

“You Reap What You Sow!”
Galatians 6:7-10

Introduction:

1. Please Head Back With Me This Morning:
 - To Galatians Chapter 6!
 - Where Paul Is Starting To Bring His Letter To These Struggling Churches:
 - To An End!
 - Now - What Would You Want To Say To Someone:
 - With Your Last Words:
 - Especially If You Did Not Know Whether Or Not You Would See Them Again?
 - The Apostle Paul:
 - All Throughout His Letter:
 - Has Been Challenging The Galatian Christians To Return To & Remain In:
 - The Truth Of The Gospel!
 - And So – With His Final Words:
 - He Wants To Remind Them – And Us:
 - Of The Importance Of ***Living Out*** That Gospel!

2. And So:
 - After Giving Several Examples:
 - Of What It Means To:
 - “Walk In The Spirit” Like:
 - 6:2 - Bearing One Another’s Burdens!
 - 6:4 - Proving Your Own Work!
 - 6:6 - Providing For & Sharing With Your Pastors & Teachers!
 - All As Expressions Of The Love Of Jesus Christ!
 - In 6:7 - Paul Starts To Wrap Things Up By Giving Us All A Warning:
 - “Be Not Deceived! God Is Not Mocked!”
 - His Warning Is Two-Fold! It Is:
 - A Warning Of Our Own Weakness! And:
 - A Warning Of God’s Wisdom!
 - To Warn Us Of Our Own Weakness:
 - Paul Writes - “Be Not Deceived!”
 - So - When It Comes To The:
 - Word Of God & The Work Of God:
 - In Our Lives:
 - We Must Not Be “Deceived!”
 - To Be Deceived Here Means Simply:
 - To Be Led Astray:
 - From The Truth That He Has Been Teaching Them All Throughout This Letter!
 - We Can Be “Deceived”:
 - By Others – As The Galatians Were! Or:
 - We Can Be “Deceived”
 - By Ourselves & Our Own Flesh!
 - Remember 6:3 - “For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself!”
 - To Be Deceived Is One Of Our Biggest Weaknesses As Human Beings!
 - And So - We Must Not Be “Deceived” In:
 - Our Thinking – That Because We Believe In The Gospel:
 - We Do Not Need To Experience Change & Transformation By The Gospel!
 - But Paul Also Warns Us Of God’s Wisdom:
 - By Writing - “God Is Not Mocked!”
 - Which Means That Even Though:
 - We Can Be Deceived By Others & Even Deceive Ourselves:
 - God Cannot Be Deceived! And He Will Not Be Fooled!
 - And Paul Uses This Two-Fold Warning:
 - To Challenge Us To Keep:

- "Walking In The Spirit!"

- And **Live Out** The Gospel Of Jesus Christ In Our Lives Every Single Day!

3. So - You May Be Able To Fool:

- Others – In Fact – You May Even Be Able To Fool:

- Yourself!

- But You Cannot Fool God!

- "God Is Not – And Will Not – Be Mocked!"

- And How Do We Know This?

- Because Of What We Read In The Rest Of Verse 7 Through Verse 10:

- Which Can Be Summed Up In This Way:

- "You Reap What You Sow!"

- 6:7-10 - "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. / 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. / And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. / As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith!"

- Paul Wants Us To Never Forget:

- The Lessons We Have Learned From This Letter!

- And So - Together We Need To Remember:

1. ***The Principle Of Sowing & Reaping!***

- 6:7 - "For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap!"

- Paul First Reminds Us Of:

- A General Principle & Law:

- In The Natural World!

- If You Are A Farmer:

- Or Even A Gardener – You Know That:

- "You Reap What You Sow!"

- As A Natural Law:

- We See This Nearly Every Single Year:

- And With Every Single Growing Season!

- You Reap **What** You Sow!

- That Is - The Kind Of Seed:

- You Sow & Plant In The Ground:

- Will Be The Kind Of Plant & The Kind Of Fruit That Will Grow!

