

IT'S ALWAYS TOO SOON TO QUIT

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Turn in your Bibles to Galatians. I changed my title but not my text. I was going to preach on, "I'm Tired." I still have the same text, but I changed the title. Galatians 6 — that is right after chapter 5. Galatians 6:9-10: *And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.*

Our Father, we thank You for this day, for those You have saved, for those who openly confess Thee and follow Thee in baptism, and Lord, for the moving of Your spirit in our hearts. We thank You for the response of our people, and we pray this evening that You would write this passage of Scripture upon our hearts and that we would not be able to soon forget it. Help us, Father, that we may not be weary in well doing. In Jesus' name, fill us with Thy Spirit that we may speak in Your power and strength. We will thank you. Amen.

The title of my sermon is, "It's Always Too Soon to Quit." You have heard the expression, and you will hear it again: the world is full of quitters. Many missionaries by the scores have left the mission field. Many pastors in greater numbers have left the pastorate. Many musicians, deacons, bus workers, evangelists, husbands, wives, and young people have said, "I quit." This verse tells us that it is always too soon to quit. It is always, always too soon to quit. Notice the warning: *And let us not be weary in well doing . . .* Let us look at these words and how they are used in three or four passages of Scripture, and then we will see what the emphasis is in this Scripture. Luke 18:1: *And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;* That word *faint* is the same word that is used in Galatians. It simply means that I am not to cave in because of delayed answer to prayer. In 2 Corinthians 4, the word *faint* is used in light of a temptation to compromise the Word of God. 2 Corinthians 4:1-2: *Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;* (That is the same word. We are not to quit.) *But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.* When tempted to compromise in light of the ministry, we are to refuse to quit preaching the Word of God as it is. 2 Corinthians 4:16: *For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.* We are not to faint; though outwardly there is pressure and suffering, we are to refuse to quit because of the fact of the future. Galatians 6 is talking about Christian conduct in the face of an evil example and about the temptation to relax and to relax the effort. It is not the faintness because of physical fatigue, but it is the matter of the will. It is the matter of thinking and of relaxation of the will, not a matter of faintness of strength. Some people have the attitude of hopelessness, "Well, what is the use? I quit." Discouragement is a number one killer in Christians lives. A man who is discouraged does not think right. A man who is discouraged does not act right. A man who is discouraged does not pray right. He cannot see right. David faced Goliath. He was a little boy, and he faced Goliath. David had a sling shot. Goliath had a sword and an armor bearer. David was out-numbered and out-weighted, but he was not discouraged. One day, discouragement got a hold of him. God had protected David for many, many years, but David said, "There is nothing better; I should quit." When he quit, he forgot. He forgot his own testimony of how God delivered him out of the hand of the lion and out of the paw of the bear. At his side was a sword that he used to kill Goliath. He forgot the very sword that he held in his hand as an instrument to remind him that God had delivered him in days gone by. When we quit, our memory fails. When we quit, our thinking fails. We are warned about discouragement. *And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.*

We have a call not to quit, not to faint, and not to stop in the matter of well doing. That is a summary of the Christian life. Our example of well doing is our Lord Jesus Christ. He went about doing good. Ephesians 2:8-9 — Many times, we quote verse eight, but we leave off verse 9: *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.* Titus reminds us on three different occasions: *And let ours also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful.* The description of the Christian life is one of doing good or well

