Good morning, my name is David Pranga. I am one of the pastors here at Brewster Baptist Church. Pastor Doug and Jill are away this weekend. Pastor Doug will be back next week starting a new series on the book of James.

If you are new or visiting with us today, I want to welcome you to our children and students day. It was great to have our children involved in the worship service. When we planned this day, we thought it would be great to have the students and kids share. But we forgot one important thing. When children and students finish school, they leave to go on family vacation. Unfortunately, we are missing a lot of children and families this weekend. I want to thank Barbara and Pat and their team for all the work they have done. I want to thank Frank and Tracy and their team for all the work they did serving in our Student Ministry. It has been a great year for both groups this year.

I want you to put your thinking caps on for a few minutes. I want you think back to when you were in school. It could be college, high school or even middle school. Does anybody remember taking final exams? As a student I never enjoyed taking exams. But as an adult, I understand why we took those tests. It gives us an opportunity to see how much we learned and retained. Well, in the spirit of the final week of school, we are going to have a pop quiz to see how much you remember and learned about the book of Galatians.

If you are visiting with us, we have been going through the book of Galatians. Pastor Doug has done a fabulous job preaching every week from the letter to the Galatians. As a church, we ask everyone to read the entire book, which takes less than 30 minutes, less than a sitcom on TV.

Some of you thought exams and tests were only for school. Not so today. Grab a pencil and the back of your bulletin to answer these 7 questions to see how much you learned about the book of Galatians. I have two rules for this test. 1) You can work with the person next to you. If you are unsure about the answer, ask them. Teamwork for today. 2) No phone calls allowed. There is no 'phone a friend' to help you figure out the right answer. We don't have that much time.

This exam has only seven questions.... Are you ready?

Questions:

1. The book of Galatians was written by:

2. The country where the church of Galatia was located:
   a. Italy  b. Egypt  c. Turkey  d. USA

3. The early church was made of __________

4. Week 1: The Life I Now Live
   Doug's key verse was from Galatians 2:20. We learn that as Christians we need to put our faith in __________. Who loves me and gave himself for me.
5. **Week 2: Two Different Ways of Living**

Doug talked about two ways we can live. The world often lives by the **flesh**. As Christians, we are to live by the ______.


6. **Week 2: We talked about the Fruits of the Spirit.** Which of “The Fruits of the Spirit” are missing?

(Love, ________, peace, patience, kindness, ________, faithfulness, gentleness, and ________)

Answer: **Joy, Goodness and Self-Control**

7. **Week 3: Last week Doug shared that as Christians we should ________.**

(Hint: Galatians 3:26-28).

a. Be mean-spirited, demanding our rights    b. Separate at all cost   **c. Be Unified (i.e. a family)**

Just in case you forgot what Galatians 3:26-28 says....

Galatians 3:26-28, “For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus”

_How did everybody do? Anybody get them all right? Anybody want to take the test again._

This morning I want to talk to you about Galatians 6. But before we move on, I want to ask you a question.

Do you ever get tired of the news? Do you ever get tired of hearing and seeing the terrible news stories, day in and day out? I don’t know about you but when I turn on a TV or listen to the radio, or read the newspaper, I am bombarded with everything that is terrible in the news. I hear about international events that are bad; it could be a hurricane, a terrorist attack, floods, earthquakes, tsunamis, poverty, or lack of clean water. I can tune in to our local news – it is all about who was murdered last night, the drug epidemic on the Cape, homelessness, and a lack of food for children.

Then I can take it down another notch to my friends and family. There are major health problems people are dealing with. Families are going through divorces, broken relationships and families. Since I work at a church, there are other problems as well: addictions and family members wanting help, sickness, funerals, people that cannot pay their mortgage or car bills, divorce, families that are broken, and the list can go on and on….