- If You Plant Corn Seeds:

- You Will Get Corn Plants:

- And Eventually Will Harvest The Corn Itself!

- And This Applies:

- To Any Crop Or Any Seed:

- A Person Might Sow!

- And It Even Applies To The Quality Of Seed That Is Sown!

- **IE:** See All The Signs In The Fields Of The Different Kinds Of Seeds! Constantly Trying To Find The Best & Most Productive Seeds!

- This Is A Natural Law:

- You Reap **What** You Sow!

- But Along With This:

- You **Reap** After You Sow!

- There Is A Period Of Time:

- That You Must Wait Before You Can:

- Harvest What You Planted In The Ground!

- And The Length Of Time You Wait:

- Will Depend On Many Factors:

- Like The Condition Of The Soil / The Weather / The Temperature!

- This Is A Natural Law:

- You Reap **After** You Sow! But Also:

- You Reap **More Than** You Sow!

- This Is The Goal For Gardening!

- You Plant One Seed So You Can Get More Seeds!

- You Want To Get A Greater Yield Every Single Year!
- 2 Corinthians 9:6 - “But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully!”
- And So, When The Conditions Are Right:
 - This Is A Natural Law:
 - You Reap **More Than** You Sow!
- But Paul Uses This Natural Law & Principle:
 - To Illustrate This:
 - As A Spiritual Law!
 - There Is So Much In Our Lives:
 - That Can Serve As A “Seed” – And:
 - Given The Right Conditions:
 - Has The Propensity To Take Hold And To Grow!
 - And That Is Why Paul Gives Us His Warning:
 - In Verse 7 As Well!
 - God, In His Wisdom, Has Designed Our Lives To Function According To This Spiritual Law As Well!
 - “You Reap What You Sow!”
- So - We Need To Constantly Remember:
 - This Principle Of Sowing & Reaping!
 - Not Just The Natural Law:
 - But As A Spiritual Law!
 - It Applies To:
 - Anything That You Might “Sow” In Your Life!
 - The Actions Of Your Life!
 - The Choices Of Your Will!
 - The Thoughts Of Your Mind!
 - Even The Desires Of Your Heart!
 - The World Even Understands This To A Point:
 - **IE:** “Watch your thoughts, they become words; Watch your words, they become actions; Watch your actions, they become habits; Watch your habits, they become character; watch your character, for it becomes your destiny.” (A Quote Attributed To Many Different People)
 - What Kinds Of Seeds:
 - Are You Sowing? Remember:
 - “You Reap What You Sow!”
- But We Also Need To Remember:

2. ***The Priority Of Sowing & Reaping!***

- 6:8 - “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!”
 - If The Principle Of Sowing & Reaping:
 - Is True – And It Is – Then We Need To Watch:
 - The Kind Of Seed We Are Sowing!
 - In Every Area Of Our Lives!
 - Mind / Will / Heart!
 - In 1 Corinthians 10:3 - Paul Uses Another Illustration:
 - A Building - And Writes - “But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon!”
 - And So - We Need To “Take Heed” To What We Are Sowing In Our Lives As Well!
 - There Are Two Types Of Sowing:
 - In This Verse:
 - Sowing To Your Flesh – And:
 - Sowing To The Spirit!
 - Which One Applies To You Today?
 - Which One Should Be Your Priority As A Christian / As A Child Of God?
 - Truth Is – Every One Of Us Is Sowing Something!
 - And So Every One Of Us Will Reap Something:
 - Based On What We Are Sowing!
 - What Kinds Of Seeds Are You Sowing?