doing. We are to keep up this well doing. In 1 Peter 4, Peter writes to the suffering saints who were under pressure. He said in 1 Peter 4:19: *Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.* What do we mean by well doing? I am afraid that we overlook a lot of well doing. Well doing is simply common acts of life. All of life is sacred for a Christian. You do not divide Sunday from Monday. The world talks about the sacred and the profane, but for the Christian, it is all sacred. 1 Corinthians 10:31: *Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.* God does not separate the Christian's life. It is all sacred. We forget about the fact that we have seven days, not just one day, to do those sacred duties and to do them well. Let us talk about the home. Well doing is keeping the house. I know it is belittling today, but you are doing well when you keep a house to the glory of God. A little girl asked her mother, "Don't you get tired of washing the dishes? Every morning, noon, and night, you wash the dishes. Mommy, don't you get tired?" The mom said, "I am not washing dishes. I am building a home." It depends on how you look at it. It is well doing when you sell your children on marriage. The home is shot to pieces because there is one divorce for every one and a half marriages. That is sad. What is the cure for it? The cure is for mom and dad to sell their children on marriage. Did you hear me? How do you sell your children on marriage? You are an example. If your boy or girl walks out and says, "Deliver me," the failure has not been the preacher. The failure has not been the world. The failure has been mom and dad. Mom and dad can sell their children on this thing called marriage. We have perverted lifestyles today, oftentimes because of the fact that the kids saw a wrong illustration and duty in the home. A little boy grows up in a home, and his mother is a domineering woman. She holds a tight rein on her husband. She does not submit to his leadership. She nags, and she argues, and she squalls. The little boy says, "Deliver me from ever getting married," and he turns to homosexuality. Did you hear me? Mom, if you are living like that, you are having your way, but you are wrecking your children's lives and giving them a wrong image of what marriage is all about. You are paying a high price for self-will in your home. On the other hand, a little girl has a dad who will not be a dad. He will not lead. He will not take responsibility. He will not get under the load, and the little girl says, "God deliver me from marrying somebody that I will have to mother, baby, get him up, dress him, and make a living for him." The girl turns to lesbianism. Why? She had a wrong illustration about home life. Nobody is going to sell your children on home and married life except you. That is pretty sacred. Dad and mom, are you fed up with marriage yourself? Then somewhere, somebody is out of place. What is well doing? Well doing is a mommy and a daddy in a home and living the life that God ordained with dad in his place and mom in her place. In that home, they give something to their children that the public school system, Christian schools, and churches cannot give — a proper example of a Christian home. If you give them a Christian home, you have given them stability. You have given them something with which to face the world. Others may destroy their homes, but we have memories of what a home life is like. Now that is sacred. It begins at home. Your Christianity begins at home. It does not end there, but it begins there. 1 Timothy 5:8: *But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.* A dad is involved in spiritual things. He has a job but does not go to his job. Instead, he goes to the Bible conference. Dad, you have got a job waiting on you, yet you go to the Bible conference. At the end of the week, you do not have any groceries for your wife. You are not living a life well pleasing to the Lord. You have a duty and a responsibility to make a living for your wife. Duties do not conflict. Now, a wife may take the verses of Scripture about Mary and Martha. Martha is in the kitchen working. (The problem with this is that it is simply teaching priorities not laziness.) Mary and Martha sit at Jesus' feet. I have known women who read their Bibles all day long but would not fix a meal for their husband. Their husband worked in the day. The wife slept in the day and read her Bible, studied, and prayed all night long. Bologna! Bologna! If your Bible reading does not make you take care of your own, you are wasting your time reading your Bible. You are only satisfying your curiosity. If your Bible reading and your church attendance does not make you a better husband or a better daddy, and if it does not make you a better mommy or a better wife, you have missed the whole point. Bible study equips us for good works. Let us go to the business field. Well doing is when you give a days work. It ought to be said that when a man is looking for somebody to hire, he is looking around for a Christian. Sadly, that is not so. It ought to be said that a Christian will do a better job, that he will work harder, that he will work longer, and that he will do a better

job. Why? *Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.* If you are a mechanic, you ought to fix a car as though you were fixing it for Jesus. If you are a carpenter, you ought to build a house as though you were building it for Jesus. If you are a waitress, you ought to work as though you were serving a meal for Jesus. If you are a businessman, you ought to run your business as though you were running it for Jesus. That is sacred. All of life is sacred. Sometimes, we think that it is confined to Sunday morning, Sunday night, and Wednesday night, and that the rest of the week does not really matter. It is the life out there that touches the neighbor's life and makes them want to get saved. You are not to grow weary in well doing. You are not to grow weary and walk out. Mom, you are not to grow weary and go to the divorce court. Children, you are not to grow weary in obeying mom and dad and making good grades at school. You are not to cop out either. You are not to be weary in well doing.

Turn to Galatians 6:10. Well doing is attending to those in need. Galatians 6:10: *As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.* Time is limited. Beyond this life, you will not have opportunity for well doing. The limit is our ability. The objects are unlimited. Character begins at home but does not end in the home.

