

“Let Us Not Grow Weary”

Galatians 6:9

I. INTRODUCTION: I

1. **2** Life has a way of wearing you down.
 - A. Satan is a wily character (Eph. 6:11; “wiles of the devil”; “wiles” = *methodeia*; “schemes,” NIV; Satan is somewhat like the coyote in the cartoons; always scheming!).
 - B. In 2 Corinthians 2:11 Paul warns us that Satan looks to take “*advantage of us*” and then adds “*for we are not ignorant of his devices.*” (i.e., “that which is thought out,” Vine)
 - C. Satan never sleeps, never takes a day off, never takes a vacation; he endlessly looks for ways to make our lives miserable and entice us to fall away (1 Pet 5:8).
 - D. I firmly believe Satan works overtime when it comes to faithful Christians.
 - E. He already has the unfaithful in his “back pocket,” so to speak.
 - F. Therefore, he can exert more of his attention on the faithful.
2. When Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness (Matt. 4:1-11; Lk. 4:1-13) that one occasion was not the only “shot” he took at Jesus.
 - A. He was unsuccessful in the wilderness, but Luke tells us “*Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.*” (Lk. 4:13).
 - B. And, we know Satan came often, throwing many temptations in Jesus’ direction.
 - C. But Jesus withstood Satan’s every assault; He never allowed Satan to wear Him down.
3. Satan wearing us out is a very legitimate danger:
 - A. Several times Paul admonishes and encourages us not to let Satan wear us down.
2 Thess. 3:13: “*But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary in doing good.*”
 - B. It is evident from Paul’s writings that Christians can and do become weary in well doing.
Gal. 6:9: “*And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.*” (KJV)
 - C. When we grow weary, we need more than ever to turn to Jesus for strength:
Heb. 12:3-4: “*For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. 4 You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.*”
4. So, such weariness is something we all must fight against.
 - A. If we take our eyes off the prize, we are “easy pickins” for Satan (1 Pet. 5:8).
 - B. When we become weary in well doing our souls are in danger of being lost.
 - C. When we become weary in well doing the work of the Lord suffers.
5. **3** Hopefully by considering some things folks allow to make them weary in well doing, we can recognize when we are danger of growing weary in well doing and quitting.
Heb. 11:13-14: “*...confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 14 For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland.*”

II. DISCUSSION:

We grow weary in well doing when we allow ourselves to grow...

I. **4** Weak in the of faith:

Heb. 10:36, 39: “For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: ...³⁹ But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.”

I Pet. 1:5, 9: “who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁹ “receiving the end of your faith — the salvation of your souls.”

A. Without faith we cannot please God: Heb. 11:6; 2 Cor. 5:7; Col. 3:17

B. But, some grow weary in well doing because they allow their faith to grow weak.

(1) Jesus asked a probing question we all should meditate upon: “...when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?” (Lk. 18:8)

(2) If Jesus came today would He “really find faith on the earth” when He examined you?!

(3) Do you give yourself a periodic “faith check”?

2 Cor. 13:5: “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? — unless indeed you are disqualified.”

C. We live in a society of “instant gratification”:

☛ Microwave ovens

☛ Smart phones

☛ Internet, etc.

D. ****** In such a climate, many look for the “magic bullet” that will give them “super faith.”

E. I don’t mean to burst anyone’s bubble, but no such “magic bullet” exists.

(1) John Houseman used to do commercials for the investment firm of *Smith Barney*.

(2) He famously said, “Good investments don’t come up to you and bite you on the bottom and say, ‘we’re here.’ Finding them takes good old-fashioned hard work. *Smith Barney* makes money the old-fashioned way, ‘they earn it.’”

F. The same is true of our faith; it does not come from some magical, ‘better felt than told’ process; it does not sneak up on you and “bite you on the bottom”!

(1) Our faith is based upon the Word of God: Rom. 10:17 (requires reading, meditation, prayer, rinse, repeat!).

(2) When we don’t read God’s Word regularly, meditate upon it, pray about it; our faith invariably grows W-E-A-K!

Psa. 1:1-3: “Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; ² But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. ³ He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.”

Psa. 119:34: “Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law; Indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart.”

Psa. 119:169-170: “Let my cry come before You, O Lord; Give me understanding according to Your word. 170 Let my supplication come before You; Deliver me according to Your word.”

Eph. 1:16-19: “...do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe...”

(3) There are no short cuts! Eph. 3:1-5

Jas. 1:5-8: “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”

G. Are you growing weary in well doing because your faith is weak?

(1) I am neither a prophet, nor the son of a prophet, but if you are growing weary in well doing because of a weak faith; I know exactly why that is so.

(2) You are not reading God’s Word enough and/or you are not meditating on it and praying about it.

(3) God guarantees your success (**Psa. 1:3:** “He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.”) if you will just do those things regularly and “ask in faith, with no doubting” (Jas. 1:6).