- First Type - "He That Soweth To His Flesh!"
 - This Simply Means That You Are:
 - Allowing Your Old Nature:
 - Your Flesh – To Have His Way:
 - In Your Desires!
 - In Your Decisions!
 - In Your Deeds!
 - When You Sow To Your Flesh:
 - The "Works Of The Flesh" Will:
 - Be Evident In Your Life!
 - Remember 5:19-21 - "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, / Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, / Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like!"
 - This Does Not Mean That *All* Of These Will Be In Your Life – Or Even In *Worst* Way! But The Tendency Of Your Thoughts Will Be On These Things!
 - And What Will Be The Result?
 - Remember - "You *Will* Reap What You Sow!"
 - And So - You "Shall Of The Flesh Reap Corruption!"
 - There Is A Natural Corruption:
 - That Often Takes Place:
 - Along With Sin & The "Works Of The Flesh!"
 - Proverbs 13:15 - "The Way Of The Transgressor Is Hard!"
 - But – Apart From The Work Of The Holy Spirit:
 - To Regenerate You & Sanctify You:
 - This Is Describing The Future "Corruption" & Destruction That Will Happen In The Future!
 - It Is Describing God's Final Judgment:
 - For Sin & Sinners - In Hell & In The Lake Of Fire!
 - But - Praise God - There Is A:
- Second Type - "He That Soweth To The Spirit!"
 - This Means That You Are:
 - Allowing God – Through The Holy Spirit:
 - To Have *His* Way In Your Life!
 - In Your Desires!
 - In Your Decisions!
 - In Your Deeds!
 - "Would you live for Jesus, and be always pure and good? / Would you walk with Him within the narrow road? / Would you have Him bear your burden, carry all your load? / Let Him have His way with thee. / His pow'r can make you what you ought to be; / His blood can cleanse your heart and make you free; / His love can fill your soul, and you will see / 'Twas best for Him to have His way with thee!"
 - When You Sow To The Spirit:
 - The "Fruit Of The Spirit" Will:
 - Be Evident In Your Life!
 - Remember 5:22-23 - "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, / Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law!"
 - To Sow To The Spirit Means:
 - That You Have Been Given Life By The Holy Spirit:
 - Through Faith In The Lord Jesus Christ As Your Savior!
 - From Your Own Sin!
 - From Your Old Flesh!
 - To Sow To The Spirit Means:
 - That You Are Being Led By The Holy Spirit:
 - And You Are Desiring To & Even Striving To Follow Him & Walk In His Steps!
 - And What Will Be The Result?
 - Remember - "You *Will* Reap What You Sow!"
 - And So - You "Shall Of The Spirit Reap Life Everlasting!"

- In Other Words:
 - God Himself Will Graciously Reward You For Your Faith In & Faithfulness To Him!
- This Does Not Mean:
 - That Your Sowing This Seed “Earns” You “Life Everlasting!”
 - Because The Source Of This Is God Himself – “Of The Spirit!”
 - It Is His Gift!
- Just Like The Gift Of Harvest:
 - God Gives To The Farmer!
 - Mark 4:26-27 - “And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; / And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how!”
 - We Know How, Don’t We!
- And So We Must Look To The Lord:
 - Who Will Give Us His Abundant Harvest!
 - And Say - “Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord!” (Matthew 25:21)
- So - What Is The Priority Of Your Life Today?
 - The Things Of Your Flesh?
 - Or The Things Of The Spirit? The Things Of God?
 - It Is An Evidence Of Your Heart’s Condition & Relationship With God!
 - Remember - “You **Will** Reap What You Sow!”
 - So How Can You “Sow” To The Spirit?
 - By Turning To & Trusting In Jesus, Who Will Then Send His Spirit Into Your Life!
 - And Then There Can Be:

