

BOOK OF GALATIANS

“Let Us Do Good”

Scripture Reading: GALATIANS 6:6-10

-) **SLIDES 1-6.** Bible Jeopardy!
-) **SLIDES 7-8.** Read today’s Scripture text.
-) **SLIDE 9.** Today we continue in our expository study of the Book of GALATIANS. This is message #45. I have titled today’s message *“Let Us Do Good”* (6:10).
-) This morning we will focus on verses 9-10 although, as you may have noticed, I included verses 6-8 in our reading. I did this because I want verses 6-8 to introduce the context of what verses 9-10 are teaching and not teaching.
-) There is no doubt the people in the churches at Galatia wanted to sow financially and support the people who brought the Word of God to them. That is a Biblical principle. In verses 6-8, Paul focuses on the fact that this is commendable, but do not sow financially or otherwise support those who bring false doctrine. You will be just as guilty as they are. Reap/Sow.
-) **SLIDE 10.** But he doesn’t want to discourage them from doing good. So in verses 9-10 he encourages them to do good.
-) This morning I want to look briefly at the what, the who, the when, and the why for a Christian to *“do good.”*
-) **SLIDE 11.** GAL 6:9-10. First the what. What is the Christian to do? We are to do good. Well, *“doing good”* can be rather generic. Does Paul have anything specific in mind here when he says to *“do good?”* Yes. Let’s look at the fruit of the Spirit (list) and see which one he has in mind. There are 2 that are often used interchangeably and we want to get this right.
-) First, which one does he NOT have in mind?

-) **SLIDE 12.** Defined on 8/8/21. **KINDNESS:** that temper or disposition which delights in contributing to the happiness of others, which is exercised cheerfully in gratifying their wishes, supplying their wants, or alleviating their distresses.
-) This cannot be what Paul means when he says to “*do good to all.*” Why not? Because this means we would contribute to the happiness of others, and others would include false teachers. We learned last week that we do not sow anything, financial or otherwise, into the ministries of false teachers. We do not gratify their wishes or supply their wants.
-) **SLIDE 13.** “*Do good to all people*” does NOT mean we do everything for everybody or give everything to anybody. That would be kindness. Remember, we will reap what we sow (last week). And when we sow into a false ministry, that makes us just as guilty as the false teacher.
-) So, the fruit of kindness cannot be what Paul has in mind in this passage. What does he have in mind?
-) **SLIDE 14.** 8/8/21. **GOODNESS:** the physical qualities which constitute value, excellence, or perfection; the moral qualities which constitute Christian excellence; moral virtue; religion.
-) **SLIDE 15.** Webster definition. Similar to our fruit definition.
-) **SLIDE 16.** So to answer the “*what*” question, the good we are to do is to show others by **EXAMPLE** and instill in others the moral qualities which constitute Christian excellence. We don’t want to act and speak like unsaved pagans around other people, especially around the household of faith.
-) **SLIDE 17.** GAL 6:9-10. Now the who. Who is the Christian to be good towards? Paul tells us to be good to all people secondarily and to be good to other Christians primarily.
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-) **SLIDE 18.** If the “*what*” is to show others by example and instill in others the moral qualities which constitute Christian excellence, then we need to be doing this “*good*” in the presence of **ALL** people and especially in the presence of **OTHER** Christians.
-) We know how we act and speak in here. How do we act and speak out there? Do others know we are Christians? Do other Christians know we are Christians? Christian excellence. We must display that to everyone, especially to each other.
-) **SLIDE 19.** ROMANS 12:10-12. These are all examples of goodness and kindness towards fellow believers. When other believers see this in us, it can be very encouraging to them.
-) And ... we are to show the light of our true Christian values in the presence “*ALL*” and that would include false teachers.
-) **SLIDE 20.** GAL 6:9-10. Let’s move on to the when.
-) I have two different thoughts underlined here. Let’s talk about “*while we have opportunity.*” What does that mean exactly? The word “*opportunity*” does not mean the occasional moment. It refers to our Christian journey. All the time. As long as we are alive and walking this Christian walk, we have the opportunity.
-) I also have underlined “*if we do not grow weary.*” I’ll be the first to admit that it is difficult to display Christian excellence 24/7; to display Christian excellence in the presence of unbelievers; to display Christian excellence in the presence of believers; and to display Christian excellence even when we are alone.
-) **SLIDE 21.** Our life is the **OPPORTUNITY** to do good. And we cannot grow weary in doing so. When we don’t feel like acting like Christians, is when we need to act like Christians the most.
-) **SLIDE 22.** GAL 6:9-10. And finally let’s talk about the why.
-) **SLIDE 23.** Back in verses 7-8, the apostle Paul tells us that we will reap what we sow. It’s a foundational Biblical principle.

-) And when we sow to the Spirit (the fruit of the Spirit) goodness into the lives of others, we will reap from the Spirit eternal life.
-) **SLIDE 24.** We sow goodness into others so we can reap the **BLESSINGS** of the Spirit. Paul was pretty specific that the Christian will reap eternal life when they sow in the Spirit. But I would like to add to that and say that the Christian will reap blessings when they sow in the Spirit.
-) And we all know that blessings come in many different forms. It could be financial, it could be good health, it could be that car accident you did not have or that refrigerator that keeps on running. Or maybe those children who make wise decisions. Many different possibilities.
-) Let us never forget that sowing and reaping is a Biblical principle. And you'll never know if it works until you try it.
-) **SLIDE 25.** But I want us all to be aware of an important truth here this morning. Verses 9/10 can be easily misinterpreted.
-) We do not want to substitute or interchange the words kindness and goodness. We now know that difference. But there is something very similar and very dangerous I must bring to light this morning.
-) Satan has imposed some very big lies on mankind throughout the ages. One of the biggest lies he told was back in the garden by telling Eve she could be just like God if she would just eat of the forbidden fruit. "*Did God really say?*" And we all know how that story ended. And people are still falling for that lie today.
-) But I believe the next biggest lie in Satan's toolbox is telling people that if they do good things to and for other people (the exact words from this text) that their good works will outweigh their bad and they will secure a place in heaven based on their "*good*" merit. Their salvation depends on their works. That was me the first 40 years of my life.

-) It makes me wonder how many people read this text and say, *“See, there it is! If I do good then I will reap eternal life. I will reap what I sow and I’m sowing good works into other people.”*
-) But we have already defined “good” in this message. Right? It’s not so much what we do for others (that would be kindness) as it is who and what we are and exemplifying our Christianity (Christian excellence) in the presence of others.
-) Unbelievers cannot demonstrate this “good” that Paul is speaking of here. Why not? Because apart from Christ we can do what? Nothing. Nothing good. And any good works an unbeliever can muster are like filthy rags to the Lord. Fake.
-) Do not be deceived. God is not mocked.
-) This “good” we are to do is to show others by example and instill in others the moral qualities which constitute Christian excellence. And only a true Christian can do that.

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