

A WALK DOING GOOD TO ONE'S TEACHER GALATIANS 06:06–10

Introduction

Few people are as important to a society as are teachers. The relationship between teacher and student is a subject that is never stressed enough within the church. The present passage deals with this subject, in particular with the student's responsibilities to the teacher. Keep in mind that every believer is a student who sits at the feet of God's teachers whether they be ministers or Bible teachers.

- I. How to do good to a teacher: by sharing in the ministry of the teacher (v. 6).
- II. Why do good to a teacher (vv. 7-9).
- III. When to serve with a teacher: as we have opportunity (v. 10).

I. Galatians 06:06 *Sharing in the Ministry of the Teacher*

How does a believer do good to a teacher? Very simply, by communicating and sharing in the ministry of the teacher. This means much more than just giving financial support. Of course it means financial support, but as stated, it means much more. Note that Scripture is speaking directly to the *learner*, that is, to a believer in the church, to the person who is *taught in the Word of God*. The learner has a responsibility to the teacher just as the teacher has a responsibility to the learner. What is that responsibility? To share with the teacher in all good things and to participate in the ministry of the teacher. The learner shares in the ministry of the teacher by...

- *being present* when the teacher instructs.
- *being attentive and learning* what the teacher instructs.
- *sharing in discussions* of what the teacher instructs.
- *passing on* what the teacher instructs.
- *participating* with the teacher in his or her full ministry.
- *supporting* the teacher financially.
- *encouraging others* to come and learn from the teacher.

Note another point: the reference to the "Word" means the *Word of God*. A teacher should *always* be teaching the Word of God, and a learner should always be sure that he is sitting under a teacher who is teaching the Word of God.

Mat 10:9-10 *"Do not take along any gold or silver or copper in your belts; take no bag for the journey, or extra tunic, or sandals or a staff; for the worker is worth his keep."*

1 Cor 9:14 *In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.*

Phil 4:14 *Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles.*

1 Tim 5:17-18 *The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honour, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, "Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages."*

II. **Galatians 06:07–09** *Sowing and Reaping*

Why should believers do good to their teachers? Two very strong reasons are given.

1. A person can be deceived about facing the judgment of God. The word *deceived* (planasthe) means to be led astray. Some Galatians were being led astray in this matter. They were failing to share in the ministry of Paul, becoming critics instead of supporters. (See Gal. 1:1.) And note what attacking the teacher of God equals: it equals mocking God. The word "mocked" (mukterizetai) means to turn one's nose up at God. By rejecting God's minister, the teacher whom God had sent to them, the Galatians were rejecting God. They were not only mocking and turning their noses up at the teacher of God, but they were mocking God. However, Scripture declares in no uncertain terms: "God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows." If a man sows a life...

- that is not present when the teacher instructs
- that is not attentive and learning what the teacher instructs
- that does not pass on what the teacher instructs
- that does not participate with the teacher in his ministry
- that does not encourage others to learn from the teacher

...if a man sows this rejection, this turning up of the nose, he rejects and turns his nose up at God. And if he rejects God, he shall be rejected by God. Whatever a man sows toward his teacher, he reaps. He shall bear the judgment of his behaviour toward God's teacher.

- a. If a believer sows to please his flesh, his sinful nature, he will reap destruction (v. 8). If he does not listen to the teacher's warnings about the lusts of the flesh, he shall reap the lusts of the flesh. He will be overtaken by the appeal, pull, cravings, passion and lust...
- to worship as he desires
 - to seek his destiny from astrology and sorcery instead of prayer
 - to live as he pleases
 - to seek earthly position, power and honour
 - to strive against others as he pleases
 - to party as he likes
 - to have illicit sex
 - to hoard
 - to seek the things of this world

The list could go on and on, but the point is well understood. The human body perishes. It ages, dies and decays. If a person sows to the flesh (sinful nature), he shall go the way of all flesh: die and face the judgment of God. God will not be mocked. His teachers must be heard and their lessons learned, for they teach His Word. If a man rejects God's messenger and chooses to sow to his flesh (sinful nature), he shall reap the flesh and its destiny: death and judgment. God is not mocked; there is no escape.

