

The Laws of Sowing and Reaping

- Galatians 6:7-10

➤ READ SCRIPTURE

➤ In the natural world, everything operates according to laws.

- For example, there's the law of gravity. That works universally for the saved and the lost, the young and the old, the rich and the poor. It's just a natural law. If you jump out of a window of a 20-story building, you don't break the law of gravity; you demonstrate it. You're broken on the law. The law is not revoked. It's just the law of gravity.
- There's the law of centrifugal force. I discovered that law when I was a teen, riding a motorcycle, trying to take a corner too fast; and, I ended up wrapping that motorcycle around a palm tree. Now, I did not break the law of centrifugal force; I demonstrated that law. Got a little wiser, also.

➤ There are laws in the physical universe that are inevitable; and, so in the spiritual universe. The law of sowing and reaping is a natural law in the natural world; and, it is in the spiritual world. And, the Bible says, if the law of sowing and reaping did not work, God would be mocked.

➤ Tonight I want to share with you the Spiritual Laws of The Harvest:

I. We Reap Only What We Sow (v.7)

- If you want to reap, you must plant.
 - i. There is a harvest that comes after you plant. There is no such thing, in the natural world or in the spiritual world, as spontaneous generation.
 - 1. Do you want love from others? Then sow love.
 - 2. Do you want friendships? Then be friendly.
 - 3. Do you want people to care about you? Then spend time caring for others.

II. We Reap The Same As We Sow. (v.8)

- i. Now, this is nothing earth shattering to you tonight in the natural world, but for many of us it catches us by surprise in the spiritual world.
- ii. Back in the book of Genesis, God said that a seed is to bring forth after its kind (Gen. 1:11).
 - 1. All that simply means is this. If you plant an apple tree, you don't expect to go out & pick bananas come the harvest, right?
 - 2. You wouldn't put corn in the ground and expect to get wheat from it.
 - 3. Whatever you sow—that's what you're going to reap. There is a locked-in likeness.
- iii. But the same holds true in the spiritual world.
 - 1. If you sow discord among the brethren, don't expect to reap unity.
 - 2. If you sow anger in your family, don't expect to reap joy & love.
 - 3. If you live foolish without God during the week, don't expect God's blessings on Sunday.
 - a. Job 4:8 – “Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same.”
- iv. One Pastor said, “Many people spend six days a week sowing wild oats, and come to church on Sunday, and pray for crop failure. It doesn't work that way.”
- v. Whatever you sow—that, you're going to reap.

- vi. You say, "But Pastor, I don't like what I'm reaping! Maybe you need to take a deep look at what you are really planting in your life.

- 1. Are you the kind of a person you think God wants you to be?

III. You Reap Later Than You Sow (v.9)

- o Every crop has a due season.
 - i. Some things sprout very quickly, and some take, it seems, almost an eternity. But, we will reap, if we faint not. Now, there is a due season.
 - 1. I'm not much of a farmer at all, but one thing I have learned. The harvest never comes as quickly as you want it.
 - 2. The weeds ... oh they will come quickly & frequently. But it take patience & hard work to enjoy the harvest.
 - a. Maybe you give, maybe you love, maybe you prayed, maybe you served, and you say, "I don't see any fruit." "Be not weary in well doing: in due season you will reap, if you faint not". Sooner or later, the harvest will come.
 - ii. Unfortunately this is also true when we sow to corruption.
 - 1. Some people think they're getting away with sin, because they are living a vile life and they think they have escaped the judgment of God.
 - 2. God often times reveals His punishment on this earth, but not always.
 - 3. But rest assured, we will all stand before God one day & we will give an account to Him.

IV. We Reap More Than We Sow (v.9)

- o This is a good thing if we are sowing the right things.
 - i. I would not be happy if I went out & planted a kernel of corn & all I got in return was a kernel of corn. If wouldn't be worth my time, right?
 - ii. But what a joy it is to go out & plant a few watermelon seeds & up comes a bushel of watermelons.
- o But hold on, the same happens if we sow wickedness.
 - I look at the wickedness in our world today and to be truthful, it should not catch any of us by surprise. This is exactly what we planted & all we are doing now is reaping the harvest.
 - Sexual Perversity
 - Drug abuse
 - Gay & Lesbian Agenda
 - There is a verse in Hosea that talks about though you may sow the wind, you will reap the whirlwind. Well that is what's happening, we are reaping the whirlwind.
 - We never intended for it to go this far maybe, but that's exactly what sin does.
 - o It takes you farther than you want to go.
 - o It keeps you longer than you want to stay.
 - o Cost you more than you want to pay.
 - Think of the AIDS epidemic; think of the sexually transmitted diseases; think of the broken homes; think of the unwed mothers; think of the children who don't know who their own father is. America is reaping a harvest. We sowed the wind, but now look at what not only we, but those behind us are reaping.

V. We Reap More If We Cultivate What We Sow (v.9)

- If we faint not. That means that you have to cultivate your garden. You can't quit. You can't just put seed in the ground and walk away from it. It doesn't work that way.
- What are the things that are really important to you that you want to see a healthy harvest come from?
 - Your marriage
 - Your marriage is like a flower that has to be cultivated.
 - Your friendships
 - Your church life
 - Your relationship with God
 - Every day we should be watering our faith with the Word of God. Every morning, you need a time where you break up the hard soil of your life and say, "God, forgive my stubbornness. Let there be brokenness in my life," because, if we want a harvest of that which is good, we have to cultivate it; if we want a harvest of that which is bad, the devil will cultivate it.

VI. We May Reap What Others Have Sown (v.10)

- All this means is that others can be blessed by what we sow.
 - You say, "Well Pastor, I have reaped things before that I have not planted." That may be true, but it doesn't take away from the fact that someone planted for you.
 - John 4:37 – "And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth."
 - So, if you're reaping things today, it is because either you or somebody else has planted.
- The truth is all of us have reaped blessings that have been planted by other people.
 - You are in debt to your parents.
 - You're in debt to a God that has blessed you.
 - We are in debt to that generation who went before us.
 - How do you think all this happened? I'll tell you how it happened: A handful of people got a burden from God and began to pray, and weep, and give, and sacrifice.
 - We are a blessed people today, but we are in debt to those who have gone before us.
 - I'm going to tell you something else: We are in debt to those who come after us.
 - We have an obligation to those that are coming behind us to teach them the truths of God's Word & set an example for them.
 - The choices we make today will greatly affect their lives in the future.
 - What do you want your kids & grandkids to reap from your sowing today?
 - Adoniram Judson said, "If we succeed without suffering, it is because others suffered before us. If we suffer without succeeding, it will mean others will succeed after us. But, there can be no success without suffering."

VII. We Must Seize The Opportunity (v.10)

- How many more days will you & I have to serve God & make an impact? Only God knows. Therefore, today is the day to plant.

- Now not only is there a harvest to be prepared for; there's a harvest to reap, right now. Jesus said to His generation in John 4:35 – “Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.”
 - God has given us a great opportunity ... an opportunity that I nor the leaders nor any of us in this church should take lightly.
 - God help us to be faithful to honor Him with the time that we have & may we be persistent in our planting of those things which will bring glory to His name.