



water from rock

## **Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – March 17, 2022**

The Lord be with you.

Fatigue makes cowards of us all.

That's what General George Patton wrote to his troops during the darkest days of World War II. Fatigue makes cowards of us all. Well, it's been true in my life, I get fatigued, worn down, discouraged, and I wanna quit to chuck it all. Perhaps that's been true for you too.

It was true for the Galatians Christians to whom the Apostle Paul writes in Galatians chapter 6, verse 9, "Let us not grow weary in doing what is right. Where we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up." Now, I read this, and I think that Paul is probably writing this as much for himself as he is for the Galatians Christians, because he says, Let us not... Let us not grow weary in doing what is the right. It's been a long, hard battle for the truth of the gospel in Galatia, Paul and the other Christians have they face persecution, they've been battered by false teachers, and some Bible scholars think that Paul even had problems with his eyes when he was in Galatia, and Paul along with his colleagues, they were in danger of growing weary in doing what is right. Growing weary, wondering if doing what is right is ever gonna pay off. And I wonder about you, these expensive covid of economic hardship, churches shut down, ministries closed. Are you maybe growing weary? Sometimes finding it hard to keep going? It's not wrong to feel weary, but we don't want to let feeling where we get the best of us, so that we lose heart. And we quit. And so the apostle Paul is writing to us, "Let us not grow weary in doing what is right. For we will reap that harvest time." We will reap a harvest time.

Now, I was raised on a farm where, well, we lived with an awareness of harvest. We planted crops in the spring and we harvested in the fall. That means that you work knowing that the harvest is coming, but it's gonna take a while. On the farm, you learn that there is a weight between planting and harvest, you can't rush it. You gotta work the soil, you plant, your irrigate, you chop the weeds, then you harvest. And God is asking you and me today not to give up in doing good, for we're gonna see a harvest. It may take a while, but God's harvest is coming, and just as a farmer plants and then waits, so also we as God's people, we do good. And then we wait patiently for the harvest, because the harvest is coming, the harvest might take a while, and in the mean time, we're not gonna give up. Sometimes we're gonna see the harvest in this life at God's best time, and sometimes we're gonna see God's appointed harvest in the life to come. I think that's what Paul is writing about in 1 Corinthians chapter 15 verse 58, when he says, "Therefore my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord, your labor is not in vain."



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Your labor for the Lord, your hard work, all that you're doing and serving him.

All that you're giving... It is not in vain.

Yes, it's been hard during times of covid, the time of lockdown, social distancing all the uncertainties that we face. Let us not grow weary in doing what is right for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. We recognize the circumstances for what they are, and we do not give up... I'm thinking that Paul might be using the verb that is using here translated, do not give up because he's thinking how God does not give up on us. God promises in Romans Chapter 8, that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, and nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

You know, it's hard for me to believe, but it was two years ago this week that Covid-19 shut down our Bible classes. I show down our church for a while, probably shut down your church, we were trying to bend the curve, and here we are two years later, it's been a hard time for us as a country, it's been a hard time for churches for ministries. It hasn't always been easy for us to do what is right. To live for and serve the Lord, and we don't always see the fruit. Like the farmer, we wait for the harvest, we wait expectedly for the harvest.

And so God's Word for us is, "Let us not grow weary in doing what is right for we will reap a harvest time if we do not give up."

God's love doesn't give up on us.

No matter what you're going through, Christ as promise to hold you fast.

When I fear my faith or fail, Christ will hold me fast.

When the temper would prevail, Christ will hold me fast.

I could never keep my whole through life's fearful path for my love is often cold, Christ must hold me fast.

He will hold made me fast, he will hold me fast and He will hold you fast.

I am Tim Smith, a fellow traveler. Thank you for listening. Until next time.