

Galatians 6:9-10

This morning we noticed Paul's words on perseverance found in Galatians 6:9. ***And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.*** As we wisely manage our resources before God under the principle of sowing and reaping, we need patience. This is because the harvest does not come immediately after you sow the seeds. So it is easy to **lose heart; grow weary**. In the ancient world, this phrase translated **lose heart** was used for the kind of fear and weariness a woman experiences during labor but before delivery. It describes a time when the work is hard and painful, but also unfinished and unrewarded. It's easy to **lose heart** when we feel like that, but that is exactly when we must hang on and **not grow weary while doing good**. Jesus went about doing good (Acts 10:38). As Christians we should do the same. Christians are to do good to everyone. Their first obligation is to help fellow Christians, the household of faith. Tonight we are going to consider verse 10. Not losing heart, we seek to do good with our resources, and to do good to all - but especially to those who are of God's family. ***(10) As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.***

When Paul writes about opportunity and doing good, he includes himself in what he writes. He speaks to himself as much as to the Galatians. Because of the danger brought in by the enemies of Paul, he too needed to remember not to lose heart. In 1 Timothy 3:15, the church is called the "*house of God.*" In our passage, the household of faith has reference to members of the church, i.e. Christians. When given the opportunity, let us do good especially let us do good to a fellow-Christian.

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 into the lives of others. In this verse we see that all of life is an assignment given to us by Almighty God. Here in verse 10, Paul continues with his emphasis on "doing good" as an extension of reaping what you sow.

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I want to suggest that the term “opportunity” is opportunities that God sends our way and on His schedule. The Greek word for “*opportunity*” means, “*a measure of time, a fixed and definite time, opportune or seasonable time, or the right time.*” The Bible is very clear that all of our times are in God’s hands. The time of our birth as well, the time of our death, and every time in-between; they are all God’s time.

Dawson Trotman was the founder of the Navigator’s ministry. Dawson Troutman died in Schroon Lake, New York. His death was ironic in that he died doing something in which he was an expert, swimming. He was an expert swimmer. Dawson was out in the lake when a boat capsized with two little girls in it. Dawson immediately dove into the lake to try to rescue the girls. He made his way to the first little girl and lifted her out of the water to those who were waiting to pull her into their boat. He went back out and got the other little girl and lifted her out of the water before he went under himself. Dawson’s body wasn’t found until the dragnet found his body a few hours later.

A man named Larsen was on the boat when Trotman died, and he said, “*The entire United States Navy couldn’t have saved Dawson that day – it was God’s time.*” Time magazine ran an article on Dawson’s life the next week, and they put a caption beneath his picture. The caption read, “*Always Holding Somebody Up.*”

Mr. Larsen was right. Our times are in God’s hands. This can lead us out of fear and into the deep waters of faith knowing that we don’t have to fear what will come. Not only is our birth and death in God’s hands, but all of our times are planted firmly in the Sovereign hands of Almighty God. If you read the Word of God then you will see that God does things at just the right time. Abraham and Sarah had been childless their entire marriage, but at the right time God appeared to the elderly couple and said, “*I’m going to bless you with a child.*” God’s chosen people suffered in Egypt for 400 years, but at the right time God raised up a deliverer and led them out of captivity. The world struggled under the weight of sin with no power to gain its freedom until the time came for the Savior to be born. God acts in

His time and His time is the right time. Those times may not seem speedy enough for us, but God's Word tells us that His time is the right time.

Let's look at Romans 5:6 and notice God's timing. **Romans 5:6** *For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.* Jesus came at the right time! Jesus came at the time appointed by God, in God's time.

In Ephesians 5 we read about Paul encouraging the folks in Ephesus to make the most of their times, the opportunities that God had given to them. **Ephesians 5:15-16** *See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, (16) Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.*

The same idea is shared with those in Colosse. Paul prayed that God would open a door of opportunity for him to proclaim the Gospel and then he urges the people of Colosse to make the most of every opportunity. **Colossians 4:2-6** *Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; (3) Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds: (4) That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak. (5) Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. (6) Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.*

We are not to live casually. We are not to live life as it comes. We are not to live randomly, but we are to live with purpose. We are to live with our eyes wide open, fully alert to the opportunities that the Lord will provide for us each and every day. If we realize that it is the Lord who opens doors for us and that it is the Lord who gives us opportunities to do good, to serve those around us, and to be a blessing then we will see His hand opening doors all around us.

It is so important for us to recognize the opportune moments of the Lord in our life. Let us pray for the Lord to give us eyes to see the doors that He opens for us each and every day. We need to pray that the Lord will give us the discernment that we need

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to recognize those opportune moments of God. Let me give you the most startling example of what I am talking about.

The Savior was born and He came to save His people from their sin, but they didn't recognize Him. They rejected Him. ***John 1:10-11 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. (11) He came unto his own, and his own received him not.***

Towards the end of Jesus 'earthly ministry He looked out over the city of Jerusalem and we read His assessment of what had taken place in the Holy City. ***Luke 19:41-44 And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it, (42) Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.***

Jesus said that darkness would fall on the Holy City. Horrible times were ahead for the Holy City. Why? Jesus said, ***because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.*** You failed to see the opportunities of God and because of that you have missed out. Let us not be oblivious to the opportunities that God sends our way. And when they come, let us do good.

Invitation