

Law of Sowing and Reaping

Int.

1. Aim: To explain God's law about sowing and reaping and what it means to us.
2. Gal. 6:7-8 "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 8. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."
3. Same truths are presented in other verses:
 - a. Rom. 2:6 "Who will render to every man according to his deeds:"
 - b. Job 4:8 "Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same."
 - c. Job. 34:11 "For the work of a man shall he render unto him, and cause every man to find according to his ways."
 - d. Jer. 17:10 "I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings."
 - e. Prov. 22:8 NKJV "He who sows iniquity will reap sorrow, And the rod of his anger will fail."
 - f. 2 Cor. 9:6 "But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully."
4. This is a proverbial statement -- this is a natural law that all farmers know and understand. It is also true in the spiritual and moral realm.

Discussion**I. TEXT Gal. 6:7-10****A. "Be not deceived" v. 7**

1. Do not let others deceive you - do not let yourself deceive you
2. Man might be deceived by...:
 - a. Thinking there will be no day of harvest -- no life after this life
 - b. Thinking that present sowing has no relationship to the future harvest
 - c. By thinking one can sow one thing and reap another
 - d. By thinking that one can sow sparingly and reap bountifully.
3. We may be deceived, but God is never deceived.

B. "God is not mocked" v. 7

1. Mocked = to turn up the nose at in contempt and derision, to mock, deride, jeer
2. If one has the idea that he can mock God he is deceived

C. "...for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap..." V. 7

1. This statement is designed to prove the previous one that God cannot be mocked.
2. If a person could sow one thing and reap another, then he would succeed in mocking God.
3. Every seed brings forth after its kind - this is one of God's immutable laws.
 - a. Reap according to kind
 - b. Gen. 1:12 "And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good." -- this is a law of nature that seed brings forth after its kind.

- c. One does not reap the exact seed which was sown, but he does reap the same in kind.
4. Examples of how we reap in kind as we have sown:
- a. Jacob
- (1) Gen. 25:29-34 He used a deceptive scheme in order to obtain the blessing from Isaac instead of Esau. Gen. 27:36 "And he said, Is not he rightly named Jacob? for he hath supplanted me these two times: he took away my birthright; and, behold, now he hath taken away my blessing. And he said, Hast thou not reserved a blessing for me?"
 - (2) Jacob thought he could deceive without ever having to pay it.
 - (3) He had to leave his home. And then he met his match in Laban. Laban deceived Jacob by giving him Leah not Rachel, for whom he had worked 7 years.
 - (4) Gen. 31:7 Jacob said to Rachel and Leah "And your father hath deceived me, and changed my wages ten times; but God suffered him not to hurt me."
 - (5) Jacob reaped what he had sown.
- b. Ahab, Jezebel, and Naboth - 1 Kings 21
- (1) Naboth had a beautiful vineyard that joined the property of Ahab, who was the king of Israel. Ahab wanted it but Naboth refused to sell because it was an inheritance.
 - (2) Jezebel arranged for men to lie about Naboth and had him stoned to death. Then they took the property.

- (3) The Prophet Elijah said: 1 Kings 21:23-24 "And of Jezebel also spake the Lord, saying, The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel. 24. Him that dieth of Ahab in the city the dogs shall eat; and him that dieth in the field shall the fowls of the air eat."
- (4) Ahab reaped 1 Kings 22:38
- (5) Jezebel 2 Kings 9:36 - They reaped as they had sown.

D. **"For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption;" v. 8**

1. To sow to the flesh is to engage in those things which gratify the flesh to do the works of the flesh
 - a. Gal. 5:16-21
 - b. The mind of the flesh causes sowing to the flesh.
 - c. It produces death
 - d. Rom. 8:13 "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live."
 - e. We are sowing to the flesh when we take care of the needs of the body but neglect the needs of the soul
2. Corruption
 - a. Loss of salvation
 - b. Eternal misery, opposite of eternal life
 - c. Mt. 24:46 "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."

