

Galatians:
Commentary
Galatians 6:6-10 A Law for All

6 Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches.

While this verse has (appropriately) been a traditional "proof text" for generous stewardship to provide for the needs of those who are called to preach and teach the Word of God, it offers broader implications and applications in the context of Galatians. In the immediately preceding verses, Paul had exhorted the Galatians to bear one another's burdens. Here, Paul is making a relational connection with the community of Christ that the preacher/teacher is part of the community. He should not be treated as a consultant, nor as a hireling. While generous compensation for their ministry and service is reasonable, appropriate, needed, and appreciated, it should accompany the inclusion of the teacher into the life of the community. The teacher is blessed and encouraged by the manifestation of the implementation and application of God's Word in individual's lives, as well as to the overall life of the community. Understanding that the pastor(s) will one day give an account for his ministry ([Heb. 13:17](#)), a specific "load" that he alone must carry, the congregations that share selflessly and generously with their pastor in all good things in effect share their pastors' burdens.

7 Do not be deceived:

Paul continues his recapitulation closing with broad applications to his earlier teaching. Having earlier called the Galatians "foolish" and declaring that they had been deceived, he was now exhorting them not to fall again for further deceptions. In giving them sound instruction, they had been equipped to resist the attempts of others to mislead them.

God is not mocked,

The idea of mockery is to show open contempt for another. This is the only place in the New Testament where this word *μυκτηριζεται* (*mook-tay-rid'-zo*) is used. It literally means "God will not be made a fool." In giving this reminder, Paul is expanding the meaning of "do not be deceived" to also warn that they should not be deceived into thinking that they can outwit God. Together, this exhortation conveys the sentiment that if they choose to let others deceive them with false doctrines that dishonor God, they are willfully participating in the unsuccessful mockery of God.

for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

To the agrarian cultures of that day, this well understood proverb has profound impact. A seed will always bear its kind. In this case, the one who attempts to make a fool of God will at the time of harvest be shown to himself be the most pitiable of fools.

8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption,

Paul moves from the general statement of verse 7 to the specific application of his recent teachings to them. He hearkens back to his earlier instruction on the work of the flesh compared to the fruit of the Spirit. The picture of corruption is both timely and timeless. Paul points to the terminal effects of fleshly pursuits - they corrupt the body, and they lead to the grave. In the grave,

the "harvest" of the flesh is eternal separation from God Himself. This terminal corruption is miserably a corruption without end (cf. [Rev. 22:11](#)). A sad consideration is the thought that the vices which corrupt a person on this side of eternity will be self-imposed conditions of everlasting torment fully realized in being forever separated from God and His gracious love.

but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

It is impossible to grasp the fullness of this promise, but oh how glorious a guarantee is this declaration. Paul, like Jesus in His own ministry (cf. [John 3:36](#); [10:10](#); [11:25-26](#)), explains that the life lived by faith on this side of eternity is not a merely a seed for a new life that knows no death; rather, it is a new life completely redefined in its sinlessness, in fully knowing God, and in relating with Him in perfect love and harmony forever. It truly is a life of abundance, the full restoration of relationship between God and humanity, redeemed by Jesus and evidenced as guaranteed by His Spirit's presence.

9 And let us not grow weary of doing good,

As any "green thumb" knows, the cultivation of a crop requires the season of growing before its moment of harvest. Toward this analogy, Paul acknowledges that the perseverance of living in accordance with the faith given to you in a world that is hopelessly corrupt and destined for destruction can at times be wearisome. Their pastor simply encourages them to not give up. Don't resign yourself to be swept up in the unending tide that strives to undercut the advance of God's Spirit in and through you.

for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

This promise of due reward can only be understood in the context of its eternal implications. We receive no promise that our perseverance in faithfulness will be rewarded with "this life" rewards. We are assured that God's word does not return void (cf. [Is. 55:11](#)), and the expectation for every believer's faith life is to see a life marked by much fruit bearing (cf. [John 15:5](#)). However, God does not obligate Himself to be limited by human life spans to bring forth the fruit of righteousness. Hebrews 11 testifies to the "roll call" of those who believed in God's promises and though they did not see the fulfillment of those promises in their life, their faith was credited to them as righteousness and their eternal union with God is the harvest they forever enjoy.

At the same time, God does faithfully and continually bring forth the fruit of His Spirit to be harvested from the cultivated seeds of faith sown long earlier. This is why churches prosper and grow generations after they were planted, why family legacies are changed because someone who has been the subject of decades of intercessory prayer comes to faith in Jesus, and how miracles seemingly "instantly" occur because of the tireless behind-the-scenes faithful service of a Christ

follower faithfully loving others in Jesus' name.

