are overwhelming and suddenly you feel used up. You've lost that loving feeling.

There are all kinds of scenarios that drain us and lead us to become weary in doing good. Let me share with you an example from the life of the Thessalonians. ***2 Thessalonians 3:11-13 For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. (12) Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread. (13) But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.***

There were believers in Thessalonica who were working diligently. They were providing for their families by working in the fields, and as they worked they saw deadbeats who didn't lift a finger. Likely some wondered why they were beating their heads against the wall and were trying so hard to do what was right. They were frustrated and in the midst of their frustration they received a letter. *"And as for you, brothers, never tire of doing what is right."* Never give up! Don't become weary in doing what is right! Never give up!

There isn't a person here that hasn't become weary at some point in the past. How do you avoid getting worn out by the world and those who will take advantage of your kindness, forgiveness, and generosity? How do you avoid becoming so weary from serving that you forfeit the joy and blessing that comes from doing good in the name of the Lord?

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Paul gives us the secret. ***2 Corinthians 4:1 Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not.***

Paul didn't lose heart because the important thing for him was not how people responded to his help, but how he felt overwhelmed that the Lord in His mercy would give him an assignment to serve Him. A little later in 2 Corinthians 4 Paul writes about how he avoided losing heart once again. ***2 Corinthians 4:16-18 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. (17) For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; (18) While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.***

Paul knew trouble. He knew those who would love to watch his demise. He felt the pain of pouring his life out as an offering to the Lord and having others believe that he was a menace to society. He suffered and yet his eyes were not set on those around him. They were fixed in laser-like fashion upon the eternal glory of serving His King.

Another man who knew what it was like to experience the joy of surrendering his will and life to Jesus Christ was William Borden. In 1904, William Borden, a member of the Borden dairy family, finished high school in Chicago and was given a world cruise as a graduation present by his family. As he was traveling through the Near East and Far East, the Lord broke his heart for those in the East who didn't know the love of Jesus Christ. When he got home he spent seven years at Princeton University. He spent four years doing his undergraduate work and then he spent three years in seminary.

While William was at college, he wrote these words in the back of his Bible: "*No reserves.*" When William graduated from college his family pleaded with him to come home and take control of the family business. William told his family that God was calling him to the mission field. William felt called to get rid of all of his earthly belongings

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before he left for China. In the back of his Bible, right under the place where he had written, "*No reserves*," he added "*No retreat*." On his way to China to witness to Muslims there, he contracted cerebral meningitis in Egypt and died within a month.

Many would say, "*What a waste*." A bright, young man with loads of promise dies in his prime because he wants to chase a fantasy of becoming a missionary. What a waste! Oh no my friend, William Borden's life was no waste. Many would follow in his steps after he was gone. The Gospel would be shared in China and many would come to know the love of God. After his death, someone looking through William Borden's Bible discovered another line added to the back cover. William Borden had written under "*No reserves*" and "*No retreat*" these final words: "*No regrets*." God does not ask us to change the world, He only asks us to be faithful to His assignments.

Never give up doing good. Never allow circumstances, people, or hardships to stand in the way of allowing the blessings that have flowed into your life to flow right on out of your life and into the lives of others. Those three quotes were not all that Borden wrote. During his college years, Bill Borden made an entry in his personal journal that defined what his classmates were seeing in him. That entry said simply: "Say 'no' to self and 'yes' to Jesus every time."

If we were to have this attitude, then we would not grow weary in well doing.

We will look at verse 10 tonight in part 2.

Invitation