3. ***The Perseverance Of Sowing & Reaping!***

- 6:9 - “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not!”
 - Paul Assumes That All Christians:
 - Will Be Walking In The Spirit & Therefore Will Be Sowing To The Spirit!
 - And So Now He Offers Us Some Special Words!
- A Special Exhortation:
 - To Persevere!
 - “Let Us Not Be Weary In Well Doing!”
 - God Wants Us To Keep On:
 - “Doing Good!”
 - Things That Are Pleasing To God:
 - And Things That Will Help Others!
 - This Is The Kind Of Seed That We Need To Keep Sowing!
 - But Sometimes - Even That Can Be Difficult & Hard!
 - Can’t It? Because Of Our Flesh / Because Of Others / Because Of The Length Of Time Before We Reap!
 - We Need To Keep Our Hearts & Minds Focused On One Person To Help Us!
 - Hebrews 12:1-3 - “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, / Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. / For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds!”
 - And To Further Help Us To Persevere In Our Walk With God & Sowing To The Spirit:
- A Special Encouragement:
 - To Persevere!
 - “We Shall Reap, If We Faint Not!”
 - The Law Of Sowing & Reaping:
 - Does Not Just Apply To Weeds In The Natural World!
 - It Applies To Good Seed!
 - And So - The Law Of Sowing & Reaping:
 - Does Not Just Apply To Sin & To The Works Of The Flesh In The Spiritual World!

- It Applies To Good Seed As Well!

- When You Persevere:

- In Walking In The Spirit:

- And Sowing to The Spirit:

- You Will Reap God's Blessing!

- You Will Reap God's Eternal Home!

- In Fact - "It Will Be Worth It All – When We See Jesus!"

- And So - Paul Reminds Us Also Of:

4. ***The Purpose Of Sowing & Reaping!***

- 6:10 - "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith!"

- This Is How We Are To Persevere:

- In Our Christian Lives!

- To "Do Good!"

- Not Just In Our Thoughts!

- Not Just In Our Words!

- But In Our Works & Deeds!

- The Timing Of Our Well Doing:

- "As We Have Therefore Opportunity!"

- This Does Not Mean:

- Only When We Think We Have The Chance To Do Good!

- No - It Is Actually Talking About:

- The Time Of Our Lives:

- Now!

- "Therefore – Since We Are Having Time!"

- It's Not About Waiting:

- For An Opportunity To Arise:

- In Order To Manifest The Fruit Of The Spirit!

- It's About Taking & Using:

- The Time That We Have Been Already Given By God:

- To Live Out The Gospel!

- God Has Given You & Me This Time:

- For This Reason! Also See:

- The Treatment Of Our Well Doing:

- "Let Us Do Good Unto All Men!"

- We Are To Be A Blessing:

- To "All Men!"

- Family / Friends / Even Enemies!

- But There Is Still A Special Relationship:

- That God Has Given His People:

- And He Describes Them As "The Household Of Faith!"

- We Need To Not Withhold:

- Our Seeds Of "Well Doing" From Our Own Church & Christian Family!

- Which, Unfortunately, We Too Often Do!

- And So - Even In Our Relationships:

- As The Family Of God:

- This Principle Is Still True:

- "You Reap What You Sow!"

Conclusion:

1. The Question I Want To Leave You With This Morning Is:

- "What Do You Have To Look Forward To?"

- If It Is True That:

- "You Reap What You Sow!"

- And That **Is** True!

- Not Only Is It A Natural Law!

- It Is A Spiritual Law As Well!

- What Are You Going To Reap?
 - In The End?
 - You Need To Remember That:
 - It **Will** Be Consistent With The Kind Of Seed You Are Sowing In Your Heart & Life Today!
 - You Cannot Sow Your Seeds To The Flesh:
 - And Expect To Reap The Fruit Of The Spirit!
- 2. But – If You Are Sowing Your Seeds To The Spirit:
 - By Living In The Spirit!
 - By Being Led By The Spirit!
 - And By Walking In The Spirit!
 - Then God Himself Promises You:
 - The Fruit Of The Spirit!
 - And The Harvest Of “Life Everlasting!”
 - And So - In The Words Of Paul:
 - 6:9 - “Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not!”

***Grace Baptist Church
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
4245 North 200 West
Greenfield, Indiana 46140
317-326-2362
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com***