

SOWING AND REAPING

Gal. 6:7-9

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Nowhere does the Bible lay down the matter of personal responsibility for our personal actions more than in the principle of sowing and reaping. This is an immutable law of God and it has been liberally demonstrated throughout the whole Bible.

- B. Listen to the Scriptures:
 - 1. Job 4:7-8: "Remember now, who ever perished being innocent? Or where were the upright ever cut off? Even as I have seen, those who plow iniquity and sow trouble reap the same."

 - 2. Prov. 6:16,19: "These six things the Lord hates ... A false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren."

 - 3. Prov. 11:18: "The wicked man does deceptive work, but he who sows righteousness will have a sure reward."

 - 4. Prov. 22:8: "He who sows iniquity will reap sorrow, and the rod of his anger will fail."

 - 5. Hosea 8:7: "They sow the wind, and reap the whirlwind ..."

 - 6. 1 Cor. 9:11,14: "If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your material things? ... Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel."

 - 7. 2 Cor. 9:6: "But this I say: 'He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.'"

I. PAUL WARNS US NOT TO DECEIVE OURSELVES ABOUT GOD'S LAW OF SOWING AND REAPING.

- A. Gal. 6:7-8: "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life."

- B. Do Not Be Deceived _____

1. By balancing our sins over against our pseudo-virtues.
 - (a) We try to square our account in sin by doing a little "extra" for the church; whereas, if we were really doing what we ought to do, we would have no extra time to try such.
 - (i) In fact, not all the extra time in the world can atone for sins.
2. By assuming virtues not really our own.
 - (a) Some men take credit for a wonderful family which he did not help.
 - (b) Church member taking credit for work in the church which he did not support.
3. By looking at the sins of others and forgetting our own.
4. By trying to disguise our vices by calling them other names.
 - (a) Changes covetousness - to Thrift.
 - (b) Changes poker - to Bridge.
 - (c) Changes Whiskey - to Mouthwash.
 - (d) Changes dancing - to Foot Disease

(In this, we are merely changing the form of our sins.)

C. "God is not Mocked."

1. _____ literally means to turn up the nose to God.
 - (a) The application: "God's laws cannot be treated with contempt or successfully evaded. We can deceive ourselves - we can deceive our Fellowman - But we cannot flaunt God's laws with impunity."

D. "Whatever a man sows - that he will also reap."

1. The implications of Galatians 6:7-8 are:
 First - Man is a free creature of what he desires to sow.

Secondly - He can choose to invest in the good things in life.

Thirdly - Or he can waste his life by sowing to the things of the world.

Fourthly - He is warned about deceiving himself about God's law of sowing and reaping.

Fifthly - He is certainly not going to make a mockery of God.

Sixthly - Whatever he sows, THAT is what he is going to reap.

II. GOD HAS ORDAINED GOVERNMENT, THE CHURCH, AND THE HOME.

A. GOVERNMENTS which forget God shall someday be destroyed.

1. "The wicked shall be turned into Hell, and all the nations that forget God. Ps. 9:17.

(a) Look what happened to Sodom and Gomorrah.
to Niniveh and Babylon.
to Greece and Rome.

(b) Now look at our own nation!

(i) NO GOD in our schools, our oaths, our Chaplain's sermons.

(ii) We are sowing the highest crime rate the world has ever seen. The most illegitimate children in our nation's history, the largest alcohol consuming nations in history. We have sown prejudice against the blacks, yellow, and red. We have sown the wind and we are reaping the whirlwind.

B. CHURCHES will certainly lose their candlestick.

1. Rev. 3:14-16: "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are

lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of My mouth.””

2. BRETHREN, HEAR IT. THIS APPLIES TO MOST OF THE CONGREGATIONS IN THE BROTHERHOOD. THEY HAVE SOWN COMPLACENCY AND SELF-SATISFIEDNESS AND THEY HAVE LOST THEIR WORLD.

(a) For every church you can find on fire for God, I'll find you a few hundred who are lukewarm. They have deceived themselves.

(i) And then we wonder why our children don't get excited about the study of the Bible, the discussion of things of God - and the salvation of the lost.

C. FAMILIES will certainly lose their children and future generations.

1. In our apathy in serving God, none of us know where the consequences will end.

(a) Millions of Parents will reap tears of remorse over children who will be lost because they sowed the seeds of indifference.

(i) A boat, car, date, school, money, job, etc., were more important than God.

III. THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO WAY ONE CAN ESCAPE REAPING WHAT HE HAS SOWN!

A. If you sow to wholesome, worthwhile things, you will reap more than you sow.

B. If we waste our lives in serving Satan, we reap THAT AND MORE than we sow.