10 So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone,

Paul turns from the timeless reality to the timely urgency of obedience. Because perseverance offers its eternal reward, the time to persevere is now. It forbids a procrastinator's approach or half-hearted effort. Furthermore, there is nobody who should be excluded from our Spirit-led benevolence. Since God loves the entire world (cf. [John 3:16](#)), and we are Christ's ambassadors to the world (cf. [2 Cor. 5:20](#)), we possess no acceptable prerogative to exclude or alienate anyone from the gospel or even of God's grace and goodness.

and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

It has been reasoned that Paul offered this exhortation in the context of his collecting money for the impoverished church in Jerusalem. While this interpretation is reasonable and likely, it by no means should be limited to this context. Not only is the benevolence extended to our in-the-Spirit kin the means by which we lighten the burdens of one another, but is also the manner by which the world knows we belong to Jesus (cf. [John 17:3](#)). Paul exhorts the Christian to view other Christians foremost through the proper lens of co-inhabitants of eternity, and to behave toward them accordingly.

Galatians: The Gospel for Everyday Life

Galatians 6:1-5 - A Law for All

Small Group Leader Guide

When is it hard for you to do good?

What helps you do good when you are tempted to do nothing?

Sharing with your teachers (Galatians 6:6)

What does it mean to you to share "in all good things" with those who teach you spiritual truth?

Why do you think this exhortation is included here at this point in the letter?

On Sowing and Reaping (Galatians 6:7-8)

What does it mean to you, this statement "God will not be mocked?"

How do people attempt to mock God today?

What does it mean that you reap what you sow?

What are some ways you have seen people "reap what they have sown" with fleshly, ungodly behaviors or actions?

Read Revelation 22:11 in the context of Galatians 6:7. What does it mean to you that the corruption caused by the flesh remains with the self-made person forever?

How have you seen verse 8 expressed as a spiritual reality in your life, or in the lives of others?

Verse 8 talks about seeds sown in the spirit bearing fruit that results in eternal life. What does that mean to you for the here and now, as well as for eternity?

On Being a "Do-Gooder" (Galatians 6:9-10)

Why do you think Paul gives the exhortation to not grow weary doing good?

When is it most difficult for you to do good? Why do you think this is?

Why do you think Paul encourages us to do good to all people, but especially to other Christians?

The following pages
are for small group leaders.

Galatians: The Gospel for Everyday Life

Galatians 6:6-10 - A Law for All

Small Group Leader Guide

Prepare: Things to do before your small group gets together

- **Think** about some of the difficult tasks you have undertaken in your life. Think about the things you have given up on and the feelings you have felt afterward. Conversely, consider the things you persevered in until completion, and the feelings you experienced afterward. Consider what was different between the two. What was the role of God's leading in these endeavors? How were others affected by your perseverance?
- **Review** Galatians 6:6-10 to review the content of the biblical focus. **Invite** God to speak to you with a fresh application of His timeless truth. **Ask** to give you a spirit of perseverance to walk by faith in your daily living, particularly when you are tempted to give up and "go your own way." **Submit** your heart to God's conviction, that you may be exhorted to experience anew the timely activity of God's Holy Spirit in your life.
- **Read** the provided [commentary](#) Galatians 6:6-10.
- **Preview** this material and engage with God's Spirit as He guides your study.
- **Pray** for your small group members by name, asking God to reveal a meaningful appreciation for their part in the family of God. **Seek** God's wisdom in leading your small group to apply God's word to their lives. **Commit** yourself to the Lord, that you would live what you teach.

To The Point - What to impart to your small group

Key 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, ESV)

Objectives: Through your time exploring this passage, your small group members will:

Discuss what it means that "God will not be mocked."

Identify ways you can share "in all good things" with the teachers of God's Word.

Commit to practical ways to undertake the perseverance of "doing good."

Leader Guide Key:

Blue - hyperlinks to other resources

Red - Reading prompts

Green - Leader headers and *sample responses to questions*

Encounter: A suggested plan for your small group experience

Ice breaker - Do Gooders

Say

Former President of South Africa and famous anti-apartheid champion Nelson Mandela recently passed away at the age of 95. This well-known figure has been called "the father of the nation," and a modern-day hero. He is perhaps best remembered for his 27-year imprisonment for opposing racial segregation. Today, he is revered and respected around the world as a great humanitarian and an example of perseverance in the face of overwhelming adversity.

Ask

When is it hard for you to do good?

What helps you do good when you are tempted to do nothing?

Say

In our conversation, we are going to look at a couple different things that fall underneath this idea of being a "do-gooder," or doing the right things at the right time for the right reason. We make a couple applications and explore some practical ways this can be pursued in our daily lives.

Open in prayer for your time together.

Sharing with your teachers (Galatians 6:6)

Ask

What does it mean to you to share "in all good things" with those who teach you spiritual truth?

Allow for responses. Aspects to highlight:

- *It means to share generously to provide for the needs of your pastors and teachers.*
- *It means to recognize their burden they alone bear for your spiritual development and the faith community's support of their pastors allows them the means to persevere without distraction in this important responsibility.*
- *It also means to share in the blessings and discoveries that God brings to bear as a result of the congregant's application of the teaching to his life. Sharing this with the pastor encourages and compels him to persevere in his service.*

Why do you think this exhortation is included here at this point in the letter?