_What do you do with all these problems in this world?_

I don’t know about you but I can get overwhelmed by all the problems that I hear about every day. The problems in this world are highlighted by the 24-hour coverage on TV – one terrible thing after another. Everywhere I turn, whether it is TV, radio, the newspaper or work, the continual problems that exist, are there.

_What do you do with all these problems in the world? As Christians, what do we do about it?_

Honestly, I just struggle with it all. I have no idea how to fix all the problems. I know one thing: giving money is not the answer. The problems seem to be getting worse every day and every week and every year. I struggle with all this because there is no easy answer.
What do you do with all of the injustice that is happening in the world and in our communities? As a Christian, I should be caring about the social injustice.

Yet, when I take a step back and think about all the problems in this world, there seems to be more international and national disasters at this time in history. There seems to be more poverty, famine, drugs, and homelessness. Families seem to be breaking apart on a regular basis. Divorce is normal. Kids move from one house to another. The media continually bombard us with more and more problems with our society.

What do you do with all of this? As a Christian, what can we do to make a difference?

As Christians, we should be leading the way. As Christians, we should be setting an example for the rest of the world. Jesus has called us to love, care, help, and serve the people in greatest need.

Here is the problem: It does not seem like we can solve the problem
   It does not seem like we can fix the problem.
   It does not seem like we can throw money at the problem, and it will go away.

So what do you do with all the problems we are currently facing? What do we do as a church? As a Christian, what is my social responsibility?

This week as I read Galatians 6, I believe the Apostle Paul has a word for us. I believe that the early church had similar struggles that we face today. I want to read to you Galatians 6:9-10. I think these verses are here to give us wisdom in how we can take the next steps.

I want us to focus on these two verses this morning….

Galatians 6:9-10

"Let us not become weary in **doing good**, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us **do good** to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

The first thing I see in these verses is “**do good.**” As Christians, we are to do good to the people around us. As followers of Jesus, we should take on Christ-likeness and help all people, especially those who belong to the family of believers. Some of you here this morning have been doing just that. You first see a problem. Along the way you feel God may be nudging you to get involved. Then, you spring into action. It may be a good friend that has a health problem, and you are there taking them to the doctor. For some, you see a family that is going through a tough time. You spend time with this family, and try to help them out. It may be by providing them babysitting. For some in this congregation, it’s dealing with education. There are people that see the need children have in reading or math. Some work as aids in the classroom or tutors in math and reading, giving up their time to help one student at a time. For some, you see a couple that is going through a difficult marriage. You intentionally build a relationship with the couple. You take the couple out occasionally, sharing about tough times in your own marriage, and being willing to listen and pray for the couple. There are many situations in the church where I have seen people “do good” – where people have seen a problem. God has nudged them in a way to be involved. They have taken steps to help out people, inside this church and outside the church, to make a difference.

I want us to go back to Galatians 6:9
“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

There are a couple of key words that I don’t want you to miss. “Don’t grow weary” and “do not give up.” I think back to school. When you are halfway through the year, it seems like school is never going to end. It’s February and the snow is blowing. It’s cold and summer seems so far away. For some of us, we have been helping people for a very long time. We have given our time and our physical and emotional energy. We have given money to the situation trying to help out the best we can. At times, it does not seem like it is working. We take one step forward, and then it seems like we go two steps back. We are not even sure if what we are doing is getting anywhere.

What do these verses say? Apostle Paul tells us, do not become weary. Don’t give up! When you feel exhausted because of all the time you spend helping someone; when you feel fatigued and tired, Paul is saying…persevere and don’t give up! You just have to keep moving forward.

Let me tell you a few things. I have years of practice on this one. When you get involved with people, I can guarantee you one thing. It is going to be messy. It is going to be tough. It is going to require more money, time and energy than you realize. At the same time, the Apostle Paul shares with us a word of encouragement. The Bible says, at the proper time, we will reap a harvest! It takes time to make a difference in the life we are involved in. We may never see it here on earth. Sometimes the harvest is experienced in life. Sometimes we grow to become more like Christ when we serve people that need help the most. Remember, when we are helping people, we need to persevere and never give up! What I want to remind you of this morning, is that reaping a harvest almost never happens on the same day as sowing the seed. It takes time and patience. Some days we may move one foot at a time. But we have trust in God, that we are making a difference.

