Don't get tired doing good – Galatians 6:9

"Let us not become weary in doing good for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." (NIV)

"So let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don't give up or quit." (The Message)

Galatians was written to correct a situation in the church. It isn't a thesis written by a theologian in his study. It is written by a pastor to correct troubles that had arisen in the church.

The diseases of the spiritual life are always the same even though appearances may differ. The cause is the devil and he never varies in his ultimate objective – the paralysis of the Christian!

How was this happening in the Galatian church?

1. by false 'teaching'
2. by putting things in the centre that shouldn't be there
3. by mixing in various religions
4. by being weary – losing heart

The condition of the church in xxxx

Some say this is one of the most 'evil' places they have ever lived – pride, selfishness, greed at all levels of society – both local people and expatriates. On every hand there seems to be so much pressure – difficulty – disappointment – distrust – despair – deception. Somehow we have to live in the midst of all these things!

As Christians we should come with enthusiasm to apply the truth of God to this situation. We may still be moving in the right direction but the trouble is that it is easy to be shuffling along with drooping heads and hands.

Some have recently said that one of the greatest problems they face is with patience.
There is no apparent progress. People are just stuck in a routine and weariness is the result.

They are not so much tired **<u>of</u>** the work as tired **<u>in</u>** the work – the work of doing good and caring for others. This leads to depression.

What is the Cure?

First we need to look at some **False Cures**

a) **Give up, give in and give way.** This is the standard advice of so many, "Don't do it if you are not excited about it!" There is a great deal of emotional sentimentality in modern Christianity. Don't listen to this sort of advice. You must say, "Whatever happens I am going on. I am going to follow Jesus – no turning back."

b) **Resign yourself to it** – a spirit of resignation – stoicism – the stiff upper lip. In this case everything becomes a sheer duty. You are going through the motions but the heart is gone.

c) **Rely on artificial stimulants** – new excitements – new methods – new programmes – a holiday!

The true cure comes through an accurate diagnosis.

Self examination: **The diagnosis** (honest realism)

Sit down and say, "Well, now I am weary. I have lost heart. What is the cause of my weariness?

There are many possible answers including physical tiredness (see Elijah). But have we been trying to live the Christian life in the energy of our own personalities? If we try to do God's work in our own strength it will crush us!

Two vital Questions

1. What have been my motives?

Some people go about doing good for the sake of the thrill and excitement. They are unhappy unless they are always doing something. This results in exhaustion!

Why have they been doing this? It is usually for SELF and for STATUS not for the glory of God! Self is a terrible master it always results in weariness and tiredness.

Jesus said, ***"Come unto Me and I will give you rest. Take My yoke…."***

2. What is the mainspring of my life? God?

- ✧ Am I living on my activities – the chief cause of neurosis?
- ✧ Is it the momentum of the rush of life that just carries me on?
- ✧ Am I being controlled instead of being in control? This will lead to depression.

"Be Thou my vision O Lord of my heart …….Whatever befall, still be my vision O ruler of all."

It is essential to have God as the source of life.

The Cure

Three things to remember every day

1. It is 'doing good'.

- We forget this and say it is 'the same old thing week after week'.
- Our attitude is wrong. If we regard the Christian life as dreary we insult God!
- Our attitude is wrong if we regard any aspect of the Christian life as a task or a duty. We miss the essence of Christianity – Jn. 10:10: ***"I have come to give you life – and life more abundantly!"***
- This is the life that Jesus lived. ***"He went about doing good."***

We need a new revelation of how we got into the Christian life!

How? Because the Son of God humbled Himself:

- Born in a manger
- Endured
- Learned obedience
- His life, His trial, His suffering and His death

How did I come into this? He laid down His life to give me this life.

If we think life is wearisome we must go back to the beginning – the great argument of Hebrews 12:2-5

- Consider Jesus – Fix your eyes on Him – His anticipation – His agony – His achievement
- Look forward – we are in a glorious campaign – ***"The earth will be filled with the glory of God as the waters cover the sea!"*** [Is. 42:11; 43:19; 60:1-3, 6-7] God is doing something wonderful in our eyes.

2. This life is only a preparatory one:

"Eye has not seen nor ear heard, neither has entered the heart of man the things God has prepared for those who love Him."

"Set your affection on things above and not on things on the earth."

The harvest we will reap is certain:

"Therefore my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord." (1 Cor. 15:5-8)

We have all the promises of God at our disposal!

Think about Jesus for whom we work, ***"For the joy set before Him ……."***

He saw the coming harvest and so He endured triumphantly. Think of Jesus' life. Much of it was pretty humdrum. Petty people often surrounded Him. He went on steadfastly. He didn't give up.

"If any one would be My disciple, let him deny himself, take up the cross and follow Me."

What about suffering? Paul says an amazing thing in Col. 1:24 ***"Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake ……."*** He is in prison. He counts it a privilege to suffer!

3. Ask Our Father to forgive you for allowing yourself to become weary.

The result will be:

- New life
- New hope
- New strength
- New power

You will be thrilled with joy at the privilege of the Christian life.

Repent of grumbling and self-pity. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you. Go forward in the power of the Holy Spirit who has been given to you for such a time as this.

In Eph. 1:19-21 Paul prays, ***"That they might know the surpassing greatness of His power towards us who believe."***

Read again 2 Cor. 4:5-18

1. Look to Jesus
2. Look to the harvest
3. Look to the Holy Spirit

"Thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph!" 2 Cor. 2:14