This instruction is given purposefully in the context of Paul's teaching. He's not making an appeal for self-support. Rather, he is giving the reminder that their awareness of the doctrine of grace did not arrive "in a vacuum." They received this doctrine because Paul had faithfully exposed them to it, and was now repeating it in the face of strong opposition by the Judaizers. He was exhorting them to share their living in what he had taught them. He was selflessly imparting this, expecting that it would not merely fall on deaf ears, but be received and implemented into their lives in a way that would free them to live as God had intended. If they did this, Paul would be overjoyed and blessed.

On Sowing and Reaping (Galatians 6:7-8)

Ask

What does it mean to you, this statement "God will not be mocked?"

Simply stated, it means that no person can make a fool of God, though countless have tried. God will have the final word, and all attempt to make God look foolish will show themselves to be the fools that they are.

How do people attempt to mock God today?

While there is no shortage of examples of these futile efforts, some general categories of such include:

- *Those who try to declare that God does not exist.*
- *Those who attempt to discredit the Bible as untrue, unreliable, irrelevant, or outdated.*
- *Those who strive to portray God as different than He truly is.*
- *Those who endeavor to teach a different gospel other than salvation by grace through faith in*

Jesus alone.

What does it mean that you reap what you sow?

In the context of living, it simply means that you will experience the dividends of your life's investments. You cannot spend your life making foolish, selfish decisions and expect to have anything but painful, destructive consequences.

Read Revelation 22:11 in the context of Galatians 6:7. What does it mean to you that the corruption caused by the flesh remains with the self-made person forever?

It is a sad consideration indeed that the works of the flesh that are the basis for everlasting judgment that separates a person will be the very same expressions of despair that torment that person forever. It portrays a stark, bleak experience of hell indeed being a place of weeping and gnashing of teeth as a person is wrought by their carnality in the understanding of being alienated from God forever.

How have you seen verse 8 expressed as a spiritual reality in your life, or in the lives of others?

Allow for group members to share their experiences.

Verse 8 talks about seeds sown in the spirit bearing fruit that results in eternal life. What does that mean to you for the here and now, as well as for eternity?

As group members share their insights, it is important to highlight the reality that eternal life is not simply a matter of living forever. It is a new life...a new standard of living, a new reality of living. Free from sin. Free from shame. Living forever in the full presence of God with an unhindered relationship with Him. It means the fruit of the Spirit will define your everlasting reality.

On Being a "Do-Goooder" (Galatians 6:9-10)

Why do you think Paul gives the exhortation to not grow weary doing good?

Perhaps because Paul understands better than most the work involved in doing good, he exhorts Christians to not grow weary in it. He understands the constant opposition to do good. He has encountered first hand the relentless attack on grace and goodness. Yet he also understands the benefit to it, the call to do it, and the effect his Spirit-led encouragement has upon those who endeavor to do so.

When is it most difficult for you to do good? Why do you think this is?

There are many acceptable answers, which may include:

- *When I'm tired. When I'm tired, I'm less likely to want to battle with my flesh and instead just let it have its way.*
- *When wrong has been done to me. I'm particularly vulnerable to the temptation to hurt because I have been hurt.*
- *When I feel like God is far from me. When I feel like I'm alone, I'm more likely to make selfish choices.*
- *After a spiritual victory. It's easy to "let down my guard" after I've just seen God do good through me, and I turn around and do wrong.*
- *When I want immediate gratification. When I have become impatient for a later blessing and I opt to satisfy my desires on my own terms.*

It is difficult at these (and other times) because doing good is not the natural response. Remember "good" is only good when it is good from God's perspective, meaning it is Spirit-initiated and empowered. God is under no obligation to recognize or approve a "good deed" done in the flesh for

the wrong motives. Truly "doing good" is a supernatural activity that requires the death of self and submission to God's Spirit.

Why do you think Paul encourages us to do good to all people, but especially to other Christians? *Because benevolence to the world is a reflection of God's love for all people. It is the means by which we earn the privilege of sharing the Gospel with others in the context of relationship. We are to be good to other Christians because the spiritual reality is these are our kin in Christ and we will co-inhabit heaven with them forever. It is how we share the burdens of one another. And the world will know we belong to Jesus by our love for one another.*

Say

Let's close by talking about specific ways we can "do good" to others this week. Real ways. Simple ways. To our fellow Christians. To everyone. Then we will pray together that God's Spirit will encourage us to persevere and that we will not grow weary, for the sake of His name and to the cause of His glory forever.

Allow the group to discuss ways they can "do good" this week. Suggestions include:

- *Offering to pray for others.*
- *Tip generously at restaurants.*
- *Offer to help your spouse with dishes, or chores.*
- *Mow the lawn or shovel the driveway of a neighbor.*
- *Pay for a coffee of the person behind you.*
- *Carry the load of a co-worker whose arms are full.*
- *Address people by name and express appreciation for them.*
- *Tell your children that you love them and you like who they are.*
- *Ask a friend to tell you their story...what's going on in their life?*

Let's close in prayer:

Invite the group to pray for one another. Pray over any needs or issues that were shared in your time together. Pray over the content discussed in your small group, highlighting the aspects that God's Spirit revealed to your group as important. Confirm your plans for your next gathering!