

## Shaped for Glory

TEXT: “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”  
(Gal. 6:9)

THESIS: If we want to spiritually fit up in Heaven, we must first shape ourselves on earth in service and obedience to God.

### INTRODUCTION:

1. Illustration:
  - a. During the great depression a good man lost his job, exhausted his savings, and forfeited his home.
    - i. His grief was multiplied by the sudden death of his precious wife.
    - ii. The only thing he had left, was his faith in God, and it was weakening.
  - b. One day he was combing the neighborhood looking for work and he stopped to watch some men who were doing the stonework on a church building.
    - i. One of the men was skillfully chiseling a triangular piece of rock.
    - ii. Not seeing a spot where it would fit, the good man asked, “Where are you going to put that?”
      - (1) The man pointed toward the top of the building and said, “See that little opening up there near the spire? That’s where it goes.”
      - (2) “I’m shaping it down here so it will fit up there.”
  - c. Tears filled this good man’s eyes as he walked away.
    - i. Those words resonated with him “Shaping it down here so it will fit up there.”
2. Some of us may be going through some troublesome and hard times because the blows from the hammer and chisel of life hurts.
  - a. But if we hold on to our faith, we can recall that our difficulties are but, “light affliction, which is but for a moment . . .” (2 Cor. 4:17)
  - b. Likewise, the harsh blows to the outward man often brings the greatest strength to the inner man. (2 Cor. 4:16)
3. Therefore, I would suggest, that we reflect on a clear understanding of Gal. 6:9:
  - a. To, let us not be weary in well doing.
  - b. For, in due season we shall reap.
  - c. If we faint not.

### DISCUSSION:

- I. LET US NOT BE WEARY IN WELL DOING
  - A. My brethren, there are many things in life that keeps us busy.
    1. But, it is all the more important that we continue staying busy for the Lord.
    2. Likewise, it is equally important that we do not give up becoming weary in our work.
  - B. We are to continue to shape our spiritual lives here on earth, so that when we pass

from earth, we are ready to fit into Heaven.

- C. Now, the word “weary” means to be weak or to fail in the heart meaning to lose heart.
1. Paul wrote, “But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.” (2 Thess. 3:13)
    - a. Yet, this can be easier said than done.
  2. But, when we rely upon eternal things and the eternal God as our comfort, direction, and life shaper, we can overcome or prevail.
- D. The Scriptures tell us to “Be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” (1 Cor. 15:58)
1. In our service to God, we may think to ourselves, “What is the point?”
    - a. “No one is listening to me when I speak about God.”
    - b. “Every time I talk to someone, they usually go the other way.”
  2. But, there is so much that can be done to help or to encourage others that God said our labors are not vain as long as we press on and do not quit.
    - a. It does not matter how insignificant it may seem to us, it is not empty or fruitless.
      - (1) And thinking about this, some Christians may not see all the good that they do because they may only get to talk to a person one time about Jesus Christ and then never see them again.
    - b. However, we know that when we are working for the Lord, sometimes there is much opposition, added to this, there is the pressure of knowing that there is so much to do where the church will spend much time and love in laboring for the Lord.
      - (1) Yet, when working so hard, since some Christians may not see all the good that is accomplished, they begin to feel as though others are ungrateful and the Christians become disheartened.
      - (2) But, Paul addresses this and exhorts Christians not to give up, but to persevere and, “press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 3:14)
- E. Furthermore, when thinking about not letting ourselves get weary, let us be cautious to not be persuaded towards evil while doing the good.
1. It is curious how prone we all are to give in to other things and to give out in doing the good which somehow becomes unimaginative or bland to us.
  2. We may become bored or express tiredness in our efforts, but these symptoms are largely mental.
  3. Notice if you will, the example of these five Christians:
    - a. # 1: As a young Christian, one was very active playing sports for hours on end with little to no rest, but when it came time for him to

evangelize, he became too out of breath to walk up his own street in the neighborhood to ask another for a Bible study.

- b. # 2: A Christian got together for a party or celebration for many hours and had a great time there talking to her friends and even to strangers about several topics, but O how she became weary in her worship to God for an hour or two and became so weary that she refused or forget to talk to her own Christian brothers and sisters in Christ?
  - c. # 3: How many Christians do we know that can stay up real late Saturday night hanging out with friends, watching movies or going to some community or sporting event and then cannot find the strength to get up on Sunday mornings or even stay awake if they come for services?
  - d. # 4: One such man went to a musical concert where he stood for over three hours singing with the music, but became exhausted and uncomfortable when asked to stand during a couple songs and a prayer.
  - e. # 5: You know, some folks work very hard in life and may be so tired from work when they get home that now they are too tired to win souls to Christ which is their first obligation as a Christian.
4. My question is this: “How will these kinds of Christians possibly shape themselves with worldliness down here and still expect to fit up there in Heaven?”
- F. Notice that when Jesus was on the earth, the Scriptures record that he went about doing good. (Acts 10:38)
1. Also, listen and read for yourselves the scriptures in Acts 9:36-39, “Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did. And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid her in an upper chamber. And forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring him that he would not delay to come to them. Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them.”
  2. Both Jesus and Dorcas and many others have gone about doing good.
  3. Likewise, we can also go about doing good.
  4. We know that we can do good because when we read the Bible, we discover that, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in

righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.” (2 Tim 3:16, 17)

