

The Law of Sowing and Reaping

Shirksville August 21, 2016 (first half)

Purpose: to help us ponder the positive as well as the negative in the great principle God established in our personal choices - we reap what we sow.

Text Galatians 6:7-10 and Romans 8:1, 5-8, 12-13

- I. Two great destinies lie before us, and each little choice we make in our private and personal lives, leads us to our final destiny.
 - A. Those who pursue sensual gratification will find it grows on them, destroys their interest in God and leads them to corruption.
 1. Corruption: decay, ruin, (spontaneous or inflicted)
 - a. In the Christian sense, eternal misery in hell.
 2. Shall die - "to die off", literally or figuratively.
 - B. Those who encourage their spirit contact with God through spiritual activity will grow in their love for God and will reap
 1. Gal life everlasting - life without end.
 2. Rom - live
- II. God Himself established the law of sowing and reaping.
 - A. It is bigger than we are, larger than life itself.
 - B. God will not be mocked (sneered at, or turn up the nose).
 - C. We may deceive (planao, our word planet or wanderer) ourselves. In fact it is our own "feelings" that deceive us, because we feel we may feed the flesh and not reap for it and we may feed the spirit part of us and never see any benefit.
 - D. These laws emanate from the nature of God. He is eternal and while He confesses great love to us, He will bow to no man. He will not bend or break the rules.
- III. The Law of Sowing and Reaping was frequently used in the Bible because the agrarian community well understood its significance and implications.
 - A. Job 4:8
 - B. Pro 1:31, then read v 29-33
 - C. Pro 11:17-19
 - D. Hosea 8:5-7
 - E. Hosea 10:12-14
 - F. Jer 12:1-4
- IV. There are at least 7 Laws of the Harvest we do well to ponder
 - A. **1. The Law of Consequence — If we reap, it is because someone has sown!** John 4:37, "One soweth, another reapeth..." Every product purchased in the grocery store, every vegetable brought in from the garden... all these things are because someone had vision to plant
 1. In a positive sense
 - a. We reap many benefits because of others efforts. In our faith, the men of God in the Bible, the early teachers, the Anabaptist martyrs, faithful leaders, down to our own parents who took us to church. We reap and reap and reap.
 - (1) in reading, someone invented the process
 - (2) someone taught us how
 - (3) someone wrote the words
 - (4) someone printed the book

- b. We reap the efforts we put forth for good
- 2. In a negative sense
 - a. We reap the negative effects of those who lived in sin. The adopted child with physical effects, “My mother’s is probably dead from the kind of life she lived.” Our country is sowing seeds of wickedness and there will be a reaping.
 - b. We reap negative effects because of wrong choices we have made. Temptations in our old age because we fed evil thoughts in our youth.
- B. **2. The Law of “In Kind” — We reap in the manner of our sowing** Genesis 1:11-12

- 1. God established the invisible genetic code. Before we plant, we study the label. We know there are some beans we don’t want in our garden (pole beans) and some tomatoes we won’t want (indeterminate)!
- 2. “How thankful I am that we decided to maintain the practice of daily Bible reading”. The testimony of an elderly sister in our congregation. She had explained that her husband now has an attention span of about 30 seconds. Significant communication about anything is almost impossible. But Bible reading time is rich! What used to be about 15 minutes may now last over two hours in sweet fellowship discussing Bible passages and bygone memories!
- 3. We reap “in kind”, although we may have no idea when we so, the exact nature of the reaping. Did this sister think when she was 23 with two children on her lap, I’ll have a happier experience in my 80’s because I’m doing this now?
- 4. Sow a thought — reap an act! Sow an act — reap a habit; Sow a habit — reap a character; Sow a character — reap a destiny.

“The fact that we reap what we sow is good news for those who sow good habits, but a frightening thought for those currently involved in ungodly activities such as promiscuity, drug and alcohol abuse, neglect of family, or mistreatment of others in order to climb the ladder of success. We cannot sow crabgrass and expect to reap pineapples. We cannot sow disobedience to God and expect to reap His blessing. What we sow, we reap. Let us not deceive ourselves: We will reap the harvest of our lives.”