Why do people quit? There are many reasons, and everybody has their own reasons. But they could be summarized under a few. The nature of well doing makes people quit. Well doing takes a whole lot of the spirit of God because it is unselfish. We are basically selfish creatures, and we got it from Adam. Adam said, "Give me. Hey! Wait on me." This is a "me" generation. This is the "I" first generation. This is the number one generation. "I am number one." This is a generation that is interested in themselves. If we quit well doing because we begin to think about number one instead of others, we will have to stay close to the Lord to receive the inspiration and strength to maintain a ministry of well doing. It simply means that if we do not stay close to the Lord, then we live for self and forget others.

Consider the associations of well doing. When you try to help others, you are going to run across some real "doozies." Let me share a couple of experiences with you. Years ago, I was out on visitation and knocked on a little mobile home — they were called trailers then. The door opened. I did not know whether the person was — no reflection on anybody — black or white. They were filthy. I went inside the house. There was a woman inside the house eating out of ice trays, aluminum ice trays. When she did not eat all in that tray, she would push it to the end, instead of putting it in the garbage. The food on the end was green. Then, she would put her new food right in the middle. She had two little children. They were filthy. I took the two children to my house, and my wife put them in our washtub. When they had finished, it looked as though you had poured several bottles of black ink into the tub. I discovered that they were white kids. They had been filthy. A few days passed, and my wife went down to the trailer. The lady had given birth to a child all by herself. Nobody was there. She had taken a rusty knife and cut the cord. Who wants to live around that? Who wants to get involved in that? Who wants to get into that? You say, "Deliver me!" You will be surprised at how many folks live in filth. I was in Chattanooga one night, and I found thirteen in one room. As you visit, you will get into fights. I got into a fight one night. The woman had a poker over her head. She was going at her husband. He had a stick of wood in his hand, and they were fixing to get in it. I got in and stopped it. I was driving down the highway and went over a little hill. Two men and a woman were in the middle of the highway. The woman had her high-heeled shoe off. One man was holding the other man, and the woman was clobbering the man with her high-heeled shoes. That was her husband. He had caught her with this other fellow. I could write a book about the places, the things, and events that I have been in. These are places you do not like. I wish I could get out of the dirt, the filth, the cussing, the swearing, and the grime. You say, "I am not built that way. I do not like that business." Jesus Christ left a spotless Heaven and came to this sinful earth. He knows what it is by association of filth, grime, and dirt. That is what sin has done. I do not want to be around that. I do not want to see those sights. Sometimes a missionary will come home and show slides of folks with leprosy, and we cringe and say, "Don't show that to us." That is common life in other lands beyond us. They do not like to look at it. Their wives do not like to look at it. Their children do not like to look at it, but it is the bare facts. We have to look at the bare, raw root of society if we are going to do good. When you go into the houses, the lanes, and the streets of this city, you will find some terrible, terrible conditions that you wish you could deliver them from. Occasionally, when doing good, you will run across somebody who says, "Hey,

here is somebody to help me.” They will call you in the middle of the night. They always wait until the middle of the night to call you. You say, “Deliver me.” You will get involved. I think about individuals who call repeatedly and say, “This is the night that I am going to die. I am going to take my life.” You have heard it so much that at first you think, “Well, go ahead; get it over with,” but you do not say that. They hang up. You are in bed in your pajamas. It is late, and what happens? You get up and go to their house to find out if they did take their life. Why? If they did take their life, you would carry the guilt that they had called but you did not respond. You had better not be weary in well doing. There are a lot of folks who would have quit if they had asked for help as many times as Brother Jenkins has. They would have just quit. “If nobody wants to help me, then I am going to quit.” You are doing good and living for the Lord. You need help, and you call for help. There are others who could help, but they will not. The devil says, “Well, why don’t you just quit yourself? Nobody cares.” *And let us not be weary in well doing . . .* If nobody helps, do not be weary in well doing. Stay at it.

