

While we need to be careful about **dangers from outside** the church as they work **against God's truth**, we **also** need to be careful about **our own conduct within the church**.

In this last chapter of Paul's letter to the Galatians there are some **final admonitions** to the churches of Galatia. They're **preserved for us** here in our Bibles so **we can learn** from them **too**.

First, he reminds the church that it should support those doing the work of the teaching ministry

6. One who is taught the word must share all good things with the one who teaches.

When the **church neglects** the way God set it up to operate, it **can't do its work** effectively.

There was a time in the history of Israel when the people neglected the church.

They **directed** their efforts and resources to their **own needs first**.

They **stopped prioritizing** the work of **God's Kingdom** in their lives.

They worked on their own **homes and businesses** (certainly **good and right** things to do) but they made the **mistake of putting them first** in their lives.

Times were hard so they withheld the **tithe** as the **first item** in their personal **budgets**.

This left the **place of worship under-funded**, and her **ministers under-paid**.

With a **weakened church**, **corruption** grew around them, and in their **own lives** too.

In the time of the Apostles the church in the region of Galatia neglected good teachings.

The **main point** of the book of Galatians was to **correct the error of the legalists** (the **Judaizers**).

Like so many even today, they believed **that their own deeds** removed their guilt.

But the **Bible** always taught that we're **redeemed** by **grace alone**.

Being made right with God is the work of the promised **Savior alone**, and applied individually by **faith alone**.

The words "**taught**" and "**teacher**" here are forms of the **Greek word "katae-che-o"** (κατηχέω).

Our words "**catechize**" and "**catechism**" come from that **Greek word**.

We **need to be taught** about **God's truth and promises**,

and about **how we should then live** as Redeemed children of God.

But when God's people **aren't taught well**, they **fall for cute stories, entertainment** instead of humble worship, and a **religion of self-effort**.

In **2 Timothy 4:2-5** Paul **encouraged Timothy** to **focus on the teaching** part of his ministry: He said, **preach the word**; be ready in season and out of season;

reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

For the time is coming when people will **not endure sound teaching**, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn **away from listening to the truth** and **wander off into myths**.

As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

The teaching ministry of the church is the primary work of the Elders.

All Elders are to be **teachers**. That's the **main distinctive** of their job description in the Bible.

Some Elders are **more extensively trained** to **analyze** the Scriptures carefully, and to **teach** the people during **worship** and in **classes**.

These are called **Pastors** because they **shepherd God's people** in the ways God taught us.

The other Elders are **Ruling Elders** who help **apply God's teachings** to church.

They are to guide and counsel the church in its policies and practices.

But **all** of these leaders are to be **careful instructors** of **God's word** to his people.

Good teaching isn't easy work, and it's **not** done with **anecdotes** or with **tricky rhyming** words.

Every Scripture passage needs to be **carefully** and **cautiously studied** as it was originally written.

The **context has to be understood**, and how it all **fits in** with the **rest of Scripture**.

Elders have a **high level of responsibility** and **answer to God** for everything they teach.

It was the failure of the Elders that let the heretics deceive the Galatian churches.

The **first part** of this Epistle was taken up with **correcting** their **misguided teachings**.

In **this part** it's about **how** they're **made able** to do their work.

The Elder's work of teaching God's word **isn't considered to be labor for their provisions.**

They're **not forbidden to work on the Sabbath.** It's *service* for God's Kingdom.

But those who teach in the church **are to be provided for.**

That **responsibility** falls on **those who learn**, those **guided by the church teachers.**

Paul took this up in **1 Timothy 5:17-18**

Let the **elders who rule well** be considered worthy of double honor,
especially **those who labor in preaching and teaching.**

For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,"
and, "**The laborer deserves his wages.**"

The Reformed commentator **John Gill** explained this passage this way about **those who teach.**

He said, "... such as are under their instructions ought to **impart of their worldly substance** to them,
for their honourable and comfortable **support and maintenance**; for since they spend their time,
and make use of their talents, gifts, and abilities, for their instruction in spiritual things,
it is but reasonable (and no such great matter) that they partake of their carnal things;
and especially since it is **the will and ordinance of Christ**, that **they that preach the Gospel should live of it.**"

There is a **connection between all human efforts and their results.**

7. Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, **that will he also reap.**

8. For the one who **sows to his own flesh** will from the flesh reap corruption,
but the one who **sows to the Spirit** will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

Those who do the work of **planting crops, reap the results** of their labor.

It's the way our Creator made things to work so we can produce our needed food.

Sowing to the flesh here is used the way it was earlier in this epistle.

It's **not** against all **physical labor.**

It's labor that **ignores the spiritual dimension** of things. It **focuses on the physical parts.**

So **sowing to the Spirit** also follows what Paul explained before in chapter 5.

It's **laboring with the spiritual dimension of life in mind.**

It's work that **promotes the honoring of God** and **respects his ways** in all we do.

Doing what's truly good is **evidence** of God's work of **grace** in the sower's life.

