



“I JUST CAN’T QUIT”

GALATIANS 6:7-10

**PASTOR'S
PICKS, II**

**A SERMON BY
REV. DR. HOWARD-JOHN WESLEY
@PASTORHJW**



**SCAN FOR PHJW
SERMON NOTES**

**SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 17
8AM & 11AM**

REV. DR. HOWARD-JOHN WESLEY, SENIOR PASTOR

   **@alfredstreetbc | www.alfredstreet.org**



Date: September 17, 2023
Preacher: Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley
Sermon Title: Pastor's Picks II: 'I Just Can't Quit'

Scripture: Galatians 6:7-10 (NKJV)

Do not be deceived; God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season; we shall reap if we do not lose heart. 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

SERMON SUMMARY:

As we open the Fall 2023 season of Village, Pastor Wesley invites us into a series entitled Pastor's Picks. The scriptures underlying these sermons represent texts that have sustained and kept Pastor Wesley during his 15 years of ministry with Alfred Street.

Today, we find ourselves journeying with the Apostle Paul. In Galatians 6, Paul faces deep disappointment and seems poised to throw in the towel. Though he has done all he knows to do to support and stabilize the church at Galatia, four things arise that push Paul towards quitting.

- First, as seen in Acts 15, the Jewish converts to Christianity (the Judaizes) have returned to stir up trouble regarding the debunked necessity for Gentiles to convert to Judaism (and submit to circumcision) before becoming Christians.
- The Christians in Galatia, who once believed in the sufficiency of Christ for their salvation, are being led astray by the Judaizes.
- The trouble in Galatia with the Judaizes arises simultaneously with an outbreak of dissent within the church at Corinth. Paul now has two churches with issues at the same time.
- Two leaders, Peter and Barnabas, who previously supported Paul's fight against the Judaizes in Jerusalem have now flipped and seem to support the opposition.

In a moment of frustration and betrayal, Paul has to decide whether to quit or continue. At the end of this morning's text, Paul chooses to encourage himself. The sermon concludes with the reminder that we must encourage ourselves with these words:

- **God is not mocked.** The goodness we give to others, the righteous way we live, and our service before God will not go unnoticed. God keeps God's promises; therefore, God will reward us for doing what is right.
- **Let us not become weary.** Since God's hand is on our lives, let us not give up on our assignment from God when life becomes difficult. Instead, let us remember that God will give us strength to sustain us through the hardships.

- **We will reap in due season.** The word *therizo* ('reap') refers to Jesus' judgment seat. We who serve must recognize that Jesus alone holds our just rewards and will recompense us fully.

Finally, Pastor Wesley notes the importance of the "us" in this morning's text. We cannot serve in the Kingdom alone as solitary beings. We must be part of an "us." As we come together to serve God, we draw strength and sustenance from one another. Let us not grow weary as we serve our Savior and Lord, together.

KEY POINTS:

1. Sometimes, it feels as if our work for the Kingdom is neither recognized nor appreciated.
2. When this occurs, we might find ourselves asking, "Is it worth it?"
3. We may also wonder if our walk with God is worth it, especially when we pray, and our prayers are unanswered, or we read our Bibles but nothing changes, or we serve and no one notices.
4. In moments like this, we sometimes want to quit.
5. The Apostle Paul wanted to quit because he found himself in similar circumstances. At odds with the Judaizers, the Galatians, the Church at Corinth, and Peter, and Barnabas, Paul wondered if his work was at all worth it.
6. When we feel like quitting, we must remember who we serve and why. We serve God, and our reward comes from God. If we seek earthly rewards, we will likely be frustrated and quit.
7. We must not get weary in serving God. We must not give up on God. God will always see and reward us for our work.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU QUESTIONS:

1. Pastor Wesley shared an anecdote about his first job at the Gap in Water Tower Place in Chicago. What was your first job? What did you learn from it? How did it shift your perspective on work? Please share your experience with your Village family.
2. Pastor Wesley recounted a time in his childhood when he and his older brother were at odds. They sought to "fix it" with fisticuffs. What were your strategies to fix your childhood arguments with family or friends? How have those early days shaped the adult you are today?