Consider the results of well doing. In this matter of spiritual business, you cannot see with your eyes. If you are a builder, you can see a wall going up, and you can see what you did with your hands. You know what you did that day. There are no *if’s*, *and’s*, or *but’s* about it. You can see it with your eyes. You have accomplished something. You can see that the wall is up, the house is up, the floor is laid, and the floor is poured. You can see it. When it comes to the matter of spiritual things, you cannot see what transpires in the hearts of little boys, little girls, men, and women. You preach to them, but you do not know what transpires in the depth of their soul. You wonder, “Is anything happening?” Why? We judge it by what we can see. Most of the things that happen in this world are not visible to the eyesight. Most of my life is unseen to me and to you. I do not see all the work that is going on just to keep me alive. You do not see the Spirit of God touch a boy’s heart or a girl’s heart. You do not see the seed getting to their heart and life. You do not see the conviction and eventually the salvation down the road somewhere. You cannot see it. It is a work of faith and a labor of love. We cannot see the influence or the lack of result. Reverend Doug Kouch of Baptist Mid-Missions said, “The biggest catch-all reason for missionaries leaving the field is discouragement. This is especially true of tribal work.” He said, “Consider the time it takes to learn a language or two. Consider the time it takes to make an alphabet and teach the Indians to read in their own language.” We saw a film on International Banquet night. I do not think you will forget some of it. Do not tell me that the brother that labored in that tribe did not grow weary many, many times. Mr. Kouch said, “Consider the time it takes to learn a language or two. Consider the time it takes to make an alphabet and teach the Indians to read in their own language. Consider the time required to use Bible stories and to work on translating the Bible in the natives’ own language. It does not come over night or even in a month, much less a year.” A missionary can see the fruit of his labor, but he must stay steady and work hard. The average pastor moves around and changes churches about every three years. He has not even gotten started. We take a class. We take a bus route. We judge by sight, and we quit. *And let us not be weary in well doing . . .*

Some people quit because of lack of results. You see some folks get worse. You try to help them. It looks as though they go the opposite direction. Then you see some that get saved and seem as though they are really going to do something for the Lord. What happens? In a few months time, it is all over. Then you see some who are established in the faith and have been at it for years. All of a sudden, they quit, and it is all over. That makes you want to quit. Then, there are the unworthy receivers of good deeds. Sometimes, you feel like James and John. Jesus passed through Samaria and sent word ahead, but the people did not receive Jesus. James and John said, “Well, hey, we will just call fire down on this place. We will fix them. They slammed the door in our face. We will fix them.” We say they are unworthy of our response. You must remember that none of us are worthy of salvation, yet Christ came for us. Whether people like it or not, or whether they appreciate it or not does not make a bit of difference. You are to do good to those who abuse it. You are to do good to those who do not appreciate it. I remember a family living not too far from here that we helped many times. Every time that we helped the family, we were great. But, anytime I refused or said that I could not do it, I would find a note on my door saying, “Yes, you are interested in foreign missions across the sea, but how about folks across the street?” Invariably every time that you said no to their request, they forgot all that you had done in the past. We should not be weary in well doing, despite the unworthiness of the object.

Some people quit because of an idle example. There was a couple who came and got in the bus ministry. They were “gung ho.” They saw many people quit. One day, they walked into Bro. Jesse Blume’s office and said, “Well, we have been faithful. Now, it is our time.” They quit. He did not see them for months. When you quit, you tempt somebody else to quit. That is an illustration and an example. You cannot quit because others will quit.

Some people quit because doing good requires too much effort. You say, “Well, it requires a whole lot of effort to do good.” Let us back up the clock. Do you remember when you started your business? Do you remember the hours that you poured into that business to get it started? It required a whole lot of effort and long, long hours. I have a relative in a very lucrative business, and his son is coming along behind. The son is very dedicated and works many, many hours. His dad said, “Hey, son, you will not have time for your children or time for your wife.” The son answered, “That is my goal. If that is what it will cost me to reach my goal in the business world, then that is what I intend to put in.” When we think about the cost and give ourselves to that which we think is the most important thing, we give ourselves untiringly. We must remember that it costs effort in any endeavor to get started. Will we do less for the Lord?

