

"A TONIC FOR WEARY CHRISTIANS"**Introduction**

1. The great problem in the Galatian church
2. Error in doctrine produces bad practice
3. Paul here warns of one bad practice

1. A DIFFICULT PROBLEM WHICH ALL CHRISTIANS**FEEL**

* The problem of weariness in God's work

1) What factors lead to this?

- (i) the state of society in general – exx
- (ii) difficulties in the church in particular:
 - rampant error
 - visible decline
 - lack of gospel power
 - division, etc.

(iii) comparing the present and the past:

ILLUSTRATION: Second Temple: Ezra 3:12-13

(iv) prayer seemingly unanswered: "How long?"

2) Weariness is an experience common to us all

- (i) Abraham: waiting for an heir
- (ii) Israel going through the desert 40 years
- (iii) Even the best of men – here Paul ("us")

APPLICATION: Is this relevant to you?

2. DANGERS TO WHICH THE PROBLEM MAY LEAD

* Every temptation may lead to harm:

- 1) Hankering after the world: Was not that the temptation for Israel: "Leeks, onions", etc.
APPLICATION: Why do some professing people cool off?
- 2) Glorifying past times in imagination
"say not, What is the cause that the former days were better than these?" (Eccles. 7:10)
OBSERVE: The past had its problems too!
Israel forgot the evils of Egypt and many wanted to go back!
- 3) Secretly quarrel in heart with God:
OBSERVE: Job was sore tempted
- 4) To think God will never work again
"Fails his word evermore?"
- 5) To lose heart and so do less and less
APPLICATION: Why do some drop off in attendance?

3. THE TONIC WE NEED FOR THIS PROBLEM

* There are, two things:

- (i) a promise (ii) a humbling reminder:
promise: "we shall reap..."
(i) humbling: it will be in God's time

1) I remind you:

- (i) The progress of God's work is by both
 - a - periods of rapid growth
 - b - dull times

APPLICATION: These remind us of our sin's

- (ii) God's work is a mystery: "not by observation"

APPLICATION: God works even when we do not see

(iii) God's promise here is as true today as ever it was: "we shall reap".

2) Sometimes God works suddenly when it might seem that all hope is gone: e.g.

(i) The period before Luther

(ii) America in 1780 period

(iii) Other instances

CONCLUSION

Illustration: Jeremiah Lamphier in New York.

Application: Labour on faithfully!

PSALM
74: 1 – 4
77: 7 – 11
78: 62 – 66