

Choices Matter: The Laws of Consequences

Lesson 8

Galatians 6:9-10; 1 Corinthians 15:58

May 10, 2020

We Reap A Full Harvest If We Do Not Give Up

Introduction

A farmer doesn't plant his field expecting a quick harvest in a day or a week. Instead, he plants knowing that it will take months of daily work to get a proper, healthy crop. The reason that the farmer continues to work the fields every day is that he knows that when the time is right, he will be able to reap a bountiful, ripe harvest. It requires work, patience, and knowledge daily, all based upon the expectation of a profitable crop.

It is the same way with our Christian walk: we know that we will have victory in the end (Christ has promised us that), but we still need to continue working daily to do the work of His Kingdom. It means not only doing the fun and pleasant things, but it also requires persistence through trials, knowing that we have hope in Christ. "Doing good" for the Kingdom requires patience, prayer, and perseverance. In a practical sense, this means turning away from the things that would lead us away from Christ and turning toward (and doing) the things that bring us closer to Christ. The rewards for this are a stronger church, increased intimacy with Jesus, and ultimately, eternal life with Christ.

Memory verse: "Let us not become weary of doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."—Galatians 6:9

Pray and read Galatians 6:9-10 and 1 Corinthians 15:58. What questions or observations do you have about these passages?

What do the passages say?

1. For what reason should we not grow weary of doing good? (Galatians 6:9)
2. When should we try to do good? (Galatians 6:10)
3. To whom should we especially do good? (Galatians 6:10)
4. What three things did Paul tell the Corinthians to do in Galatians 6:10?
5. What is the reason Paul gave for us to stand firm? (1 Corinthians 15:57)
6. What should we let move us? (1 Corinthians 15:58)
7. How often should we give ourselves to God's work? (1 Corinthians 15:58)
8. What is the reason we should give ourselves fully to the work of the Lord? (1 Corinthians 15:58)

What do the passages mean?

1. When Paul wrote to the Galatians, he emphasized that they continue to build their relationships within the church over the long term. Why do you think that Paul was so concerned about church members building each other up? What does it look like to build each other up? (Galatians 6:10)

2. Read 1 Corinthians 15:50-58. Against what are the kinds of things that Paul encouraged the Corinthians to stand firm? What reason did Paul give to the Corinthians to encourage them that their labor would not be in vain? (1 Corinthians 15:50-58)

3. Isaiah painted a glorious picture of the everlasting and all-powerful nature of the Lord. Read Isaiah 40:25-31. What is the relationship between the Lord's incredible strength and our ability to run without growing weary like in Galatians 6:9? What does it mean for a Jesus follower to "soar on wings like eagles?" (Isaiah 40:25-31)

4. The author of Hebrews described the Christian walk as a race that requires perseverance and focus. What did the author say is the first thing that a Christian should do in this race (before even starting the race)? What are three ways that the Christian life is like a race? How is this race like working for the Lord? (1 Corinthians 15:58; Hebrews 12:1-3)

Applying the passage

1. As Christ-followers, we know that Christ promises us victory and that we have a place in His Kingdom. Walking with Christ requires not only seeking Him daily but also turning away from things that will hinder our relationship with Him and not give up. How does the promise of victory and eternal life help you in your daily walk? (1 Corinthians 15:50-58)