Some people quit because it requires too much self denial. You say, “Well, I just have too much to give up.” Paul calls attention to the fact that those who go after an earthly crown beat their body. *And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.* This is a sports-minded world. You read of the dedication. You watch some of these skiers ski in the Olympics on one leg. You watch some of them ski with no legs, and you see the tremendous feat that they go through — the self denial, the agony, the pain, and the dedication. Shall the world be more dedicated in the matter of their service and their joys and their business than we will? Yes, it costs denial. It costs self denial to prepare for sports. Somebody will say, “Well, maybe persecution was the reason David quit.” John Mark quit. I do not know why John Mark quit, but he did. Maybe it was persecution or pressure from the outside or the inside. I remember a young man on our staff. Very few of you would have any idea of who he was. This happened many years ago. This young man on our staff had a wife who absolutely would not cooperate with him. I was on vacation, and I got a call from my secretary at that time. She said, “Come home. You just lost so and so.” I came home. I read the note from him. He said, “Pastor, I know what I am doing is wrong. I know I ought to stay, but I have had it up to here.” He quit. He left what he knew was right. He left under pressure to quit. God intervened, and to make a long story short, I got a hold of him on the telephone and told him to get back here. Nobody knew about it. I said, “You get back here.” He got back here and did a tremendous job. He is doing a tremendous job in the service of the Lord today. There is hope for quitters. If you quit, come back. There is pressure and criticism. Many a man will live like the devil. His wife will pray, “Oh God, save my husband! Save my husband! Save my husband!” The husband gets saved, but she just wanted him saved. She did not know he was going to get involved in serving the Lord. She wanted him saved so that it would make life easier at home. He got saved, got on a bus route, and got a Sunday School class. “I did not intend for that! I just wanted you to get saved so that you would spend time and stay home with me!” The man is going to bus route and to Sunday School. One day, he comes in and throws his keys down or throws his book down and says, “I’m through!” Why? “I can’t take the nagging at home!” It is always too soon to quit. Do not quit! Do not quit! Do not quit!

Turn to the book of Job. Job’s wife had an opportunity that no other woman had. Job was a good man. What an opportunity that woman had. Job lost his whole family – ten children. He had his grief and her grief, and then he lost his health, his wealth, and possessions. Everything was gone. Job sat in an ash heap. Job 2:9: *Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die.* “Hey, Job, are you still going to go to church after the way God has treated you? Are you still going to Sunday School? Are you still going to pray? Are you still going to have family devotions? Are you still going to go soul winning? Are you still going to sing in the choir? Are you still going to teach that class? Are you still going to witness? The best thing you can do is curse God and die.” He had nobody to encourage him whatsoever. His wife had an opportunity to say, “Now God will see you through.” She had an opportunity to stand by him and be written indelibly in the Word of God. She had her opportunity, but she blew it. Do you know how it payed off? Do you know how God dealt with her? He let her stay pregnant for ninety months after that. If you do not believe

it, read that. Beware, ladies! Go ahead! That will fix you! He will not sympathize with you one bit when you have morning sickness. He will not do a thing in the world but leave. She had an opportunity. Have you ever seen young people that felt like God called them to go to the mission field or go into the pastorate? They have gone of to Tennessee Temple Schools, and a griping wining wife made them throw in the towel and quit. They had their opportunity to stand, encourage, and exhort, but they blew it. I talk to my wife. I have never had one problem about my wife following me any place, any time, anywhere. She has remained unmurmuring, unmoved, unstirred about getting out of the Lord's service. She has never complained about the place where we lived. She has never complained about the groceries. She has never complained about the clothes. She has never complained about the house. She has never complained about the weather. I have four daughters and one son that can say amen to that. You may not recognize it, but I have a jewel for a wife. You may not know that. There are men that have opportunities and women that want to serve God, but the man drags his feet. The man grumbles and quarrels and puts pressure on you. Listen! Do not quit! Do not quit! Do not quit! It is always too soon to quit.

Another reason people quit is lack of nourishment. Did you know that spiritual work is draining work? I do not allow it. There are exceptions now and then. I do not like it, but I do not want somebody who teaches Sunday School class to turn around and teach during the preaching service. If you teach Sunday School, people will only come to church for one service. I do not want you serving anywhere. I want you sitting. I want you to take in. If you do not take in, after a while, you are not going to have anything to give out. You will collapse. This is the business of serving the Lord in a spiritual work. You had better find some time to sit at the feet of the Lord and take in, or you will quit. You will just dry up and blow away. Inside, you will be hollow and will not have anything to give. You must sit at the feet of the Lord. You must get into the Word. You must pray if you are going to keep on. I warned the guys up in the control room tonight, and I will do it again that the easiest place in the world to backslide is in the control room. Why? Two of you are sitting up there making recordings. It is easy to get into a conversation and talk, and nobody knows about it. You can make tapes and do work, and all the time, you do not hear preaching. You will dry up and blow away. In every place you serve, if you do not have a place to take in, you will quit! Brother, you have to take in. I remember a man we had around here. Every day during the preaching, he was "Johnny on the Spot." He was volunteering for everything, and what he was doing was avoiding the preaching. He is gone. When you see folks that volunteer constantly to keep them out of every service, they have a spiritual problem. They do not want to be under the preaching of the Word of God, because there is something the Word of God will deal with them about. They will take a job that keeps them out of the Word of God. You are not fooling anybody but yourself. You must sit at the feet of the Lord, and you must let the Word examine you if you are going to serve.

