

July 26th Sunday 2015

Text: Galatians 6:9-10

Topic: When we get tired

There are times when all of us are tired of doing God's work. Maybe we are discouraged because people's lives are not changing. Maybe we feel no one appreciates our hard work. In these two verses, Paul gives us some encouragement, "Let us not become weary in doing good," Why? "...for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." God knows when we become discouraged and want to quit or give up. But God is also in charge of all things; he sees the future. When the time is right in God's plan we "will reap a harvest." All our hard work will pay off. We know this from our farming experience; there is a lot of work to do before the time of harvest so we do not give up but continue the work.

In verse 10, Paul says since we know the harvest is coming; let us look for opportunities to do God's work. We are to do good (help others) whenever we have a chance. We should especially look for opportunities to help our brothers and sisters in the Lord. Be aware of your Christian family and be willing to assist them as needed.

Lesson: Whenever we feel tired of doing God's work, we should not be discouraged, we should cry to the Lord for He will hear and answer us. We will not be able to do His work by our strength but by His power.

Prayer: Lord, I do get tired and I see only the work of today. Help me know that you have the plan and that the harvest is coming. Help me to see the opportunities you put in front of me today so that I might "do good." Amen

July 27th Monday 2015

Text: Galatians 6:12-16

Text: An Inside Job

In northeast Nigeria we have been exposed to violent acts from an extremist group of religious zealots bent on creating a Muslim state in this portion of the country. The question on everyone's mind is why doesn't the government put a stop to all of this? The answer is that it seems to be an "inside job." What that means is that it appears that some members of the government, rather than preventing the violence, are involved in it.

In Paul's final word of this letter he is contrasting the inner workings of Christ's Spirit in believers with the outward marks of circumcision being proposed by his Jewish opponents. Paul's desire for all professing believers is that Christ could be found in them (us). The Jews who were demanding that Gentile converts be circumcised were also expecting these early Christians to follow the laws of Moses in order to be acceptable to Israel. In the entire letter Paul has been laying out his argument showing that only faith in Jesus Christ is required to be acceptable in God's eyes. Faith in Jesus plus anything else as a requirement for salvation is what Paul calls "legalism."

As we wind down our month long look at Paul's letter to the Galatians, we can easily recall the theme Paul was trying to make G.A. L. (Going Against Legalism). Faith in Jesus as Lord and Saviour is the only acceptable way to be counted righteous and approved by God. Trying to follow the law only alienates us from Christ and makes us to fall away from God's unmerited favor in our life (Gal 5:4). Besides, "not even those who are circumcised obey the law." (6:13).

By our belief and reliance on Jesus we have become a new creation (6:15). No outward marks or human effort does us any good. The Christian life is Christ working in us – it is an inside job.

Lesson: Are you led by the flesh or by the Spirit?

Prayer: Dear Jesus, I put my trust in you this day. Work in me the things you want changed in my life. Transform me from the inside out so that others may see your work in me and that I may glorify the Father in heaven. In your name I pray this prayer, Amen.

July 28th Tuesday 2015

Text: Galatians 6

Topic: Paul's Final Remarks

“SEE WHAT LARGE LETTERS I USE AS I WRITE TO YOU WITH MY OWN HAND!” (Gal 6:11) It is believed that the Apostle Paul's signature and mark of authenticity when writing his letters was that he took up the pen himself and wrote a line. Many experts believe that Paul suffered from some problem with his eyes. The large letters he used, which distinguishes Paul as the author, may have been because of his eye-sight issues.

Another verse that brings us more questions than answers is verse 17. After arguing his point about the uselessness of circumcision (6:12-15), Paul closes his letter by asserting that he has marks on his body that do mean something. He doesn't tell us what these “marks of Jesus” are that he has on his own body – we can only guess. We can only assume that over the course of his ministry career, so far, he has acquired these “scars.” Perhaps he mentions them because they serve to proclaim who he is and whom he serves.

