There is a principle that is operative in every area of life—whether physical, spiritual, financial, academic or moral. The principle is this—**what you sow you will reap**. What you plant you will harvest.

This principle may be applied to everything in life. It may be applied to sports, school, work and spirituality. When I was in school, I had to take what every college student must take—final exams. Now I worked my way through school but when it came time for final exams, I would take some saved up days off just to prepare. One of the courses we had to take was church history. I still remember that exam. The teacher walked into the room about a month before the final and said this: “Probably most of you are wondering what to study for the final. The teacher held up the 640 page text book and said this is what you will be tested on and anything in the book is fair game.” I am thinking you have got to be kidding me. Well, I took four days off work. I made these history charts and tried to familiarize myself with as many key points as I could. I studied four straight days and when exam day came, I was as ready as I could be. You reap what you sow.

Now here is the point. If you make the primary ambition of your life to obey God’s Word and yield to His Spirit, you will reap many wonderful blessings in many areas of life. If you make the primary ambition of your life to obey your flesh and please your own sin nature, you will discover you will reap misery. It may not happen instantly, but it will happen eventually.

This was Paul’s point. He was intent on driving home a very important point:

**A BELIEVER WILL SPEND HIS LIFE SOWING IN ONE OF TWO FIELDS—GOD’S SPIRIT-LED FIELD OR ONE’S OWN LED FLESH FIELD, AND THAT BELIEVER WILL REAP THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE FIELD HE WORKS IN THE MOST.**

In the mind of Paul, there are only two possibilities of life for the believer. Either the believer will spend the majority of his time working in his own flesh field or he will spend the majority of his time working in God’s Biblically directed and Spirit-led field. It is one or the other. Every day we will sow in one of these two fields, and eventually we will reap what we sow.

Now there are five sowing principles that are given in these verses:

**SOWING PRINCIPLE #1**—One who is taught the Word needs to share every kind of good thing with the one who teaches the Word. 6:6

Now from a personal note, I don’t actually like expounding these series of verses because they promote the welfare and care of ministers. But these verses are next in the exposition so we must handle them.
Now let me say this. There are some ministers and religious leaders who should not be getting one dime of God’s people’s money. In fact, some of them should be thrown out of their so-called ministries and told go get a job.

For example, Oral Roberts, the Methodist–Pentecostal, said in 1983 that Jesus appeared to him and told him that he was to find a cure for cancer. Well when he died in 2009 that turned out to be a lie. Then in 1987, he said that if people didn’t give him 8 million dollars, God would take him home. He ended up getting 9.1 million dollars. There is a guy who should not have been given one dime.

But having said that, there is this truth here in Galatians that true teachers of God’s Word, who teach God’s Word, should be well-cared for in every area of life. The word “teach,” which shows up twice in the verse, is a word that means to teach, give systematic instruction and information by word of mouth (G. Abbott-Smith, Greek Lexicon, p. 241). This is the word from which we get our English word “catechism.”

Both of the participles “taught” and “teach” are present tenses, meaning present tense, continual and habitual action. What this means is that the believer who is continually and habitually being instructed and taught by a true teacher of God’s Word has the responsibility to share all good things with that teacher.

J. Vernon McGee said this is one of the bluntest verses in the Bible because Paul is bluntly saying, “Pay your preacher.” There are some so-called churches who actually boast about the idea that we don’t have paid preachers or teachers. What they are really boasting about is that we don’t obey the Word of God. Paul develops this theme of paying a minister many times—I Cor. 9:13-14; II Cor. 11:7-9; Phil. 4:10-19; II Thess. 3:7-9; I Tim. 5:17-18.

Now I want to point out a critical grammatical point here. There is an article “the” before the noun “word.” Literally the Greek text reads “the word.” So the critical factor here is that the minister must be carefully and accurately and systematically teaching the Word. Paul wrote to Timothy in I Timothy 5:17—“Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching.” One writer said, “never, ever take good Bible teaching for granted and always do your best to take care of a good Bible teacher, because they are rare.”

So the point is that if a minister is working hard to carefully teach the written Word of God, then the people have a responsibility to share all kinds of good things with that minister. This would include what is good emotionally, physically, financially and spiritually.

Martin Luther said these verses perplexed him. He saw the amazing wealth of the popery in the Roman church and said he thought the verses were pointless because the Roman priests were living luxurious lives. But when he came to faith in Christ and realized that true teachers of the Word were never maintained at the level of false teachers, the verses made much more sense.
But here is the other side of this coin. If a minister is not carefully teaching “the Word of God,” then the people should not be supporting him in any way.

Now suppose one says who cares what the Word says. We would rather support other stuff.

**SOWING PRINCIPLE #2** – One who does not obey God but chooses to mock God will reap what he sows. _6:7_

This verse is contextually connected to the preceding verse. God says to share with the one who faithfully teaches the Word of God. The tendency in Paul’s day was, as Dr. Homer Kent observed, to lavish material benefits on “ear-tickling teachers of falsehood.”

God says I want all to know that I will not be mocked in this. What this means is that God will not allow someone to turn up his nose to His instruction on this point. How this is obeyed will affect us.

When it comes to giving to a ministry, God will not be mocked. But even if He is mocked, the minister needs to know a couple of things:

1) If people reject a true teacher of God, God views it as a rejection of Him (Luke 10:16).
2) God will always see to it that His true teachers have enough, even when God-mockers are starving (Ps. 37:18-19).