I can think of so many things. Folks stand up and call you names in your own congregation. Adults write notes and pass them all around while you are preaching. Folks laugh at you when you are preaching. Folks leave notes on your door, "Why don't you get out of town?" I could go through all the things. I did not get bitter. I was not serving them. God called me to preach, and I was preaching. They had to take what I dished out. I was not going anywhere. What they did would not change the matter of it. What you do will not change the matter of it. Thank God for folks who listen and respond, but I have preached to folks who would not respond. They were determined not to respond and trying to get everyone else not to respond. You say, "I quit." Listen, if you are serving them, then quit, but you are not serving them; you are serving the Lord. I am talking about people who go door-to-door to try to run you out of town. I am not having a pity party. I am happy as a man in last year's bird nest. I do not know how happy that is, but I am happy. Bitterness? No. It is funny now. It was not too funny then, but it is funny now. I could give you many names. My wife, my children, and I get together and laugh about these things. Just do not quit. When they do not listen, do not quit. When they do not come, do not quit. When they make fun, do not quit. Just do not quit. Most preachers would resign every Monday morning. They think about it, but they do not do it. Now, you can think about it, but just do not do it. Are you thinking about giving up the bus route? That is okay. Think about it, but just do not do it. Are you thinking about quitting? That is okay, but just do not do it. Think about it, and then do not think about it at all. If you think about it long, you will quit. Get that out of your mind, and recognize where it

comes from.

What is the remedy? Galatians 6. What is the remedy for quitting? Before I went to school, I settled something. I went to school to finish. A lot of folks tithed, do not tithe, tithe, do not tithe, tithe, do not tithe. Get it settled once time and for all. "I am just going to be a tither for the rest of my life." Settle it. Then get the matter of being in God's house settled. "I am going to be in God's house Sunday morning, Sunday night, and Wednesday night. I am going to go on visitation." Settle it. Do not fight it every week. Settle it once and for all. I counseled a young person this week. I said, "You get it settled that you are not going to quit, and stay by it. Do not ever do anything until you get that settled." If a man does not know whether he is going to stay in school or finish school or quit school, he will not make good grades. He will be miserable while he is at it. If you are going to go to school to finish, you had better go and finish school. Is that right? I went to school to finish school. When you take a job, just think this, "I am going to take this job because I am going to keep the job and not going anywhere." You save and solve a lot of problems of wrestling with the devil, the world, and the flesh. Get it settled! I am not going anywhere. I am not going to leave this pulpit. I do not intend to. Now, if the Lord moves, I will move. I am not saying that you cannot carry me out of here. I am simply talking about the fact that I am not going anywhere. Oh, I have thought about it and have felt like a failure. I have looked back, seen very little results, and wondered, "What in the world is the use?" I have been in Canada with Garland Cofield in forty-five degrees below zero weather. When you get out in that cold weather and have to wipe the machinery with your hands, your hands hurt terribly. Mr. Cofield said, "I have been out in that weather and thought, 'Is it worth the while? Is it worth it? Is it worth it? Is it worth it?'" Yes, it is worth it. He stayed there. Do not quit. You need to get it resolved that you are not going to quit and then stay by it. It is like tithing. There have been some times it would have been nice to reach in and take out the tithe, but that is not mine. That has been settled. It is over! I have not fought this matter of tithing since 1947. Why? It has been settled. I do not fight about whether or not I am going to go to church on Sunday morning or Sunday night. I am going to be in church whether I am in town, out of town, or on vacation. I will be in church. I have settled that! We must get it settled that we are not going to quit. I am not a quitter, and I am not going to quit! *And let us not be weary in well doing . . .* God said to be not weary. Settle it in your heart and mind that you will not quit. The thing to keep us going is to remember the Lord is behind us.

