

Trinity Lutheran Church

Norman, Oklahoma – www.tlcnorman.org

The Book of Galatians

Theme: “The True Gospel You Have Received”

Date: 11-20-22

Lesson: 33 – Chapter 6:9-10

AS WE HAVE
THEREFORE OPPORTUNITY,
LET US DO GOOD
UNTO ALL MEN,
ESPECIALLY UNTO THEM
WHO ARE OF THE
HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH.



TEXT AND STUDY

(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.

(Job 42:12; Ps 126:5; Prov 3:27; 1 Cor 15:58; 2 Cor 4:1; Eph 2:19; 1 Tim 5:8; Titus 2:14; Heb 12:3; 1 Pet 4:17; Rev 2:10)

Luther's Commentary – Vol. 27

9. And let us not grow weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we do not lose heart.

He says: [“And let us not grow weary] in well-doing.” Yet he adds the words “in due season we shall reap.” “Sowing to **the spirit**,” therefore, means doing good works; “sowing to the flesh” means doing evil works.

This doctrine he now extends in length, and he exhorts to perseverance through the comfort of the recompense to come. For not he who begins but he who perseveres will be saved (Matt. 10:22). It is easy to begin with one work, but to finish and to persevere is hard and subject to many hindrances that press in opposition. This fact is of such a nature, says Jerome, that while sinners daily increase in evil works, we grow weary in good works.

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

Paul extends the doctrine in breadth, which is no less difficult than the length. “Let us do good to all men,” to heathen, Jews, the thankful, the unthankful, friends, enemies, neighbors, strangers. In short, just as is said of love, no person is regarded. Behold, how great the breadth of **Christian benevolence** is! For it must be all-encompassing, as **Christ** also says in Matt. 5:46: “If you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do this?”

Nevertheless, Paul gives precedence to those who are of the household of faith, because we have been bound to them with a closer tie, inasmuch as they are from the same house, the church, and from **the same household of Christ**, and have one faith, one Baptism, one hope, **one Lord**, and everything the same.

The teachers themselves, on whose account Paul had begun this doctrine, are also meant here, in order to conclude the doctrine with reference to the same people, as if he wanted “those who are of the household of faith” to be understood as being **the servants of Christ** who teach faith in His house.

The apostle uses the words “as we have opportunity,” namely, that the present life is the time of sowing, as **Christ** also says (John 9:4): “Work while it is day; night comes, when no one can work.”

These statements contend against purgatory. Therefore I understand the apostle to be speaking about works of this life, and that his word says nothing about purgatory, as I have stated elsewhere.

LIFE APPLICATION

“As we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

How does this work out in the life of our congregation?