Now carefully observe how the verse begins “do not be deceived.” There is a deception that occurs among many people. The deception is they think that they can get away with not obeying the Word of God. But God says you need to know “whatever a man sows, this he will reap also.”

God says in Numbers 32:33 “…be sure your sin will find you out.” Not “might” but “will.” God says in Psalm 90:8 that our “secret sins” are on display before God. That word “reap” is future tense. So here is the deception—one thinks that he can rebel or not obey God’s Word and get away with it is deceived because God will see to it at some point in the future you will reap what you have sown.

You may not support a true teacher of God’s Word, and then one day you will want a job and apply for it and you won’t get it. You may not choose to obey God’s Word and then you will want some promotion or raise and God will turn the minds of those involved so you don’t land it. That is the principle.

Years ago a person went to visit someone who was in prison. When this person came to the cell area, he noticed that the prisoner was patching a prison garment with a needle and thread. To make small talk, the visitor said to the prisoner—“What are you doing, sewing?” The prisoner looked up from prison and said “no, I am reaping.” He was reaping the consequences of a life of crime.
I have a friend out west, Larry, who went to Africa on a hunt. He said the Africans were the best trackers he had ever seen. He said even if the animal did not leave a good sign, they could track it down. Well the ultimate tracker is God.

This is a key principle to understand. One can live a secret life of rebellion and have a hard conscience and no conviction and just forget about what God’s Word says. Well God doesn’t forget and one day He will come tracking you down—physically, financially, emotionally or spiritually. You will reap what you sow.

Jacob tricked Esau out of his birthright and Laban tricked Jacob years later out of his wife. Do not be deceived; we do reap what we sow.

SOWING PRINCIPLE #3 – There are two fields in which one may continually sow. 6:8

Notice the conjunction “for” that begins the verse. This verse explains that there are two fields in which one may sow. You cannot be sowing in both fields at the same time. You must sow in one.

You are either continually sowing in the field of your flesh or you are continually sowing in the field of God’s Spirit.

Here are harvest possibilities. One may harvest corruption from God, judgment of God or one may harvest heavenly blessings from God.

The word “corruption” speaks of harvesting negative consequences that may even include death. The words “eternal life” do not contain an article, so Paul is speaking of the character and quality of reaping heavenly rewards in eternity.

Works in eternity will either turn out to be “wood, hay, stubble” or “gold, silver and precious stones” (I Cor. 3:12-15).

Now both flesh-controlled believers and Spirit-controlled believers will go to heaven. However, one will lose rewards and one will earn rewards. It depends on what you sow here and now. One either sows to the flesh or to the Spirit. However, one does not have to wait until heaven to reap some of the consequences.

When Dan Duncan was here, I told him a story of something that happened to me in a bookstore in New York back in the mid 80’s. There was a Christian bookstore on 42nd street in New York that was incredible. This bookstore was located in the area of New York that at that time was known for prostitutes and porn places. But this store did thousands of dollars’ worth of sales. They had technical Greek and Hebrew commentaries on their shelves. Well once or twice a year I would go to New York and go to this store. Now the particular morning this story happened, I had been in my motel the night before studying the book of Romans, which I was scheduled to teach.
I could not take all of my commentaries, so in my motel room I had my Greek text and Lexicon, a diagram and a couple of commentaries that I packed in my briefcase. I don’t remember where I was in my preparation, but I do remember what happened. I had an early morning appointment at the bookstore and before my appointment I was required to do an inventory of our product that was in the store.

So I had completed my inventory and was waiting for my appointment and was looking at the commentaries and there was Donald Grey Barnhouse’s four volume set on Romans. So while I was waiting, I pulled one of the volumes down and turned to the text I had been working on the night before and began reading Barnhouse on Romans. All of a sudden behind me came the voice of a man who said “that is a great set of books.” Well I turned around to see who said it and to my surprise there stood a man who looked like a skid-row derelict. His hair was long and hadn’t been washed. His beard was hanging down off his face. His clothes were ragged with holes in them. I was shocked by what I saw. So I said to this guy “Do you know this set of books?” He said yes. I said, “How do you know these books?” He said I used to be a pastor. I said, “Well what happened to you?” He said I made some wrong choices.

This man proves the point here—you do reap what you sow.

**SOWING PRINCIPLE #4** – One who continually sows obedience to the Word of God will eventually reap a great harvest. 6:9

Here is one of the great verses in Galatians and in the entire Bible. If we do not lose heart but keep after the disciplined, God-honoring life, and if we stay focused on obeying God’s Word and do not stop, we will eventually reap.

Sowing comes full circle. God will bless and prosper one who stays focused on His Word and obeying it.

When we don’t see God give immediate results, we can begin to lose heart and grow weary. But what God has promised us if we stay the course and do not lose heart and do not grow weary, we will reap God’s blessings.

**SOWING PRINCIPLE #5** – One who obeys God’s Word should continually do good to all people, especially believers. 6:10

The word “opportunity” speaks of fixed and distinct moments of time. The word “good” speaks of all kinds of good—that which is moral and spiritual. Spirit-led believers really try to do what is good, according to the Word of God and others. We have a special mandate from God to do good things for those of the faith.

Now here is the question: what field are you spending the majority of your time in? The field of the flesh or the field of the Holy Spirit?