You will reap what you sow. If you are sowing well doing, it will come back to you. I look at many, many reasons for going on tonight. I look out and see faces across this congregation. I say, "Bless God, quit?" There is illustration after illustration. Quit? Not on your dear life! We reap what we sow. We reap in proportion to what we sow. If you really get busy and were really sowing a lot, then you are going to reap proportionately. We must be reminded that the man who sows, does not see the seed the day that he sows it. He puts it out of sight, commits it to God, and goes home. We reap in due season. The last part of Galatians 6:9 says: . . . *for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.* There are seasons. Our season may not be somebody else's season. There is an early harvest and a late harvest. We like the early harvest. Isaac talks about the rain that comes down. That is the early harvest. The smoke from Heaven is the late harvest. The rain comes, and the seeds germinate. Immediately, you see the little shoots coming up. You watch it grow, and you say, "Bless God." With the late harvest, you sow it and put it out of sight. Fall and winter come along. The rain, sleet, and snow cover it up. You say, "How in the world can it live under that? It will never live again." Come spring when everything is thawing out, it shoots forth. That is the late harvest. Yes, it will live. It is not dead. It is sown and alive. It will abide forever more – the Word of God. We are reminded: . . . *for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.*

Turn to Hebrews 12. We are to remember the principles of reaping and sowing. We are also to remember the Lord of the harvest. Hebrews 12:1-2: *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses . . .* (Read Hebrews 11 and look at all the things that they went through and how they were tempted to quit but did not quit. They stayed with it. That is a cloud of witnesses. You have got a lot of folks in Heaven now that are a cloud of witnesses in your memory. They stayed by the stuff, and they stayed by it until God called them home. You are encompassed about by Mom and Dad before you — maybe an aunt, an uncle, a preacher, or a godly deacon. They are witnesses. We are encompassed about with the Old Testament saints.) . . . *let us 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, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. Our Lord kept in mind the other side. He despised the shame. He looked lightly upon it. He endured the cross. He did not evade the cross. He looked beyond the cross to the other side. If we keep our mind on the fact that there is a reaping time, it is guaranteed by God's law of the harvest that it will come in due season. Do not grow weary because the harvest will come. Do not grow weary because of the Lord of the harvest. Look what He did. He sat down at the right hand of the throne of God to consider Him Who endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your mind. Ye have not yet resisted unto blood striving against sin. He said, "Keep your eyes on the Lord Jesus." Read *Fox's Book of Martyrs*. What sissies we are! They did not quit. Paul writes to you and to me: *And let us not be weary in well doing . . .* "It is hopeless. There is no reason to go on. What is the use of going on? I cannot go on." That is a problem connected with the will and not the physical. "It is hopeless. It is useless. There is no profit." He said, "Do not do that." Why? *And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.* I used one illustration several years ago, maybe twice, but let me use it again. Dr. Jack Hudson was telling the story. He was out fishing, and he wanted to catch a sail fish. He was on a boat, and they were catching grouper or something. They were hauling them in all morning long. He had not had a strike. He said, "I want a sail fish." He said to the fellow across the way, "Would you switch places with me for just a little while?" The guy said, "Sure." The guy himself had hauled in several good-sized fish. Bro. Jack said he slid over and sat down. The other fellow took his chair and sat down. He said the guy had no longer sat down then out came the cry, "Sail Fish!!!" Whose hook was it on? This guy over here. He watched him catch that fish. He watched as the fish came out of the water and saw how beautiful it was. He wanted a sail fish. He had fished all morning for that sail fish. He watched that guy reel it in, and when they went to the dock, they took that guy's picture with the sail fish. He did not have grouper or sail fish. What happened? He grew weary in well doing. If he would have just stayed by just one more minute, he would have caught the fish. You break a rock. You take a sledge hammer. . . you have heard about the half-whit boy that was using the hammer, and a man was holding the wedge. He said to this half-whit boy, "When I nod my head, you hit it." My advice to him is, "Do not grow weary in well doing!" But you take a rock, and you take a hammer; you hit that rock, and nothing happens. You hit that rock, and nothing happens! You hit that rock, and nothing happens! You hit, and you hit, and you hit. You grow weary because you say, "Man alive, I can't do this." A guy says let me take a turn at it, and he takes the thing, comes down, hits it, and splits it wide open. Who split the rock? The guy before. He just did not wait. Listen. God's Word said: *And let us not be weary in well doing . . . Let us not get discouraged in well doing. . . . for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.*