

Intro:

Main Point of Text: Paul calls you to never give up on serving Christ's Church, because you will enjoy spiritual harvests.

Sermon Point: *Keep Your Hands to the Plow.*

Move 1: *Keep planting and watering the seeds of Christ's Church, even though it exhausts you.*

Good works exhaust, body and soul. Including church courts. Vss. 6-8: Paul touches on a lack of people investing in spiritual labors, and encourages the laborers to wait for their spiritual wages. Vs. 1: warns about personal pitfalls of shepherding. He knows what it's like to return to land you worked and find seeds uprooted: 1:6; 3:1, 3-4: "Foolish Galatians!" (foolish: stupid, idiotic, brainless, ignorant, unintelligent); 4:9, 11, 15-26, 19-20; 5:1, 7. He knows the sorrow of wilting crops: Hebrews: should be eating meat! Don't "be weary": lose heart, despair, give up: it will lead you to "faint": give out, let loose/up/go. Lk. 9:62. Relate to/take resolve in Paul's words: 2 Cor. 12:15. And look to Jesus and relate, knowing you can't totally: Hebrews 12:4-5.

Move 2: *Keep in mind that you are not working in the fields by yourself.*

"Let us not be weary". "We shall reap". Paul often speaks in "you's", but here he joins hands with you in language of "us/we". Jesus lends hands with Session/Presbytery/Synod. Proverb 27:17. Ecc. 4:12. ... *The labourer is worthy of his reward.* (1 Tim. 5:18)

Move 3: *Keep trusting you will be rewarded seasonally, and most handsomely at the Final Harvest.*

... *ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.* (1 Cor. 15:58) Preach it in/out of season. Harvest will come in waves. There will be "due seasons" (appointed times). Can't predict the weather. But you can prepare the earth for rain. Most important thing to remember: you're not done until the Lord of the Harvest is done, and He's not done until He returns on THE Day of Harvest. All other times of harvest are only storing up for that final opening of heavens' storehouses: Gal. 6:8b. Psalm 58:11 ... *there is a reward for the righteous ... For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.* (Heb 6:10)

Conclusion:

Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. (1 Cor. 16:13)

Keep Your Hands to the Plow.

[Sang Psalms 126 and 127 as wonderful response to the sermon.]