Rom 8:6-8 *The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.*

Rom 8:13 *For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.*

Heb 9:27 *Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment.*

Job 4:8 *As I have observed, those who plough evil and those who sow trouble reap it.*

Prov 22:8 *He who sows wickedness reaps trouble, and the rod of his fury will be destroyed.*

Hosea 8:7 *"They sow the wind and reap the whirlwind. The stalk has no head; it will produce no flour. Were it to yield grain, foreigners would swallow it up."*

- b. If a believer sows to the Spirit, he will reap eternal life. If he listens to the teacher's exhortations about the salvation that is in God's Son and the life God expects him to live, he shall reap the Spirit of God. The Spirit of God will actually enter his life and take up residence there. The Spirit will implant the divine nature of God within the heart of the believer, the divine nature that shall live now and forever. The believer shall be enabled (given the strength and power) to live a life of..

- love • faithfulness • joy • gentleness • peace
- patience • self-control • goodness • kindness

And most important, as stated, he shall live forever with God in the new heavens and earth.

John 3:14-15 *"Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life."*

John 3:36 *"Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."*

John 5:24 *"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."*

John 12:25 *"The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life."*

Gal 6:8 *The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.*

2 Pet 3:13-14 *But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.*

Rev 21:1 *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.*

Hosea 10:12 *Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unploughed ground; for it is time to seek the Lord, until he comes and showers righteousness on you.*

2. A person shall reap if he does not give up in serving with his teacher. The believer or pupil must join with his teacher in the ministry if he wishes to reap the reward. He must not...

- withdraw
- allow weariness
- cave into persecution
- fall back
- allow routineness
- give into temptation
- slack off
- allow interruptions
- give into pressure

The pupil must be constant, steadfast and persevering — just as he is taught to be by his teacher. He must join right in with his teacher in serving the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Cor 15:58 *Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.*

2 Cor 4:1 *Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart.*

2 Tim 3:14 *But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it.*

Heb 12:1 *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.*

1 Pet 1:13 *Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.*

2 Pet 3:17 *Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position.*

Rev 3:11 *I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.*

Note the motive for not giving up: the student will reap at the proper time. The day of reaping is coming. God is going to reward the pupil (believer) who serves and works by the side of his teacher.

Mat 10:42 *“And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward.”*

Mat 25:23 *“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’”*

Mat 25:3 *“The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them.”*

John 4:36 *“Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together.”*

Eph 6:8 *Because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.*

III. Galatians 06:10 Serve at Every Opportunity

When is a believer to serve with his teacher? Very simply, at every opportunity. He is to join right in and do good deeds every chance he can. The idea is that he is...

- to stay alert to opportunity.
- to keep his eyes open to make opportunities.
- to rush to all opportunities.

When a teacher goes to meet a need, the believer must not miss the opportunity to join his teacher and minister with him. No chance to minister should ever be missed. Opportunity can be missed, and a believer can miss the privilege of ministering and of being more greatly rewarded in the glorious day of redemption. Therefore, he must stay alert and not be weary if he wants a full reward.

Note to whom he is to minister: to all people (unbelievers), but especially to believers. A person is responsible for his own family first; then he adds on the burden of the world. God has placed us all within a family and we are the ones who are first responsible for that family. Others may help us, but we are the ones who are primarily responsible. The same is true with the family of God. A Christian brother is the one who is responsible for the family of God. Therefore, we must always meet the needs of our Christian family before moving on out among unbelievers.

Luke 6:35 *“But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.”*

1 Tim 6:17-18 *Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.*

Heb 13:16 *And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.*

James 4:17 *Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.*

Psa 34:14 *Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.*

Psa 37:3 *Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. ■*