

Not Becoming Weary

I always seek to preach sermons that will be applicable and helpful. We are in a very difficult set of circumstances, and it is a good time to reflect on our zeal and the power of our commitment to serving God.

Hebrews was written as the destruction of Jerusalem drew ever closer. The church had been very zealous in the early days as recorded in Acts, but as the end of that age drew closer, and persecutions began to become more evident, discouragement was setting in.

At times like these, when physical blessings become unstable, we start to find out how much of our relationship with God is based on our material blessings and how much is based on the eternal and spiritual blessings. Let's turn to Heb 10:32-39

But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings: 33 partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated; 34 for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven. 35 Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: 37 "For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry. 38 Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him." 39 But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul. Heb 10:32-39

There are some very important things to consider in here.

Before the transition from zeal, gratitude and excitement to discouragement and weakness, certain steps have to be taken, and we ought to be able to see them. Jesus and His apostles all warned against this.

*you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and **have not become weary**. Rev 2:3*

*For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, **lest you become weary and discouraged** in your souls. Heb 12:3*

*But as for you, brethren, **do not grow weary in doing good**. 2 Thess 3:13-14*

*And **let us not grow weary while doing good**, for in due season we shall reap if we do not **lose heart (or give up)**. Gal 6:9*

While discouragement is one of the main causes of weariness, it is not the only one.

Cares of world, desires for other things, pleasures of life Mt 13 – sower

Persecutions, tribulations, trials (Mt 13)

Forgotten the cleansing of sin (2Pet 1:8-11)

Guilt and remorse (David)

Ingratitude of those we help. (Moses)

Lack of results from our labor (Elijah)

Regardless of the circumstances, we have to shake our heads, wake ourselves up and either keep going or get going again. Those who lived before us have lived through similar circumstances and were successful. We can too if we keep our hearts in the right place.

But as for you, brethren, **do not grow weary in doing good**. 2Th. 3:13-14

And **let us not grow weary while doing good**, for in due season we shall reap if we do not **lose heart (or give up)**. Gal. 6:9

Difference between wanting to do it and feeling forced & compelled to do it and at times like

these when it takes more to do it, we start to find out which one's are motivating us.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. Rom. 12:1

For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's. 1 Cor. 6:20

Gratitude, Love, Respect, Awe, Reverence.....

Are we still grateful?

Does it lead us to a sense of duty, not forced, but enjoyed and willingly shouldered?

Do our feelings of being highly favored lead us to an attitude of zeal and diligence?

If we allow these things to do what they were designed for, we will be highly motivated and excited to do our part.

I always think of Paul and Jesus when I start getting weary. Paul's words in Philippians have always inspired me to work harder and be more patient.

Not that I have already obtained, or am already made perfect: but I press on, if so be that I may lay hold on that for which also I was laid hold on by Christ Jesus. 13 Brethren, I could not myself yet to have laid hold: but one thing (I do), forgetting the things which are behind, and stretching forward to the things which are before. 14 I press on toward the goal unto the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, be thus minded: and if in anything ye are otherwise minded, this also shall God reveal unto you: 16 only, whereunto we have attained, by that same (rule) let us walk. Phil 3:12-16

What motivated Paul can also motivate us.

if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. Phil 3:11

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing. 2 Tim 4:7-8

What motivated Jesus can also motivate us.

Therefore let us also, seeing we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus the author and perfecter of (our) faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising shame, and hath sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Heb 12:1-2

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, Phil 2:5-10

There are going to be ups and downs to life. So far, for most of us, this hasn't taken a great toll on our financial and physical well being. But we aren't through it yet. As I said earlier, this is a good time for us to all reflect on how much our physical blessings are making us into faithful Christians. If they are all removed, will we still have enough strength to go on?

God gave us a much greater motivation: The resurrection from the dead.

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. 1Cor 15:58