5. The Bible does a complete job in showing us how to do good works and to be spiritually ready.

## II. IN DUE SEASON WE SHALL REAP

- A. How many of us have made the statement, “I don’t want to wait, I want it now?”
  1. Often when we say this, we become as little children thinking that everything from money to toys to cars grows on magical trees just waiting for us to go over and pluck off whatever we want.
  2. But, how many of us know that when we want something, we have to work hard and be patient?
- B. When God said the words, “in due season” he meant that in a short while or time or at its proper season things will be ready.
  1. When reading the story of the sower in Luke 8, we notice that when the sower threw the seeds down, he was not expecting to harvest it the same day.
    - a. While this may sound great, we know that seeds take time to grow, blossom and then the fruit comes.
    - b. Likewise, we must be willing to give time for things to develop.
  2. Furthermore, when we think about our spiritual lives, we cannot expect to be fully seasoned with the Gospel as soon as we are baptized.
    - a. Neither can we expect to receive heaven once we obey the Gospel because it too, is given in due time.
    - b. And, while we know that our physical bodies are not designed to live for eternity, unless a man perseveres in doing good to the end of life, he can hope for no reward.
    - c. But we ought all desire that hope and have a strong consolation or comfort in that hope, “. . . who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;” (Heb. 6:18-19)
- C. You know, each day our physical bodies grow older, even though we may not want to admit it sometimes.
  1. But by growing older, that means that we are one day closer to eternity.
  2. And when the harvest (meaning the day of judgment) comes, only then shall we shall we reap to receive the full reward of all our self-denials, of all of our weariness and charities.
    - a. But until that day, we must continue walking on the strait and narrow road because we should want to be one of the few who

finds eternal life (Matt. 7:13-14).

- b. So, this means that we must continue to carry our cross daily (Lk. 9:23) bearing our own burdens. (Gal. 6:5)
3. “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap . . .” (Gal. 6:9)

### III. IF WE FAINT NOT

- A. Now, this is not to say that we will not get tired.
  1. It indicates that we are to continue doing something and to not give up.
  2. Faint means to be relaxed, but here it tells us to not be loosed like the limbs of the weary.
  3. It is true that we may be exhausted from time to time by living the Christian life, but we cannot be exhausted as a result of giving in to evil.
    - a. This is what Satan wants us to do.
    - b. He would just love to frustrate and aggravate a Christian to the point that he just feels that he should take a break from his works.
- B. Notice that, “Jesus called his disciples unto him, and said, I have compassion on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days, and have nothing to eat: and I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way.” (Matt. 15:32)
  1. Jesus said in the Bible that he is, “. . . the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.” (Jn. 6:35)
  2. Thus, Jesus is our spiritual meal and as long as we put ourselves in him, we shall never give up.
- C. You know, Paul told the Christians who were at Corinth that, “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.” (1 Cor. 10:13)
  1. Yes, temptations can get the best of us when we are not looking, but we must be able and willing to repent, turning from bad ways and pick ourselves back up.
  2. Remember that John wrote to be faithful until death. (Rev. 2:10)
  3. We as Christians are in the position where we do not have to give up or faint even when we are weary.
- D. Paul said, “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” (Phil. 4:13)
  1. This means that God will take care of us if we are seeking him first in life.
  2. Furthermore, “Consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:” (Heb. 12:3, 5).

- a. When we do wrong and become weary, it is by the word of God that puts our spiritual lives in check to see if we are still in line with eternity with him.
  - b. Remember that God does not want anyone to perish (2 Pet. 3:9).
  - c. And so, he has made Christianity in such a way that if we seek first the kingdom of God (Matt. 6:33) and be not conformed to this world (Rom. 12:1-2) and present ourselves as his servants (Gal. 1:10), we will not fail.
- E. Now, how might we continue on?
- 1. God has given us the assurance that we can remain faithful because he does not lie (Heb. 6:18).
  - 2. Jesus, “spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;” (Lk. 18:1).
    - a. Prayer gives us encouragement not to faint.
  - 3. Furthermore, we receive his mercy for, “seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;” (2 Cor. 4:1).
  - 4. And, “whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.” (1 Jn. 5:4)
- F. We must be willing to see the bigger picture.
- 1. Paul said, “For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.” (2 Cor. 4:16)
  - 2. Each day we live for God, we are renewed.
  - 3. It is only when we forget to live for God and confuse our priorities, that we lose sight of him, his mercy, and his love.
  - 4. Let us always continue to be in service to God.
    - a. Let us not forget or become weary in his work and in helping other souls to Christ.
    - b. For, when we do these things, we do not have to worry about the day of harvest.
    - c. Just don’t give up and faint before reaching the Christian goal, which is, Heaven.

#### CONCLUSION:

- 1. At best, life is short and we do not have long to wait to give account for our time and life.
  - a. James said, “Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.” (Jam. 4:14)
  - b. So, the difficulties and pains we go through in life are very short lived.
- 2. Furthermore, we must see that a Christian’s payday will be here soon and with each passing day, we are just that much closer to it.
  - a. This is why Jesus warns us that there must be a sense of urgency about our life and work.
  - b. He said, “We must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night

cometh, when no man can work" (John 9:4).

3. There will come a time when we are no longer able to work and we are standing before the judgment seat of Christ.
  - a. Therefore, wouldn't it be marvelous if we did not faint
  - b. But, we had lived our lives in content, continuing to deal without delay, never losing heart, nor becoming weak in our Christianity.
4. Comfort, believe and strengthen yourselves in the words that if we are faithful until death, that Jesus Christ will give you your glorious, beautiful, virtuous, everlasting crown.
5. This is the time, this is the day to begin or continue in shaping your life down here so it will fit up there, next to God in Heaven.