The final verse closes the letter as he opened, wishing his readers to receive the grace (unmerited favour) of our Lord Jesus Christ, and that his Spirit be with all – especially those of you who went through this devotional booklet on Paul's letter to the Galatians (my words not Paul's). This closing or benediction was the accepted way ancient letters ended. Sometimes these benedictions were used in services as antiphonal readings (where the entire congregation recites the closing of an epistle). At EYN, our traditional closing is taken from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, chapter 13 verse 14: “May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” (NIV) Now, go and serve the Lord. Amen

Lesson: Let the Spirit of God take the lead in all you do.

Prayer: Dear Lord, I pray your Spirit to lead me in all I do and in my life, in the name of Jesus, Amen.

July 29 Wednesday 2015

Text: 1 Samuel 1:9-18

Topic: Let your Hope Soar

In life, some instances occur that activates one's hope to life. Sometimes, some things try to break our hopes but in the book of 1 Samuel 1:9-18 we can see the hope in Hanna. Hanna persistently prayed at Shiloh even when all seemed not to be working she kept on praying. But when God blessed her, all those days of tears and pain disappeared. Yes her hope was alive.

Lesson: Does your hope soar?

Prayer: O Lord, i pray that my faith be founded in you so that no matter the situation my hope will remain alive to hold on to your promises. in Jesus name, amen.

July 30 Thursday 2015

Text: Proverbs 11:10-11

Topic: What will you be remembered for?

Do you call yourself a Christian while you life is filled with lies and deceit, or evil, oppression, wickedness and all sort of evil? if we call ourselves believers, the Light of the Lord should be seen through us. we should flee evil. Examine yourself and see if you are wanting in these things (lies, corruption oppression, blackmail etc.).

When the righteous prosper the people rejoice, but when the wicked die the people shout for Joy.

Lesson: Repent of evil!

Prayer: O Lord, Forgive me of these evil deeds. Help me through you Spirit that directs so that i may live as Christ did, amen.

July 31 Friday 2015

Text: Judges 16:6-10

Topic: What are You Doing About Your Weakness

What are you doing regarding the weakness that you have discovered? Every human being has his weakness but if you come to the Lord with it and you follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, the Lord will give you the enablement to overcome this weakness. Delilah was the weakness of Samson which he did not take charge of. Wisdom is when you acknowledge your weakness, take responsibility and seek the face of the Lord. many believers know their weakness but fail to tackle it because they feel it doesn't pose a threat to their relationship with the Lord.

Lesson: Your weakness will at last end you in damnation if you fail to tackle it.

Prayer: O Lord grant me the grace to tackle my weakness, to flee from it by your grace so I don't fall, in the name of Jesus, amen.

Introduction

Isaiah was a prophet when Israel was divided into two kingdoms, the Israel North and South. The Northern kingdom has sinned greatly while southern sliding down the same road. The two are heavy in perverting justice, oppressing the poor, turning from God to idols and looking for military aid from pagan nations rather than the living God. Isaiah addresses these issues primarily to Judah and sometimes the North. He repeatedly warns them against their wickedness and predicts the Babylonian exiles. He also offered comfort with promise from God as hope. The message is that God will bring people from exiles to Jerusalem (remnant).

The righteous suffering will bring Salvation and a new righteous kingdom will be formed. Today our nations are going down the same road of wickedness and we are facing troubles which seem to have no end but there is hope. As we read through, may we drop our wickedness, injustice and disregard for weak and be saved through the grace of our Lord Jesus.

August 1st Saturday 2015

Text: Isaiah 16:1 – 13

Topic: The throne of love

The land of the Moabites is very rich and all the people take pride in their wealth. When the Lord stretched out His hand against them because of their pride, there was destruction and decay all over. They sought protection from the people of Judah, but their attitude clearly shows that they did not want the God of the Israelites. Though a very small nation, the people of Moab refused to totally submit to the true God because of their pride. This brought untold hardship on their land.

However, because of God's mercy and love, He will establish a throne of righteousness, justice and love. He will save whosoever comes to him and acknowledges His authority.

Lesson: The Moabites took pride in earthly things to their detriment. It will be foolish for us Christians today, to seek security in the earthly things the world worships as God e.g. money, possession, wealth etc.

Prayer: Lord father, help us to acknowledge the throne of love which you will establish and to accept the one who will rule in righteousness and truth. Amen.