

I. We Reap Only When There Has Been Sowing (v. 7,8 “whatever a man sows, that he will also reap... he who sows...will...reap”; cf. 2 Cor. 9:6; Prov. 19:17; 1 Tim. 6:17-19)

A. *Examples in our common experience of how we mess up*

1. Evangelism
2. Get a building
3. pray for a miracle instead of working on addiction
4. Have not because you ask not

B. *Issues involved in sowing*

1. Don't eat all your crop – scrimp and save
2. Watch your timing – Don't follow the crowd.
3. Plan your investments but don't overplan
4. Know your fields
5. Only plant when the fields are ready
6. Don't put all your hope in one crop
7. Plant something
8. Monitor your investment
9. Don't plant or eat the firstfruits
10. Trust God. Don't let fear of risk keep you from making wise risks.

II. We Reap The Same Kind As We Sow (vs. 7,8 “whatever...that” “flesh...Spirit”; cf. John 3:6-7; Gal. 6:7-8; Job. 4:8; Prov. 26:27; Psalm 7:15-16; James 3:18; Phil. 4:14-19; Mark 10:29-30; Luke 6:38; Prov 19:17; 2 Cor. 9:6-11; etc.)

III. We Reap A Multiplied Increase Of What We Sow (v. 8 “corruption...everlasting life”; Gen. 26:12; Mark 4:20; Hos 8:7; Heb 12:15; cf. Prov. 4:18; 22:8; Hos. 8:7; 2 Sam. 11; 2 Sam. 12:5-6 with Ex. 22:1; Lev. 26:18,21 [discipline gets worse and worse 1x7x7x7x7-; Luke 6:38; Matt. 19:29; Eph. 3:20; 2 Cor. 9:6; Prov. 19:17; 1 Tim. 6:17-19; etc.)

IV. We Reap In A Different Season Than We Sow (v. 9 “in due season”; James 5:7; Eccl. 11:1; Gal. 6:9; Prov. 11:18; Eccl. 8:11)

V. We Reap The Full Harvest Of The Good Only If We Persevere: The Evil Comes To Harvest On Its Own (vs. 6,9,10; cf. Gal. 6:9; 2 John 1:8; Heb. 12:1-3; Rom. 5:3-4; Ps. 37:7; Heb. 10:32-36)

VI. We Reap In Proportion to our Diligence (vv. 6,10; 2 Cor 9:6; Prov 12:27; Ecc. 9:10; Gal. 4:18; Prov. 10:4; 21:5; 12:24; 17:2; Matt 25:21; Deut. 4:29; Heb 11:6; Jer. 29:13; Deut. 6:5; 13:3ff; Rom. 12:11; Prov 8:17; Deut. 6:7; Prov. 3:5-6; 2 Cor 9:6-8; Ex. 15:26; etc.)

VII. We Reap From the Sowing of Others (vv. 6,10; John 4:35-38)

VIII. We Cannot Do Anything About Last Year's Bad Harvest, But We Can Do Something About This Year's Harvest (“do not grow weary...lose heart”; cf. Phil. 3:13-14; Heb 6:1)