

### Galatians 6:6-10

**Gal 6:6 (NKJV) Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches. <sup>7</sup> Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. <sup>10</sup> Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.**

Tonight we continue to look at v7-8 and what is often referred to as the “law of sowing and reaping”. What I am going to do initially is to provide what are often called the “Seven Laws of Sowing and Reaping”. None of this is unique to me or my personal study, but are simply obvious principles that have been developed over time by many excellent theologians and Bible teachers. I am standing on their shoulders as I teach through this passage. However, in my mind, all of these principles should be intuitive to each one of us, so I do not believe that I will be sharing with you anything that is new or unusual to you.

What we clearly know and understand is that the entire universe operates on fixed physical laws. These physical laws never change, they never stop working. Things are not random. The speed of the earth’s rotation does not speed up or slow down. Gravity is not something that all of a sudden does not work. In fact, there was a commercial a number of years ago that said “It’s not good to mess with Mother Nature”. In the same way that there are physical laws that never change, there are also moral laws and spiritual laws that never change. I am sure that we all are concerned about the direction of our country and all that awaits it for its complete denial of God, for all of the abortions, for the pornography, for the lies and manipulation of the media, for the deceitfulness of elected officials, and who knows what else. Unfortunately, it appears that we have sown to the wind, but will eventually reap the whirlwind. Why? It is because the laws of sowing and reaping do not just apply to individuals, but to every segment of a culture. So, in the universe that God has created, there are physical, moral, and spiritual laws that are constantly operating in the most predictable way possible. What we read here in [Galatians 6:7-8](#) is one of God’s fixed moral and spiritual laws.

For me personally, one of the most important and crucial elements of these verses is how Paul begins. He warns that we must not be “**deceived**”. There are other places in the Scriptures where Paul begins this way. In [1 Corinthians 15:33](#) he says,

**1Co 15:33 (NKJV) Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."**

We do not need to kid ourselves. If we hang out with the wrong people, it will corrupt our morals. We can be self-deceived. [James 1:22 and 26](#) says,

**Jas 1:22 (NKJV) But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.**

**Jas 1:26 (NKJV) If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless.**

One of the most serious verses you could read about deception is in [1 Corinthians 6:9-10](#) which says that we need to be very careful about discerning the difference between true believers and false believers.

1Co 6:9 (NKJV) **Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,<sup>10</sup> nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.**

[Ephesians 5:6](#) says,

Eph 5:6 (NKJV) **Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.**

[2 Timothy 3:13](#) adds to this and says,

2Ti 3:13 (NKJV) **But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.**

I.e., we better be very careful who we listen to and who we may choose to follow. It would be utterly foolish on our part to somehow just casually ignore what God is saying to us about this spiritual law as if it does not and will not apply to us. It does apply to us. It will always apply to us, and that is a reality that we cannot escape. The law of sowing and reaping applies to every one of us without any distinctions. Theologians call the nature of this as being axiomatic, or self-evident and obvious. We are not somehow going to be so clever in what we do that we outwit God. I cannot ignore God's Word in my life and then go about my way without it having some negative consequences in my life.

No man in this life, Christian or pagan, can mock God and get away with it. Read it again just to make sure that we clearly understand what Paul is saying in [Galatians 6:7](#),

Gal 6:7 (NKJV) **Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.**

Men can try as hard as they want. They can curse God, use His name in vain, think they are smarter than God and can violate His principles with no consequences, but be assured that God will not be mocked. Why? Because immediately following that phrase that "**God is not mocked**" is the law of God that will never change – "**for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap**". Please appreciate that the world is full of mockers mocking God, sneering at God, laughing at the concept of God. I want to read you something that was recently sent to me by a member of our church who had some friends that told a woman that they were going to pray for her. From what she says, she must be a vegetarian. This may be more normal than we expect.