It shows that they're **redeemed**, and according to God's promise they will **reap eternal life.**

God rewards the faithful labor done with his glory in mind.

We should also **adequately reward all those who labor for us in other ways to help provide for our needs.**

But we should be careful **not to grow tired of doing what's really good.**

9. And **let us not grow weary of doing good**, for in due season we will reap, **if we do not give up.**

10. So then, as we have opportunity, let us **do good to everyone**,
and **especially** to those who are of **the household of faith.**

Laboring for God's Kingdom is our **purpose** on earth. It's our **obligation**, and ought to be our **joy.**

The principle here is much larger than just the **support of the teachers** in the church.

In **doing good**, we all shouldn't let ourselves **become wearied and give up.**

Like any work we do, even in doing good things we **can get discouraged** at times.

We have to work with limited **time**, limited **resources**, limited **strength**, and limited **abilities.**

Each of these things should be **budgeted** very carefully so that we **don't get discouraged.**

One of the **common problems** brought to Pastors for **personal counseling**

is the **discouragement** people feel when they **get overwhelmed** even by **doing good things.**

You can't do everything perfectly that you see needs to be done.

Knowing our limitations is as important as **knowing our opportunities.**

We need to set **reasonable goals** where we prioritize our **duties, resources, opportunities, and abilities**
to **best promote and enjoy the blessings God brings our way.**

But **don't give in to evil temptations** that lure you to use what God gives you *unwisely*.

It warns us not to "*grow weary*".

Keep on track budgeting your time, resources, strengths, and abilities **without getting discouraged**.

There **are obstacles that can discourage us** from **advancing God's Kingdom**.

Evil is coordinated by the *Great Deceiver* to **distract** us from honoring God's ways.

Many people have been **lured away** by material goals, popularity -- even family issues.

God's priorities are the *good things* Paul is writing about here.

Hard times economically or personally are **never good reasons** to abandon our obligations in God's Kingdom.

God's **truth, glory, and people** should be our **focus** while we live here on earth.

Our **families and friends** should be cared for, and encouraged to do the same.

Every opportunity should be **grasped and used to it's fullest potential**.

In **1 Corinthians 15:58** the same Apostle said, "**Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.**"

Sometimes, the work we do isn't rewarded right away or in ways we can see.

But the **best rewards** are those that are **yet to come**.

God never goes back on his promise to reward his people *eternally*.

That you're rewarded at all is because of the **work Christ did** in redeeming you,

and because of the **good** he did which by grace is **credited to those he represented on the cross**.

All who are truly **redeemed by God's grace** are called to *responsible Kingdom Citizenship*.

Reach out to the world God sends you into every day.

Promote his truth and glory and **develop** the **Holy Spirit's fruit** in your life.

Read and study **God's word**. **Pray humbly** to God through every day,

Worship God in the ways he teaches us, and **encourage one another** in our daily living for God's glory.

Do your part to **preserve the peace and purity** of the church.

Paul adds: "... especially to those who are of the household of faith."

We have a **special duty** to do what's right and good **toward those in the church**.

The *household of faith* is our **spiritual family**.

We need to look on the **needs of other believers** as a *priority* over those who are yet without Christ.

We need to be sure of our **care for all those in our church family**.

We need to prayerfully **plan** our **time, resources, strength** and **abilities** to put them to **good and faithful use** to **promote Christ's Kingdom and church** with **nothing else getting in the way**.

And as we serve we need to give **thankful praise** to the one who **made us and redeemed us by grace**,
to the one who promises to enable us to do what we can't accomplish on our own.

The Bible quotations in this article are from the English Standard Version of the Bible unless otherwise noted.

ESV

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Greek Galatians 6:6-10

6. Κοινωνεῖτω δὲ ὁ κατηχούμενος τὸν λόγον τῷ κατηχοῦντι ἐν πᾶσιν ἀγαθοῖς.

7. Μὴ πλανᾶσθε, Θεὸς οὐ μωκτερίζεται· ὃ γὰρ ἐὰν σπείρῃ ἄνθρωπος, τοῦτο καὶ θερίσει·

8. ὅτι ὁ σπείρων εἰς τὴν σάρκα ἑαυτοῦ ἐκ τῆς σαρκὸς θερίσει φθοράν, ὁ δὲ σπείρων εἰς τὸ πνεῦμα ἐκ τοῦ πνεύματος θερίσει ζωὴν αἰώνιον.

9. τὸ δὲ καλὸν ποιοῦντες μὴ ἐκκακῶμεν· καιρῷ γὰρ ἰδίῳ θερίσομεν μὴ ἐκλυόμενοι.

10. Ἄρα οὖν ὡς καιρὸν ἔχομεν, ἐργαζώμεθα τὸ ἀγαθὸν πρὸς πάντας, μάλιστα δὲ πρὸς τοὺς οἰκειοὺς τῆς πίστεως.

Next Study (last study in Galatians): 03.10 Study #17 "**A New Creation**" (6:11-18)