

Scripture, Galatians 6:6-10

⁶ Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. ⁷ Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. ⁸ For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. ⁹ And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. ¹⁰ So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Introduction

Paul continues his instruction about appropriate behavior for spiritual people. The previous study made much about carrying each others' burdens. This passage takes up a similar notion and tells us to be people who share.

The apostle will move from sharing to "doing good" in a more general sense, but the very acts of doing good are rooted in sharing as Christian love is selfless and willing to give.

Our Study

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

Paul has in mind the relationship of the pastor, who teaches God's Word and those who receive his instruction.

Pastors are often given responsibilities that far exceed the teaching of Scripture. This is not wrong in itself, but the danger is burdening the teacher with so many lesser duties that he cannot do the primary job—instructing his congregation in the Word.

In Acts 6 we see the young church struggling to meet its needs and the Apostles select deacons to minister to the congregation. But the Apostles recognize the necessity of continuing in the teaching of the Word.

Think about what a pastor might be asked to do, and it can include being a janitor,

bookkeeper, decorator, marketing genius, musician, entertainer, confidant, youth expert, singles expert, older folks expert, family counselor and the list goes on.

The teaching of God's Word is worthy of the support of the people. It really should be the primary influence in their lives, and the pastor should be adequately cared for and relieved from the excessive worries of worldly concerns in order to do what God has called him to do

...the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel (1 Corinthians 9:14).

Verse 7. *Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.*

Do not be deceived... The entire letter to the Galatians has been very much concerned with the deception of the Judaizers and the danger of succumbing to false teaching.

God is not mocked... The true principals of the Law are expressions of God's will, therefore, we are called to remember that violating God's law, His principles, and His will cannot lead to true spiritual vitality.

...for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

Sowing and reaping is a basic biblical concept. In nature acorns sprout into oak trees. One would not plant a row of acorns in the hope of bringing up a crop of corn! If one sows folly only folly will

result. If one sows in godly investments than a spiritual harvest will result.

This is not a magic formula, but it is a principle of right living. A farmer may plant according to all correct processes and still not reap a generous reward because so many things are beyond his control—such as temperature and the right amount of water.

Parents may sow the right things into their offspring, but results are not guaranteed. However, there still remains the correct principle that it is better to raise one's children according to godly patterns than to ignore His Word and His admonitions.

Verse 8. *For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.*

What can we expect to happen if we sow from our own fleshly actions? The results will be flesh and not according to the Spirit.

Sowing from the Spirit will produce fruit in keeping with the Lord's will.

We can choose (as many people do) to sow from our flesh, but there is no long lasting reward for this behavior. How often do we hear about a fabricator of some product who sows corruption in the manufacturing process and this leads to an unsafe or under-performing product. How often does a manufacturer produce a faulty part and try to save a smaller amount of money by covering up the problem only to face enormous consequences later.

The believing Christian must understand that every part of life that has its root in the flesh will then, in part, be living outside of the will of God and reaping sad or dangerous consequences. The most important consequence is receiving or losing eternal life. Our hope for eternal life is never found in works of the flesh. Such a basic fact has eluded millions and millions of people.

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

Let's be honest, doing good is tiring work because it means we pour out our energy and effort on behalf of others and the Lord. There is a cost that must be counted, and our gratification may need to be postponed.

There is a common objection that states, "I try to do the right thing and live according to God's will, but I do not seem to be reaping good things as I would expect."

The Psalmist (10:3-5) understood this concern.

- ³ For the wicked boasts of the desires of his soul,
and the one greedy for gain curses and renounces the LORD.
⁴ In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek him;
all his thoughts are, "There is no God."
⁵ His ways prosper at all times;
your judgments are on high, out of his sight;
as for all his foes, he puffs at them.*

When we take a short view of eternity, and reduce it to our lives in this temporal world, we have a distorted view of ultimate destinies. Evil can triumph for a season, but it is a very short season compared to the eternal age to come.

Verse 10. *So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.*

Here is Paul's conclusion. So then, knowing the great mercy we have received, and knowing the abundant life we will have forever in Christ, let us focus on doing good. There is more than grabbing all we can for ourselves and letting our brothers and sisters fend for themselves.

He speaks about opportunity to do good. The suggestion is who we are and what we are doing can be used of God for His purposes and to the benefit of others. Each one of us has been given a unique place in the kingdom of God to exercise love and ministry.