We can grow weary in well doing when we are confronted with the...

2. 5 Failure of others:

A. Paul was confronted with the failure of others:

(1) Phygelus and Hermogenes: **2 Tim. 1:15:** “This you know, that all those in Asia have turned away from me, among whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes.”

(2) Demas: **2 Tim. 4:10:** “for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica...”

(3) First defense: (Paul’s first defense before Caesar) **2 Tim. 4:16:** “At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them.”

B. Men today in the church fail:

(1) Some turn away their ears from the truth: **2 Tim. 4:4-5:** “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.”

(2) Some allow a root of bitterness to spring up: **Heb. 12:15:** “looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;”

- (3) Some have an evil heart of unbelief: **Heb. 3:13**: “Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God;”
- C. The question is not “will men fail me,” but, “when will men fail me.”
- (1) Being let down by others is going to happen to every one of us.
- (2) It happened to me not too long after I obeyed the gospel, and it has happened many times since then (relate experiences).
- D. When people let us down, we have one of two choices:
- (1) Allow it to make us grow weary in well doing (eventually quit!). **2 Tim. 4:7-8**: “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”
- (2) Keep on keeping on! The Lord will never let us down!
- Heb. 13:5-6**: “For He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’ 6 So we may boldly say: ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?’”
- Psa. 37:25**: “I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken...”

We can grow weary in well doing because of the...

3. 6 Lack of visible results:

- A. Paul knew a lot about the lack of visible results:
- (1) Athens: Acts 17:22-34 (**Acts 17:32**: “And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, ‘We will hear you again on this matter.’”)
- (2) Corinth: Acts 18:4-11 (**vv. 9 & 10**: “Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; 10 for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city.”).
- B. We had a gospel meeting once in Michigan with a very well-known preacher.
- (1) He unequivocally told Sherry and I to throw in the towel.
- (2) I was shocked, and just chalked it up to him having a bad day.
- (3) Summarize work in Michigan.
- C. We must never forget:
- (1) Labor not in vain: **1 Cor. 15:58**: “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”
- (2) God gives the increase: **1 Cor. 3:6-7**: “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. 7 So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.”
- (3) God’s Word never returns to Him void: **Isa. 55:11**: “So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”
- D. When we begin to grow weary due to a lack of apparent results, we must recall those three key principles.

- (1) God sees our labors in the gospel and He cares!
- (2) Our labor is not in vain!

We can grow weary in well doing because of...

4. **7** Constant temptations:

A. Satan never lets up! I Pet. 5:8

- (1) Satan tempted Christ: **Heb. 4:15:** *“For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.”*
- (2) Christ’s sympathy gives us a great blessing! **Heb. 4:16:** *“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”*

B. Further, we need to realize four things about the temptations we face.

I Cor. 10:13: *“No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”*

- (1) Common: The temptations I face are “common to man”: Many people are going through the exact same thing I go through.
- (2) Limited: God controls the intensity of my temptation (“God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able...to bear”): I don’t have to worry that any temptation will totally overwhelm me!
- (3) Avoidable: God provides “the way of escape” from every temptation: That is a guarantee; I just have to trust in God and have the courage and strength of heart to look for and take that “way of escape.”
- (4) Beatable: God guarantees I can overcome: “that you may be able to bear it.”

Jas. 1:12-15: *“Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. 13 Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am tempted by God’; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.”*

C. To avoid growing weary in well doing because of temptations, we must:

- (1) Proactive: Take responsibility: Phil. 2:12
- (2) Keep: Keep our hearts with all diligence: **Prov. 4:23:** *“Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.”*; cf. Matt. 15:19
- (3) Crucify: Crucify the flesh: **Gal. 5:24:** *“And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”*
- (4) Deny: Deny ungodliness and worldly lusts: **Titus 2:11-12:** *“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,”*
- (5) Flee: Flee from powerful and strong temptations: **I Cor. 6:18; Jas. 4:7-8:** *“Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”*

We can grow weary in well doing because of...

5. 8 Severe trials:

A. Many sources of severe trials:

- (1) Persecution
- (2) Vicissitudes of life: health problems, financial problems, relationship problems, old age, etc.

B. Severe trials are common to those serving God:

- (1) Noah: A “preacher of righteousness” (2 Pet. 2:5) in a wicked, evil world (**Gen. 6:5**: “Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”).
- (2) Daniel’s three friends: Dan. 3
- (3) Daniel: Dan. 6
- (4) Jeremiah: **Jer. 38:6**: “So they took Jeremiah and cast him into the dungeon of Malchiah the king’s son, which was in the court of the prison, and they let Jeremiah down with ropes. And in the dungeon there was no water, but mire. So Jeremiah sank in the mire.”
- (5) John the Baptist: Mk. 6:14-29
- (6) Jesus: **Matt. 27:26**: “Then he released Barabbas to them; and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified.”
- (7) Unnamed others: **Heb. 11:35-38**: “Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. 36 Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented — 38 of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.”

