

Text: Galatians 6:9

Theme: We, The Weary

January 28, 2018

We like to be known. We like to be known for being brave, courageous, multi-talented, for being kind, caring, thoughtful. Yes, we like to be known for all the right things, but not one of us here this morning wants to be known by the focus of our text, to be known as being the weary. Yet, when we look at reality, we have no choice. We may be some or all of those other wonderful things, but along with those traits, one look at the core of our lives forces us to acknowledge that we are the weary.

I. According to God's original plan, weariness should not exist. A. But we are weary.

1. We are weary because the expectations are ever increasing. Those of you who have worked at the same location for more than ten years, how many of you are doing the same job you did ten years ago? Now, how many of you are expected to do far more than was expected of you ten years ago? Everywhere we go, the expectations are ever increasing. Productivity, profit, greed. Those are the big three that are running companies and lives today. We are growing weary or already weary because the expectations continue to increase beyond what God intended.

2. We are weary because of the ever-increasing pace of our world. How many of you would like to go back in time, to step back into the time of your grandparents? What would we discover? Within the first five minutes, we'd realize that life's pace was much slower, that people had more time for afternoon visits, and shooting the breeze across the fence. But then, we step back into our world and reality slaps us in the face. "Hurry up. Keep moving. You've got performance goals to meet. If you want to stand around and talk, do that on your own time!" Mentally stepping back and then returning, reminds us all too clearly that everyone is in a hurry.

3. We are weary because we're trying to do too much. God knew weariness would plague us. Notice the words, "Let us not become weary." Since forever, weariness has been, in many regards, a self-created reality. Weariness is partly our own fault because we are trying to do more than God designed us to do. Most of you have been there more than once. You work long and hard on an outdoor project, and what happens the next day? Or you work intensely at the office for days in a row and what happens? Suddenly, your body starts talking. Why? It's God's way of saying, "You're doing too much. Slow down before your body forces you to do it."

B. Because weariness is a reality, how do we reduce our weariness? 1. We reduce our weariness by accepting God's invitation. In Matthew 11, we find an invitation for relief. Jesus says, "Come unto Me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest." There it is! There's the perfect solution to our weariness in three words, "Come to Me." When we open up our hearts and we dump everything that's causing weariness into a huge pile at His feet, we say, "Lord, here I stand. I am weary. I am worn out. I am exhausted. I need You to show me a better path, to show me Your path. Here and now, I surrender my whole life to You." As we take that step, tomorrow and the day after that will be better days.

2. We reduce our weariness by functioning within God's expectations. "But I can't because..." and immediately God interrupts and says, "Yes, you can and I will show you how." When someone faces a major health issue, what's one of the first

things they learn? Many things they thought needed to be done actually didn't need to be done after all. If you're ready to get weariness under control, God's first question is, "How badly do you want it?" We can't do everything nor does God want us to do everything. We can't even do all the good things that appear honorable. We need to find the balance, a balance that matches God's expectations rather than our own.

3. We reduce our weariness by leaning on our God. Many of you recognize the words from Proverbs, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." We can burn the candle on both ends because we believe someday we will arrive. But someday will never come. We need a solution that works and God offers that solution as He says, "Lean on Me. I know the world you live in. I know the demands, the expectations, the hurried pace, and everything else about your world. I have the only solution that will work. Lean on Me; trust Me; follow My lead and I will show you a better path for tomorrow."

4. We reduce our weariness by remembering God's plan. Jeremiah writes, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future." As you sit here this morning, God knows. He knows everything that is causing your weariness. But even better, He knows every part, every piece, every detail of His plan for your life, a plan that's clearly a good plan. Weariness even while doing good isn't God's plan. His plan is to give us hope and a future, hope as in confidence that there's another way, and a future, a future here that gives us more opportunity for what He desires most - joy and praise.

5. We reduce our weariness by planning time for rest. Psalm 46 offers eight words that can change your life, "Be still and know that I am God." You don't have to do everything, fix everything, make sure everything is wonderful for everyone else. Running yourself ragged while doing good things is no better than running yourself ragged doing foolish things. Within this world, God still speaks those same powerful words, "Be still. Stop trying to do more. Just stop and allow your mind, body, and soul to be still before Me. Whatever is out there, I will handle if you will only choose to be still and believe with all your heart that I am God, that I have it all under control."

6. We reduce our weariness by remembering our life-goal. What's your life-goal? What do you need to get done? Now, what's God's life-goal for you, the goal He placed in your heart at Baptism? Paul writes in our text, "At the proper time, we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." The harvest? It isn't status, notoriety, or fame. The harvest is the crown of life, the joy of life without weariness. We are not here to accumulate, to create the most wonderful inheritance possible for our kids. We are here to prepare ourselves for there. As we remember where we are going, we find the path here that fulfills God's plan, "Let us not become weary while doing good."

7. You may be known now or in the future for many important and prestigious things, but to be known where it matters most, to be known in God's kingdom now and in eternity, we need to first be known as "We, the weary." Only then can we be known as, "We, the victorious." Amen.