I want to move on to verse go on 10….

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Do you see the word opportunity? The word can be translated to time. (Opportunity = Time) “Therefore, as we have (time or) opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to family of believers.”

Each of us in this room has a different amount of time to give to someone. Each of us has different amounts of time to give to a cause. God has given each of us different opportunities to do good for people. At times, I hear people who feel guilty because they are not doing enough. They compare themselves with other people. I have seen young moms, who are raising their kids, feel terrible they are not doing more. I have seen families working two or three jobs, who wished they could do more but just don’t have the time. I always believe God knows the time we have to help people. It will vary depending on the season or time of life we are in. Don’t compare yourself with someone else. Do what you can with the time you have. Give of the time and opportunity you have.

There are a lot of needs among our friends, in our community, and throughout the world. We mentioned them earlier. We covered all those needs earlier. I believe each of us has a responsibility to do something. We should all want to make a difference. Here is the key, I want you to get this, it has to start with one person doing one thing at a time!

Andy Stanley has a quote that I like very much:

“Do for one what you wish you could do for everyone. It might change the world.”
What Andy Stanley realized, and what we need to realize today, is we cannot do everything. We cannot fight every cause that comes our way. We cannot give money to every social injustice. It would be nice to give money, but it is not going to solve the problem.

What you need to think about: **What is one thing, one opportunity God may be calling you to? What is it that you can do to change a person’s life for the better?**

There are so many problems out there. What do you feel like God is calling you to do? How are you going to invest in one person or cause this month or this year? I believe that God will give each of us opportunities and time to do good works in the lives of the people we come across. Here is the key; we have to be open to it. You need to be willing to put your feet into action. I promise you it will cost you time, energy and money if you want to change a life, but it will be worth it.

**I want to close with this last story: this story is just one of many that I could pick from.**

I am not sure how many of you are aware of the shortage of foster care homes on Cape Cod. There are many, many children that are in need of good, loving, caring, and healthy foster care homes that children can go to. The need is growing more and more each year on the Cape.

One of the reasons has to do with the opioid epidemic and other addictions. These young parents cannot take care of their children. Often these children go into the foster care network because nobody can care for them. These children often arrive with one set of clothing. Sometimes, they only have a few diapers that are given to them. These foster families have to make sacrifices. They have to show unbelievable amounts of love. It takes energy and perseverance at times. Sometimes, it is for a short time: days to weeks, and for other children it is longer: months to years.

Six months ago, I was clueless about the epidemic of so many children needing foster homes. The need is so great. In the past eight months or so, we had four couples that have decided they wanted to provide foster care to children that were in need. Each of the couples first saw the need. They felt God nudging them to open up their house and to provide a warm, caring, loving home to the children that come their way. They prayed over the decision of becoming foster families for these children. I want to tell you that it is hard work and it is not for everyone. These four couples have jumped in. They have taken classes and become certified. They have opened their homes to foster children. I want to say that each of these families have their up’s and down’s. Some days they feel like they are making a difference for these children. I want to say there are days they are wondering, why God did you put this passion in my heart. There must be somebody better than me. Yet, each foster couple saw the opportunity, and wanted to make a difference. They stepped out in faith to meet the needs of children. Are these four couples going to make a huge dent into the foster family crises? Probably not. Are these four couples going to change the lives of the kids they are fostering? I truly believe they will.

This morning, I leave with you Andy Stanley’s quote…

**“Do for one what you wish you could do for everyone. It might change the world.”**

I truly believe God has given us opportunities to show love and make a difference in our world. It just so happens, that it is done in small steps: one person at a time, one person making a small difference in this world.

Let’s pray…..