

Sermon Notes – February 16, 2020

Review: Paul Battles for the Galatians

- ⇒ Paul is writing to the Galatians because, although they accepted the gospel, they have been led astray by false teachers who claim that circumcision is a necessary addition. Paul is arguing that any addition to the gospel is a rejection of Christ's work.
- ⇒ Although salvation is received by grace alone through faith alone, God does not leave us in our broken and sinful states but has given us His Spirit who helps us to put to death the deeds of the flesh. Since we live by the Spirit, we should also keep in step with the Spirit. If we do, we will see fruit (results)!
- ⇒ As God's people, we are people of grace and communities of grace. We are called to support each other as we "keep in step with the Spirit." The gospel doesn't only transform us as individuals, it transforms our relationships.

Today's Text: Galatians 6:6-10

In today's text, we are called to live eschatologically – with the end in mind. Although our salvation has been achieved, we live in an age in which we are waiting to realize the full ramifications of our salvation. As we wait, we must not give up or lose heart. Living out the Christian life faithfully is difficult, but it is not in vain!

We Reap What We Sow

- ⇒ The danger of false teaching is a very real threat. It is imperative that we value and cling to faithful teaching of the truth. What we do with our _____ often reveal our hearts.
- ⇒ We become what we _____. If we live according to our fleshly desires and practices, we will become more like the world. If we keep in step with the Spirit, we will become more like Christ and experience life in the way God designed.
- ⇒ Although we have not yet experienced glorification and our hope of heaven is yet future, we can experience freedom from sin and fellowship with God _____ – the Christian life is a _____ of heaven.

Galatians 6:6-10

Matthew Richey

"The Law of the Harvest"

We Will Reap, If We Do Not Give Up

- ⇒ The temptation to give up and throw in the towel can be overwhelming if we lose an _____. Having an eternal perspective is not ignoring the hardships and difficulties of this life, but it is a steadfast faith that sees the difficulties and trials of this life but does not lose _____.
- ⇒ The Christian community is to do good to those on the outside. This means we are not to return evil for evil, and are to seek good for our neighbors, communities, nation, and world. Although this world is not our home and this life is not our destiny, we are called to be ambassadors – _____ in a dark and dying world.
- ⇒ Although we should seek to do good to the world at large, we have a _____ to take care of our brothers and sisters in Christ. In Christ, the lines have been redrawn. Our primary identity and loyalty are not in or to our nation, our ethnic or cultural heritage, or our biological families. Our identity and loyalty is to Christ and His people are _____.

Living Eschatologically

- ⇒ Living eschatologically – with the future in mind – is not the idea that we just grin and bear the difficulty of this life and that someday, in the future, it will all be worth it. Living eschatologically is also experiencing the blessings of _____ now. The defeat of sin in our life is not just a future reality but can be realized now as we keep in step with the Spirit and experience His _____ in our lives.
- ⇒ But, we also live in the "_____." The world that we live in is still under the sway of the evil one, there is still suffering, pain, and death. We still experience the misery of sin in our lives and its pull in our hearts. As we groan and wait on the full realization of God's redemption of His creation, we groan and wait in hope because we know that there will be an _____ to pain, suffering, sin, death.

Responding to God's Word

- ⇒ The Christian life is not for the faint of heart. It's hard! We must keep our eyes on the prize. We don't do this by trying harder but by drawing closer.
- ⇒ We need each other! Although relationships can be difficult and exhausting, God has not designed us to do this on our own. Loving God also means loving God's people.

Community Group Notes

Getting Started

Have you ever persevered through something (maybe a sport, a class, or a lifestyle change) when you felt like giving up because it was just too hard? Why didn't you give up? What made the difference between persevering and quitting?

Talking It Through

1. Review the sermon from Sunday: Read the text Galatians 6:6-10 and review the main sermon points from your notes. What was it about? What thoughts or observations do you have on the text or the sermon?
2. Although "sharing all good things with the one who teaches" certainly includes taking care of our pastors financially, what are some other ways that we can apply this principle? What are some tangible ways we can care for our pastors, missionaries, and elders?
3. In the sermon, Matt made the point that the "reaping" is both now, in this life, and in the future, in the eternal state. What benefits of salvation can be experienced now? What benefits are still "not yet?"
4. Read Revelation chapter 21 in full. How does our future hope help us to have perspective in the difficulties, trials, and sorrows of this life?

Taking It Further & Taking It Home

5. Growing weary is a very real threat for the Christian. Take a look at the following verses and examine them in their context: Galatians 6:9, 2 Thessalonians 3:13, Hebrews 12:3, Revelation 2:3. In what arenas of your lives are you in danger of growing weary of doing good? What should we respond to our own weariness? How can we help to encourage one another to persevere through our weariness?
6. Paul says we are to do good to all, especially to those in the household of faith. What do you think Paul means by "especially towards those are of the household of faith?" How are our obligations towards fellow believers different than our obligations towards unbelievers?
7. For a better idea of what this looks like in Pauline thought, take a look at Paul's unpacking of Christian love towards insiders and outsiders in Romans 12:9-21. How does this list inform our posture towards the world as well as the church?

Time to PRAY

(Or do this at the beginning of your group time)

Take time to share prayer requests that relate to the people in your group, and then pray for those needs.

Next Sunday Worship: February 23, 2020

"In the Cross of Christ, I Glory"

(Galatians 6:11-18)

Pastor Jay Mosser

Answer Key: ▪ material possessions ▪ habitually practice ▪ now ▪ preview ▪ eternal perspective ▪ hope ▪ salt and light ▪ special obligation ▪ our people ▪ heaven ▪ fruit ▪ not yet ▪ end