*First, there are MILLIONS of Americans starving right now, children, elderly, disabled vets, poor and homeless, and it's clear where all the food went! The earth has limited resources and you bubbas are eating them all up. Gluttony is a BIBLICAL sin!*

*As for your ignorant religiosity, Christianity is nothing but another Human Sacrifice Cult (where mean people torture & murder someone innocent [crucifixion], or worse, an animal, who dies but gets transformed [resurrection], the mean people eat their bodies and drink their blood (communion) and everyone's spiritual status is thereby elevated ["saved"], NO different from voo-doo, druid, santerria, mayan, aztec, devil worshippers, all human sacrifice cults) and only proves your southern genetic inferiority, stupidity and corruption. You morons sit piously in church and then go out*

*hunting, murdering god's loved creatures. WE NEED TO FEED YOU IGNORANT, UNEDUCATED, BRAIN-DEAD CHRISTIANS TO THE LIONS AGAIN!*

*I suggest your entire club get your money back from any education you paid for! It failed.*

In [Galatians 5](#), there are a couple of things that should be clear to each of us. First, if we sow to the Spirit, we will reap the fruit of the Spirit, and if we sow to the flesh, we will reap the fruit of the flesh. Unfortunately, there are many Christians who simply have ignored the consequences of this reality in their life. They seem to think that they are the exception and that they will not be impacted and effected by these spiritual laws. Nothing could be any further from the truth. It seems that the mistaken part of this and how people seem to view this principle is that they believe that because they are under grace and not under law, because they are forgiven forever, and because God is so gracious to us that they can do things with a kind of spiritual immunity from any negative effects on their life. Once again, that is a very misunderstood and misapplied idea. That is exactly why Paul encourages us with “**Do not be deceived**”. Secondly, what this verse does is that it tells us what our choices are. We can walk in the Spirit (which I hope you choose to do), or you can walk in the flesh (which I hope you choose not to do). If you choose the latter, be assured that God will not be mocked. A person cannot and will not mock God and get away with it. The way that this will be defined later in the study is that we always reap the harvest well after the sowing.

The idea of sowing and reaping does not just apply to one or two areas of our life, but literally to every area of our life. It applies to our attitudes, to our speech, to our decisions, to how we handle our finances, to our work ethic, to how we relate to other people, to our personal faithfulness in the things of God, how children relate and respond to the instruction of their parents, how much we study, etc., etc. For some reason that completely confuses me, most of the messages that I have heard on this subject seem to deal primarily with giving and evangelism, but I do not believe that to be the thrust of this passage at all. God wants to produce His fruit in many areas of our walk with him. It is incredibly important that we sow into our life with great purpose. Many people seem to have absolutely no purpose, no motivation or heart to even do something with their life.<sup>1</sup>

Just because someone is a Christian does not exempt them from this spiritual law. Let us assume that someone is a Christian and they smoke and harm their body. Just because they are a Christian will not prevent them from getting some form of lung cancer. Even if I am a Christian, driving recklessly on the highway will get me killed. We simply reap what we sow. Sometimes we may get away with something, but eventually it will catch up with us. I absolutely hate the idea that some Christians seem to have that if you do something wrong that God will “whomp you up side the head”. I have actually heard people say that in a sermon. God does not have a 2x4 in His hand and everytime that you do something wrong He hits you in the head!! This is simply a principle of life that applies to everyone – Christian or non-Christian.

Now, as we begin, I want to simply list the seven principles, and then we will go back and look at each one individually. There may be variations on these principles, but they are all very closely related. What we do not want to do, however, is to always be thinking of this as something negative – which is the way that most people seem to view these verses. These verses should be a great encouragement to each of

<sup>1</sup> Birks, ep.

us that God’s blessings on our life are always available to us if we will simply trust both Him and His Word. He allows us to make that choice, and we actually have to make it. It is not something that just happens. It is an actual choice.