INTO THE BIBLE QUESTIONS:

1. Pastor Wesley notes the word "reap" is used four times in our morning's text. The Greek word beneath our English word "reap" is *therizo*. Pastor Wesley notes that this word connects to the Judgment Seat of Christ, where Jesus has the last word on everything. What does it mean that Jesus has the final word over your life? What hope or concern does that bring up for you?

2. Throughout his ministry, Paul repeatedly meets and is vexed by the same problem group, the Judaizers (see the 'Good Argument' series in Additional Resources). However, when he encounters them in the Galatians text, he attempts to encourage himself. Where else do you see people in the Bible who are ready to give up? How do they respond? Do they give up, or do they find a way to go on? What do you learn from these biblical characters?

LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. The sermon posits that we should be grateful that we have not reaped everything we have sown. Please share an experience where you sowed something outside God's will for your life, yet God spared you. What did this experience teach you?
2. Pastor Wesley shared that his 2020 sabbatical came when he was just about ready to throw in the towel and quit. Think back to a moment in your life when you faced a breaking point. What did you do? How did God show up for you during that experience? What did you take away from that moment, and how can this lesson aid you with future challenges?
3. The sermon noted that there will be moments in our lives when what 'faith demands' does not match what 'faith delivers.' Have you encountered such moments in your life? If so, how did you handle them? What tips can you share with your fellow Villagers on how to be faithful in the midst of waiting for faith to deliver?
4. Pastor points out that Barnabas and Peter "flipped" on their support of Paul. Paul reacted by calling them out before the entire congregation. How would you have responded to Barnabas and Peter if you had been in Paul's position and had all your wits about you? How can we call our brothers and sisters "back in" instead of calling them "out"?
5. Pastor Wesley reminds us that no matter who is in authority over us or working alongside us, God is watching over us and will handle our enemies. If we REALLY believed this, how would we interact with our enemies?

"CAN I PUSH IT?" QUESTIONS:

1. Have you ever volunteered with an organization and been frustrated by its leadership? Pastor notes weak leadership can push you to the brink of 'quitting.' How can we find the courage and the compassion to address a leader's shortcomings in a Christ-like manner for the good of the Kingdom?
2. Judaizers are those who cling to the old ways and lay heavy burdens on the necks of others. Are there Judaizers in your church? If so, what can your church do to remove 'Judaizers' that can potentially stifle church progress by holding on to the old ways while refusing to let go of their personal agendas?

ACTIVITY QUESTIONS:

1. Having the right 'us' around can help us to go high when the 'Judaizers' of our lives tempt us to go low. Name the person(s) in your life who exercises the words of Michelle Obama: 'When they go low, we go high'; and helps you to remain faithful and not turn 'ugly'?
2. The sermon reminds us that sometimes we must encourage ourselves, especially when we become weary with things God has called us to complete. Write a list of those things on scratch paper, beginning each sentence with "don't quit on..." What are ways you can encourage yourself and those around you to continue instead of quit? This week, brainstorm one way to persevere on each item on the list. Please share your list with your fellow Villagers.

FOR INDIVIDUAL OR VILLAGE STUDY

SPIRIT WORK:

Pastor told the story of a moment in the September 16th Colorado/Colorado State football game. Shilo Sanders reminded his brother Sheduer Sanders that, "You ain't tired yet!" after the younger brother was shoved at the end of a play. The elder brother encouraged the younger and helped him rise up and continue the game. If you are blessed to have a person(s) that anchors you, list their name(s) and contact information on an index card. Then, choose one of the following ways to activate your appreciation of them this week.

- a) Take ten minutes this week to draft a text message, email, or hand-written letter to let that person(s) letting them know how their example has inspired you to push through.
- b) Tape your index card in the center of a sheet of paper. Decorate the margins in a way that brings you joy. Post your artwork so you can see it daily.
- c) Using your index card, list one song your person's example calls to your mind. Call them and share your gratitude. (For example, Lean On Me might be a song representing someone you've witnessed assisting people in their time of trouble.)
- d) Post your index card beside your landline. Beside each person's name, list one situation where you can call them for emergency encouragement.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Sermon Series: *'A Good Argument'*

["A Good Argument" Part 1 | May 21, 2023 | Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley](#)

["A Good Argument" Part 2 | June 4, 2023 | Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley](#)

["A Good Argument" Part 3 | June 18, 2023 | Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley](#)

["A Good Argument" Part 4 | June 25, 2023 | Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley](#)