Life is made of moments and what you do with them matters. I once heard someone say, “Today is God’s gift to you, but how you use it is your gift to him”. Think about your day today and ask yourself this: Did I honor God with my time? Did I use my time to make an impact and a difference? Or did I use my time to worry about things I can’t handle?

Believe it or not, God actually cares what you do with your time. Why because it is not really your time, but rather the time He gave you. God gives us all moments (or opportunities) for a reason and if we want to make them count we must take advantage of each opportunity and not allow life to pass us by. The Apostle Paul echoed the same sentiment in his letter to the Galatian church. According to verse 10, Paul says, “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”

I read this verse a few weeks ago and since then the word opportunity has branded itself in my mind. Dictionary.com defines opportunity as, “an appropriate or favorable time or occasion”. Paul takes it a step further. His use of the word opportunity does not denote a specific time (i.e. month, date or year) but rather a period of time. What Paul is saying in this passage is, since we have the time let us do good to all people, especially those who belong to the family of believers. I believe that Paul understood a truth that we should learn to embrace. That truth is simple: God gives us opportunities for His glory.

When I originally wrote this statement I wrote that God gives us opportunities for (our benefit and) His glory. This sounds good but the reality is, not every opportunity in our lives will benefit us but they should always glorify God. Matthew 5:16 helps to support this truth because in his sermon on the mount, Jesus tells those who are listening to “let your light so shine that men may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven”. Remember we said that God gives us opportunities for His glory. So according to this verse of scripture, the opportunity here is twofold. We have the opportunity to (#1) do good works and (#2) let our light shine so that men will see them and God will be glorified.

So, with that in mind, let’s go back to Paul’s letter to the Galatians for a moment. Paul tells them that since we have the opportunity (or since we have the time), let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” His choice of words intrigues me because again he says let us do good. This is important because in Paul’s day many claimed to be believers by their words but their actions did not match up with those of a believer.

This behavior is still prevalent today because many believers say one thing and do another. Did you know... our actions are important because they give us the right to be heard? Paul wants these believers to know that if they truly want to honor God, they need to do good to everyone.

But how does Paul define “do good” in this text? Well... he doesn’t, at least not specifically. Paul is not the judge on what is good or bad so He alone cannot define it. What he does do, however, is give directions on what to do with the opportunity God has given. This is where I want to spend the remainder of our time tonight.
There are 13 commands that Paul gives the people in Galatia on what to do with their opportunities. Time will not permit me to discuss all of them but I want to give attention to a few in this passage. If we look back at Galatians 5:25 Paul says something important...

**#1: Walk in the Spirit** (5:25) – The idea here is to walk in total submission to the Holy Spirit. This is important because everything Paul says after this, hinges on their ability to walk in the Spirit. Walking in the Spirit means that you want to honor God with your time so you allow the Spirit to lead you on what you need to do. Now this doesn’t mean that you ask God when you should take lunch or what project you should work on today. What this does mean is that you should ask the Holy Spirit who can I help today? My prayer for each of us is that we don’t become so busy in our own world that we don’t see needs of others around us.

**#2: Show care and concern for others** (6:1) – This is very important because in Paul’s day there were many religious people who took pride in their ability to do right and look down on those who did wrong. Yet here Paul challenges this attitude by telling the Galatian believers to be intentional and care for those who sinned. In fact he says you should “restore those who have been overtaken by sin”. This denotes a person who did not sin with intention but rather one who get caught up unintentionally. Paul wants the believers to know that it is easy to get caught up in sin so we should not judge our brother or sister when they mess up but rather help them and restore them. I love this word restore because it gives the picture of setting a broken bone. It is done with care and concern so that the bone grows back healthy and strong. So when a person comes to you after getting caught up in something, Paul says our job is not to judge them but to help restore them back to health in Christ.

**#3: Bear one another’s burdens** (6:2) – As Christians we are called to serve the needs of others. Philippians 2:4 says, “Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.” In Galatians 6:2 Paul says that the believers are to “bear one another’s burdens”. Now I hear what Paul is saying but I find issue at the same time with his words because in verse 5 he says that every man must bear his own burden. It would seem that these two statements are contradictory but after reading and re-reading, I discovered that these statements are actually complimentary. What Paul is saying in this passage of scripture is that we must all bear our own burdens (family, finances, health, job, school) but we should also bear one another’s burdens. In Luke 10:25-37 Jesus made it very clear that the question we should ask is not “Who is my neighbor?” but “To whom can I be a neighbor?” This means that I cannot do life alone because I was created to help someone. And you know what? Most (if not all) of what I go through in life is not just for me, but it is to help someone else.

Ladies and Gentleman... Life is made of moments and what you do with them matters. Paul’s words in Galatians 6:10 should challenge each of us to recognize every day as an opportunity to honor God with our time. When we learn to surrender our will and walk by the spirit, when we learn to show care and concern for others and when we unselfishly decide to bear one another’s burdens... God will be glorified. So I end with this. Did you honor God with your time today? If not pray for another opportunity to use the moments he provides to make an impact and a difference. And if nothing else, I pray that you recognize that every day is an opportunity and remember that **God gives us opportunities for His glory.**
God gives us all moments (or opportunities) for a reason and if we want to make them count we must take advantage of each opportunity and not allow life to pass us by.

The Apostle Paul says in Galatians 6:10, “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”

I believe that Paul understood a truth that we should learn to embrace.

That truth is simple:__________________________________

Paul tells them that since we have the opportunity (or since we have the time), let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”

In this passage we can find directions on what to do with the opportunity God has given.

1. ____________________________________________
   My prayer for each of us is that we don’t become so busy in our own world that we don’t see needs of others around us.

2. ____________________________________________
   Paul says our job is not to judge them but to help restore them back to health in Christ.

3. ____________________________________________
   This means that I cannot do life alone because I was created to help someone.

I pray that you recognize that every day is an opportunity and remember that ______________________________________________.