**PRINCIPLE 1: WE REAP ONLY WHAT WE SOW.**

**PRINCIPLE 2: WE REAP IN THE SAME KIND AS WE SOW.**

**PRINCIPLE 3: WE REAP IN A DIFFERENT SEASON THAN WE SOW.**

**PRINCIPLE 4: WE REAP MORE THAN WE SOW.**

**PRINCIPLE 5: WE REAP IN PROPORTION TO WHAT WE SOW.**

**PRINCIPLE 6: WE REAP THE FULL HARVEST OF THE GOOD ONLY IF WE PERSEVERE. THE EVIL COMES TO HARVEST ON ITS OWN.**

**PRINCIPLE 7: WE CANNOT DO ANYTHING ABOUT LAST YEAR’S HARVEST, BUT WE CAN ABOUT THIS YEARS HARVEST.**

Before we delve into each one of these principles, it is important to make one very simple statement – **everything starts as a seed**. From a spiritual perspective, we could say that everything begins as a thought, as an idea, as a notion. Good things and bad things both start at a point in time, as a seed in our mind. People decide to do good things or bad things with a simple thought in their mind. They think about doing something, then they do it. We have a thought, and then we think about that thought, then we decide to act on that thought. Later we reap the good or bad consequences of what we thought and what we acted on. I do not want this to sound too elementary or even condescending to someone, but if you are not enjoying your life and where it seems to be headed, you may simply need to plant another kind of seed in your life. I know that is somewhat spiritualizing, but I believe it to be true. There is no escaping the reality that we all become what we think. We simply reap the kind of things that we have sown, and that is part and parcel of the spiritual laws of sowing and reaping. Everything simply starts from a very small seed, from a very unassuming, almost negligible thought in our mind.

**Principle 1. We reap only what we sow.**

All of these principles are called “cause and effect” principles. The way that Paul says it in v8 is as follows:

**Gal 6:8 (NKJV) 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.**

The words for “**will**” are both in the indicative mood and future tense which means that the reaping will actually happen, it will take place in the person’s life. There is this inseparable connection between what we choose to do and the consequences of those actions. The choices that someone makes will ultimately determine what they will become and where they will later go in their life. What you put in is what you get out.<sup>2</sup> From a farming perspective, the harvest is determined by what has been planted. In the same way, the fruit and outcome of a man’s life will be a direct by-product of what he has planted in his life.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Johnson, *Sowing and Reaping*, ep.

<sup>3</sup> MacArthur, ep.

Think of it this way. If we choose to lie to people, we will become a liar. If we choose to steal things, we will become a thief. If we choose to be kind and patient with people, we will be a kind and patient person. If we choose to do things faithfully, we will become a faithful person. Whatever we sow is exactly what we will reap. This law will not change, it will not stop operating just because we may be a Christian. We all know from our gardens that if we plant tomato seeds that we only get tomatoes. If we plant corn seeds, we get corn. If we plant cucumber seeds, we get cucumbers. It is that way year after year after year. It never changes. What we plant is what we will harvest. I cannot plant bean seeds and get broccoli.

There are times when we may reap from what someone else has sowed – either good or bad. Donald Trump’s son has benefited financially from his dad’s wealth. However, if someone is an alcoholic who drives an automobile, you may be involved in a deadly wreck and unfortunately reap from his disastrous choices. However, this verse is really more concerned with what “we” sow, with what choices that we make. We can be assured that because of the laws of sowing and reaping that we will reap what we have actually sown in our life – either good or bad.

We will study the word “**corruption**” later, but it means to shrivel up, to wither, to spoil, to rot, to decay, and to bring into a lesser state.<sup>4</sup> I.e., what someone may be doing may appear on the surface to be something they really like or enjoy, but eventually it will rot on them, rot in their life and bring them into a very inferior state. In contradistinction to that, if we sow to the things of God, to the Spirit of God, then we will find that the thing that we sowed in our life does not rot, does not spoil, and does not wither. Once again, whatever we sow is what we reap. If we sow bad things, we reap bad things. If we sow good things, we reap good things.

It is very critical to understand the simple reality that our life is composed of the choices that we make. I have always heard it stated as “*we make our choices, and then our choices make us*”. How so very true that is. One of the purposes of this study is not to discourage us from making choices, but simply to encourage us to make good choices for our life. Many of the choices that we make should be intuitive. I.e., I intuitively know that it would not be a good thing to drink gasoline, and not a good thing to leave the stove burner on high when I leave the house. Those are obvious decisions that have nothing to do with being a Christian. That is simply the way that life operates, and we all know it. The problem that occurs comes in Principle 3 that we do not actually reap at the same time when we sow. The sowing may be immediate, but generally the reaping is much later, and for some reason that seems to give people the idea that they can get away with something, or that they can live a certain way and it not impact them. However, that is very far removed from reality. Think of it this way. Sowing is simply the beginning of the process that will one day come to a final fruition.

Next week we will begin with our second principle which is: **We reap in the same kind that we sow.**

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