E. **"but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."** v.8

1. Spirit

- a. To sow to the spirit is to walk by the spirit, to be led by the spirit to do the words of the spirit. 5:16ff
- b. The mind of the spirit causes one to sow to the spirit.
- c. The person who sows to the spirit is living according to the commandments of God:
 - (1) Christian -- obedient
 - (2) Faithful in living - example
 - (3) Helping fellow man - teaching, serving - sick, needy, orphans, widows, hungry

2. Life everlasting

- a. Mt. 25:46
- b. Jn. 5:28-29 "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."
- c. Eternal life in contrast to corruption

F. **“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”** Gal. 6:9

1. The farmer does not reap his crop the next day after he plants.
 - a. It takes time, cultivation, and growth
 - b. Then comes the harvest
2. Just so in sowing to righteousness:
 - a. Don't get weary - discouraged, depressed in well doing
 - b. Well doing - sowing to the spirit
 - c. Due season - reaping is certain, but it takes time
3. Faint not - give up, quit, relax
 - a. Faint not = in classical times this word was used in talking about how a bow is “unstrung” when the archer is through using it. People can get “unstrung” too.
 - b. Many times we go through trials and hardships in sowing to the spirit but we must never quit.
 - c. Many church members will be lost because they fainted!
 - d. Some will start out very faithful but quit with time
 - e. We must endure until the end
4. Instead of looking for a place to quit we should be looking for another place to start!! Another opportunity.

G. **“As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.” Gal. 6:10**

1. As the opportunities open up to us let us do good to all men
2. Especially those who are of the household of faith:
 - a. Fellow Christians -- spiritual family
 - b. The term “charity begins at home” is a scriptural thought
 - c. We are obligated to care for all men, but especially those of our own group
 - d. In 1 Tim. 5:8 Paul tells about the responsibility to care for our family.
 - e. That same principle would apply to the church from what this verse teaches.
3. Opportunity carries obligation.
 - a. It may not always be convenient to do good we must make some of the opportunities.
 - b. Do good always
4. “US” - Paul includes himself in this description because he can also get discouraged in well doing.

II. TRUTH'S ABOUT THIS LAW OF SOWING AND REAPING

- A. It is as true as the law of gravity
1. It is true all over the world
 2. When we violate this law we will pay the penalty
 3. It is universal

B. Guarantees the existence of heaven and hell

1. Justice of God demands heaven and hell
2. Sow to flesh = reap corruption - sin requires punishment
 - a. Adultery - Gal. 5:19 = shall not inherit
 - b. Drunkards - Shall not inherit
 - c. Murderers - shall not inherit - lake of fire Rev.21:8
3. Law of sowing and reaping guarantees that there is a hell
4. By sowing to the spirit we shall reap life = heaven
 - a. No one deserves salvation - Christ died for us
 - b. By the mercy and grace of God we can have salvation
 - c. Eph. 2:8-9 - Do not have to face the consequences of our sins

C. We reap the same as we sow

1. This is the principle of identical harvest
2. Seed produces the same - corn makes corn, beans make beans
3. Evil = evil Good = good
4. Job 4:8 "Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same."
5. Jer. 17:10 NKJV "I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings."

D. We reap more than we sow

1. True in the vegetable kingdom, wheat, beans, corn - bountifully
2. Also true in life
 - a. Evil, sin = reap more than we sow -- sin and its consequences has a way of multiplying.
 - b. Good, Righteousness = reap more than we sowed -- if we sow sparingly then we reap the same way - we reap in proportion to what we sow
 - c. 2 Cor. 9:6 & 10

E. We reap much longer than we sow

1. We can sow enough in a day, hour or moment that will take a lifetime or an eternity to reap
2. Examples:
 - a. Cain - his offering rejected - Heb. 11:4 Gen. 4:3 -- the influence of Able is still living.
 - b. David committed adultery with Bathsheba - reaped:
 - (1) Death of the child
 - (2) Ammon ruined virtue of Tamar
 - (3) Absalom slew Ammon and later rebelled against his father and was then slain

CONCLUSION

1. God's law of sowing and reaping is:
 - a. Certain for us all
 - b. We are sowing either to the flesh or the spirit
 2. This life may be spoken of as the seed time
 3. We are all sowing something!
 - a. Is it to the flesh or the spirit?
 - b. We know and God knows
 4. What will your harvest be in the judgment ?
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