

*As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good... (2 Thessalonians 3:13)*

We're used to growing weary because of all the bad things that happen in the world, aren't we? In the letter we are going to be hearing from in November, St. Paul urges the saints not to grow weary. Paul asks the brothers and sisters in Christ to *stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us* (2:15). This is made possible, Paul says, because of our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our father, *who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace* (2:16).

But in the letter, Paul's not talking about the weariness that comes from natural disasters or evil people. Paul curiously writes, *Do not grow weary in doing good*. What does that mean? Maybe caring for children or for others is starting to wear on you. The time it takes in the morning to get them ready, to bathe them, to feed them, to dress them, to help them use the bathroom, to take them to the doctor, and on and on and on. Maybe you've been encouraging that family member or friend to come back to church for some time, and the person just doesn't seem to be listening. Maybe even holding back from some kind of sin brings your ridicule and strife. So you grow weary for doing good. Yet Paul urges the saints not to grow weary in doing good. How is this possible?

The first place we should look for the answer is in the past. When we look to the past, we see what God has already done for his people in history. We see what God can do for his people. And when we look to the past, we see a God who continuously brings comfort and redemption to a people weary of their situations. And indeed, the Lord came among his weary people. Jesus Christ, born into our human flesh, came bringing comfort and healing. Those who were weary in their conditions were being healed by Jesus. Those who had grown weary in their souls – those who were poor, those who were full of sin and guilt – were having good news preached to them.

But, we can also look to the future. God is not only the God of the past. When Jesus said *It is finished* on the cross, it really was a declaration of victory. And Christ himself gives us a vision of what that victory will ultimately look like. *And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near* (Luke 21:27–28). Jesus, the crucified and risen Lord, will come again in great glory. And when he comes, he will bring with him your redemption.

This is our hope in Jesus Christ. All of this means that, in the present, in your lives right now, we are able to continue steadfast in the love of Christ, doing good to everyone. We need not grow weary, because we have a God who strengthens our faith and resolve. *Do not grow weary in doing good*, for the Lord will be with you unto the end!

-Pastor Squire

“O Jesus Christ, do not delay, but hasten our salvation; we often tremble on our way in fear and tribulation. O hear and grant our fervent plea: Come, mighty judge, and set us free from death and every evil.”

(“The Day Is Surely Drawing Near,” *LSB 508*, v. 7)