- C. **3. The Law of Delay — There is time delay between the sowing and the reaping.** Gal 6:9 “in due season”, James 5:7-8

- 1. Today is the father of tomorrow. If there is no father, there will be no son.
- 2. Two human/normal struggles
 - a. *Instant gratification*: delayed gratification is the ability to resist the temptation for an immediate reward and wait for a later reward. Generally, delayed gratification is associated with resisting a smaller but more immediate reward in order to receive a larger and more enduring reward later.
 - b. *Elevated expectations*: having unreasonable expectations of the rewards or status in life that should be given to one. Young parents often expect to start off in life on the living standard of their parents. Forgetting that their parents made great effort over prolonged periods of time to reach the stage of life where they are, a younger generation may bloom the rose before it is ready.
- 3. “To reap good figs one has to wait for them to ripen, but naughty figs can be harvested at any time.”

- D. **4. The Law of Increase — We reap abundantly more than we sow.**

- 1. In Bible times, Jesus spoke of reaping 30, 60, or even 100 fold. We all know farming is about increase, we wouldn’t make the effort if the yield was just the same.
- 2. Bible examples.
 - a. What evil did Eve come to know? She ate the fruit so her eyes could be opened to good and evil.
 - b. What life of loneliness did Cain live. He hated his brother and lived a life of a fugitive.
 - c. What fellowship with God did Abraham find? He left cities, he forsook the well watered plain, he dwelt in tents with Isaac and Jacob, but he is called the friend of God.
 - d. What did Samson see when his eyes were plucked out? Did he see the sensual forms of the Philistine women he committed immorality with?

3. People I have known
 - a. A young woman convinced she lived with the most selfish of all husbands.
 - b. A young man, so angry that he finally was forced to live alone, brooding over and over again on how much he has been mistreated. Missing the blessings of today because he wouldn't let go of the hurts of yesterday.
 - c. A young woman so convinced that her parents were abusive that she cannot live with her husband in peace or raise her own children.
- E. **5. The Law of Sacrifice — It costs to sow.**
 1. We can capitalize on the abundance principle for we reap in proportion to our sowing, but it carries a big price tag.
 2. Those who sow abundantly, reap abundantly. 2Cor 9:6-11; Ecc 11:1-6
 - a. God has promised us that He will reward those who give unselfishly and sacrificially.
 - b. He pours grace without measure into lives of saints, giving them inexhaustible resources.
 3. Those who give sparingly, receive sparingly.
- F. **6. The Law of Seasons — Sow in the field and sow in the season of your calling.**
 1. A young man being called to live a single life said, "If only I had a wife it would take care of most of my problems." We all struggle, feeling we would have done better if our circumstances would have been different.
 2. Others may have a greater work, but you have your work to do, and no one in all God's heritage can do it so well as you."
 3. In the harvest field now ripened There's a work for all to do;
Hark! the voice of God is calling To the harvest calling you.

In the mad rush of the broad way, In the hurry and the strife,
Tell of Jesus' love and mercy, Give to them the Word of Life.

Does the place you're called to labor Seem too small and little known?
It is great if God is in it, And He'll not forget His own.

Are you laid aside from service, Body worn from toil and care?
You can still be in the battle, In the sacred place of prayer.

When the conflict here is ended And our race on earth is run,
He will say, if we are faithful, "Welcome home, My child—well done!"

Refrain:

Little is much when God is in it! Labor not for wealth or fame.
There's a crown—and you can win it, If you go in Jesus' Name

Kittie Suffield

- G. **7. The Law of Perseverance — An evil harvest comes on its own accord but to reap the good, we must continue faithfully until the end.**
 1. "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." (Ga 6:9 AV)
 2. The example of Solomon. A great king and highly favored by God.
 - a. He did much good. Wrote books of Proverbs, Song of Solomon and Ecclesiastes.
 - b. But he planted lust seeds. 1 Kings 11:1-2,
 - (1) 4 - let him into idolatry
 - (2) 9 - God became angry with him
 - (3) 10 - unhealthy relationships
 - c. Nehemiah 13:26

Conclusion: We may be deceived, because our feelings and passions often disagree with facts, *it seems we can sow to the flesh and still reap of the Spirit.* Only a passionate pursuit of God will keep us thinking right, sowing right and reaping right.