

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Do Not Give Up!

There are times in our walk with the Lord when we need encouragement. Do not marathon runners dig deeper when they see friends waving and encouraging them onward after an hour into the race? Bikers no doubt have a burst of energy as they see crowds bordering the uphill climbs in the three week Tour de France. But the 26.2 mile marathon or even the 2231 mile Tour de France cannot compare in time or length to the life-long spiritual race to Heaven. Surely there are times when an encouraging voice is welcomed by the committed few.

Paul offers these words of exhortation: “*And let us not be weary in well-doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not*” (Galatians 6:9). Paul’s words reveal two important realities in walking with the Lord. We can lose heart and then let loose. We can become “*weary*” when we do not see the answers to our prayers when we think we should (Luke 18:1); or, when the road is lined with naysayers as we try to climb with the weight of their blasphemies on our mind (Ephesians 3:13). Such weighty tribulations which often come from doing right, can take the very heart out of our race. The Greek word, translated “*faint*” literally

means “*let loose*”. When we let loose we give up and quit. Paul exhorts us to never let this happen.

Under the universally known metaphor of “sowing and reaping”, Paul offers his exhortation and encouragement. It is not that complicated, for we all are sowing. The question is, are we sowing to the flesh, or are we sowing to the spirit? If to the flesh, then the only result will be “*corruption*” or loss of our well-being. If we sow to the spirit, then the fruit will be “*eternal life*” (Galatians 6:8).

If in our spiritual walk, we begin to entertain the idea of a little compromise. We need to remember God’s universal law: We reap what we sow (Galatians 6:7). We might begin to view the world around us and feel too isolated from worldly friends. Surely we do not need to be too separated from those in the world do we? Such thoughts might move us to do just a little sowing to the flesh in order to be accepted by the world. We will begin to miss worship services in order to be with worldly friends who are feeding their desires in their various fleshly pursuits. A little social drink here and there with the boys will not hurt, will it? After

all, most of the time I am sowing to the spirit, doing good things. We need to be shaken out of our rationalizing stupor and wake up to the reality, “God is not mocked”! Losing my godly influence and eventually my soul is the corruption that is definitely ahead for me if I do compromise in holy living.

Paul also reminds us that “eternal life” is the fruit of sowing to the spirit. Such is a refreshing reality to us when we are running dry of enthusiasm. We will reap eternal life, “if we faint not”. The sobering reality that should keep us running in the race is that if we do let loose and give up, we will forfeit eternal life.

Only by continuing to sow to the spirit will Heaven’s joys be realized. Sharing good things with those who teach God’s word is one way to sow to the spirit (v.6). Doing good, contributing to the well-being of all men, is another way of sowing to the spirit (v.10). Minding the things revealed by the Holy Spirit in God’s Word is sowing to the spirit (Rom. 8:5). The remedy for not losing heart and giving up lies in continuing to be busy in doing good works, fueled with the confident expectation of harvesting eternal life in the end.