The Arrow of Discouragement

Gal. 6:9

<u>Discouragement:</u> to be deprived of courage, hope, or confidence. To become disheartened.

In his writings Paul reminds us of two facts concerning these stormy banks that we now stand on:

1) They are inevitable:

(2 Cor. 4:8-10) "We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body."

2) We need motivation:

(v.16-18) "therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal."

Galatians 6:9; "And let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary."

HOW?

1) Remember: Who you were and to whom you belong

2) Refocus: On His promises

Hebrews 13:5; "Let your conduct be without covetousness and be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'" Isaiah 43:2; "When you pass through the waters I will be with you and through the rivers they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you." Romans 8:37; "Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loves us."

3)Relax: Leave the Results To Him

Philippians 1:6: "Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ."

4) Release Your Grip:

I Peter 5:6-7; "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you."

5)Remember: v.9

In His time we will reap if we do not lose heart.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who loved His *appearing*" (2 Tim. 4:7-8).