C. Tribulation unavoidable: Acts 14:22: “strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, ‘We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.’”

D. 9 Perspective: to keep severe trials from making us grow weary in well doing, we must keep them in their proper perspective.

- (1) Bolsters our hope: **Jas. 1:2-4**: “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”

Rom. 5:3-5: “but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 Now hope does not disappoint...”

- (2) Glorify God: **1 Pet. 4:12-16**: “Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; 13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. 14 If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.”

- (3) Purifies our faith: **1 Pet. 1:6-7**: “In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,”
- (4) Leads to our salvation: **1 Pet. 1:9**: “receiving the end of your faith — the salvation of your souls.”
- (5) Light affliction: **2 Cor. 4:17**: “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment...”
- (6) Temporary: **2 Cor. 4:17**: “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment...”
- (7) Eternal weight of glory: **2 Cor. 4:17**: “...is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,”
- (8) Grand company: **Matt. 5:10-12**: “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. 12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

We can grow weary in well doing because of...

6. 10 Problems in the church:

- A. Sadly, “church problems” are inevitable; Paul said: **1 Cor. 11:19**: “For there must also be factions among you, that those who are approved may be recognized among you.”
- B. The church at Jerusalem had problems:
 - (1) Ananias and Sapphira: Acts 5:1-11
 - (2) The Grecians murmured against the Hebrews: Acts 6:1-4
- C. The church at Corinth had problems:
 - (1) Division: **1 Cor. 3:3**: “for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?”
 - (2) Fornication: 1 Cor. 5:1-7
- D. The churches of Galatia had problems: Gal. 1:6-9; 5:4
- E. I’ve been through my share of “church problems”:
 - (1) Problems when I first became a Christian (West Washington Street).
 - (2) Preacher problems (Deckerville).
 - (3) Doctrinal problems (Flint, Grayling).
- F. These problems pose a very serious threat to our faith.
 - (1) Some react by losing their faith and quitting.
 - (2) We need to imitate Paul: 1 Cor. 1:10; Eph. 4:1-6
2 Tim. 4:16: “At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me.”
 - (3) There have been a few times in my life where the only faithful people I could find to worship with were my own family and we worshiped in our home.
 - (4) If that be our fate, so be it, but let us ever be faithful to the Lord!

2 Tim. 4:7-8: “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”

We can grow weary in well doing because we begin to feel the...

7. || Cost is too high:

A. Jesus teaches us to count the cost:

Lk. 14:28-33: “For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it — 29 lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, 30 saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ 31 Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? 32 Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. 33 So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.”

B. Jesus asks us to give up a great deal:

Lk. 9:23-24: “Then He said to them all, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. 24 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.’”

C. Jesus tells us of the great reward: **Mk. 10:28-31: “and in the age to come—eternal life.”**

D. Many don’t want to give up the world; they want to be “friend of the world” and a Christian at the same time:

Jas. 4:4: “Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

(1) Want to dress like the world: **1 Tim. 2:9**

(2) Want to talk like the world: **Eph. 5:4:** “neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.”

(3) Want to drink like the world: **1 Pet. 4:3:** “For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles — when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.”

(4) Want to go to worldly places: **Eph. 5:15:** “See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,”

(5) Want to engage in deeds of the flesh: **Gal. 5:19-21:** “Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries...”

E. All that is wasting one’s life: **1 Pet. 4:3: “For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles...”**

F. People think living that “lifestyle” is the way to freedom; in reality it leads to bondage. We must see sin for what it really does to us!

2 Pet. 2:19-22: “for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage. 20 For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord

and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. 21 For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. 22 But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: 'A dog returns to his own vomit,' and, 'a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.'"

- G. To avoid growing weary in well doing we must take the eternal view: **Matt. 25:46:** "everlasting punishment" vs. "eternal life"

2 Pet. 3:10-11: *"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,"*

- H. Think of the terrible regret most will experience for eternity!

III. CONCLUSION: 12

1. Jim Valvano, the late basketball coach at North Carolina State University, said (as he battled terminal cancer): "Don't give up. Don't ever give up"
2. Paul put it this way: *"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."* (Gal. 6:9; KJV)
3. We need to keep our eyes on the prize and realize our life as a Christian is not a sprint, but a race of endurance.

****Heb. 10:36-39:** *"For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:*

*37 'For yet a little while,
And He who is coming will come and will not tarry.
38 Now the just shall live by faith;
But if anyone draws back,
My soul has no pleasure in him.'*

39 But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul."

4. Invitation

Adapted from an article (*Be Not Weary in Well Doing*) by Donald Townsley.