

❧ *Walking in God's Grace—Week Nine, Day One* ❧

Read Galatians 6:6-8

⁶Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor. ⁷Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. ⁸The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

As we begin this final week of study, let's remember how we have been encouraged: ***“do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature”***, rather, serve one another in love. These final verses will definitely be focused on serving others and bringing glory to God.

1. There are two themes today, so let's look at verse 6 first. This is a simple and short statement. If you have access, look up this verse in some other translations and write down what you think this sentence means
2. Verses 7 and 8 can apply to many aspects of life, but in the context of these few verses that are surrounding it, what do you think the sowing and reaping would refer to?
3. What other truths that we could call 'sowing and reaping' can you think of. List a handful of things that come to mind:
4. Do you have a personal experience in the area of 'sowing to please the Spirit' and 'reaping a harvest or blessing'?. Or, maybe are you planting seeds right now that you hope the Lord will produce a harvest with. Jot down some thoughts to share with your group.



Walking in God's Grace—Week Nine, Day Two

Read Galatians 6:9-10

⁹Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. ¹⁰Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

We left off yesterday asking if you are currently sowing seeds that you hope the Lord will turn into a harvest. Have you ever planted a garden? Obviously you have noticed that there is quite a long time from planting seeds until those little green shoots pop out of the ground. Then after those first signs of life we have an entire growing season to patiently wait for a crop. The Holy Spirit knows our propensity for losing patience and giving up.

1. There are many practical areas of '*doing good*', but again, what is the context you have discovered of verses 6-10. According to that context what should we not become weary about?
2. When will we reap a harvest?
3. What is the condition of the harvest?
4. Lifting verse 9 out of the context of this passage to speak to other truths in our lives; what areas might we become weary in doing good and need encouragement to 'stay the course'? List something specific and ask your prayer partner to pray for your patient endurance in this area.
5. We are to do good "*especially to those who belong to the family of believers*". What is a practical application of that truth for your season of life and your circumstances.



Walking in God's Grace—Week Nine, Day Three

Read Galatians 6:11-18

¹¹See what large letters I use as I write to you with my own hand! ¹²Those who want to make a good impression outwardly are trying to compel you to be circumcised. The only reason they do this is to avoid being persecuted for the cross of Christ. ¹³Not even those who are circumcised obey the law, yet they want you to be circumcised that they may boast about your flesh. ¹⁴May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is a new creation. ¹⁶Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule, even to the Israel of God. ¹⁷Finally, let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. ¹⁸The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.

This is a large chunk of Scripture for today, but I thought it wise to finish the book today and give us an opportunity to process some reflections tomorrow. I'm going to list some historical insights for a few of these verses.

Verse 11: John R. W. Stott writes: “Most commentators consider that he used large letters deliberately, either because he was treating his readers like children (rebuking their spiritual immaturity by using baby writing) or simply for emphasis . . . much as we would use capital letters or underline words today.”

Verse 12: Morris writes: “By aligning Christianity with Judaism through emphasizing circumcision and the law of Moses, men could escape persecution from the Romans. To advocate circumcision was to align the new movement with Judaism, a religion that had official Roman sanction, and therefore one that avoided persecution. The preachers Paul was opposing may have included the cross in their proclamation, but by adding the necessity of circumcision they avoided persecution.”

As Paul summarizes and closes this letter he wants to make two final points or reminders:

1. **Christianity is inward rather than outward:** One last time Paul writes “*neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything*”. The Judaizers wanted to make Christianity all about outward signs and performance—‘**what I can do, or will do**’. Paul is reminding that it’s not outward but inward. What does he say matters?

Look up and write out 2 Corinthians 5:17:

2. **Christianity is all about Christ, not us:** “*The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you*”! Explain what that phrase means to you, now that you have been Walking in God’s Grace through Galatians for 9 weeks.



Walking in God's Grace—Week Nine, Day Four

Well ladies, we have done it! We have Walked in God's Grace verse-by-verse through the letter written by the Apostle Paul to the Galatians. Today's space is given to you to reminisce a little. I'll give some slight direction and you can jot down some thoughts and be prepared to share in our final meeting:

1. Write down a verse, or phrase that has become meaningful from your study:
2. Is there a Christian doctrine that has been made more clear to you through your study?
3. Is there a practical application from this book that you have put in place in your life?
4. Did you have an opportunity to use what the Holy Spirit has been teaching you to apply to a situation, conversation, help a friend, minister to your children, etc.
5. What was the most uncomfortable passage or verses and how did they affect you?
6. How have you been specifically challenged to be led by the Spirit of Jesus.

It has been a delight for me to focus this year on God's abundant Grace, His plan and His work in His people. I am thrilled that each one of you came along on this journey.

May the Lord Bless You and Keep You!
Much Love, Sue

