



World Christian Fellowship

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Galatians

Lesson 62 – Sowing and Reaping

Galatians 6:7-10, *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. ⁸For 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. ⁹And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. ¹⁰Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.*

There are laws in the spiritual realm that are equally fixed and absolute. To think otherwise is to contradict the nature of the Creator and His creation.

V 7, *for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap*

It is true agriculturally!

When we plant a seed, we get the life that is contained in that seed; that never, ever changes.

That is true physically: whatever you sow, you reap.

Apostle Paul using the same analogy here that it is true spiritually. Reality in the material world is also an analogy that is to be understood in the spiritual world.

V7, *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked;*

Don't think you can ignore God. This law will never ever change a principle that no one can deny, not even a skeptic. Some passages in Scripture need no other proof than experience.

What Paul wrote to Galatian churches?

Chapter 5:16-23,

If you sow in flesh you will reap the works of the flesh.

If you walk in the Spirit and sow the spiritual things, then you will have the fruit of the spirit.

Paul took the pain to write the exhaustive list of 17 things in the works of the flesh and the nine taste of the Fruit of the Spirit.

Galatians chapters 1 and 2 defend his Apostleship.

Galatians chapters 3 and 4 defend the Gospel.

Galatians chapters 5 and 6 is about how to live the Christian life.

The essential principles of living the Christian life.

You have two options:

- you can walk in the Spirit and realize the fruit of the Spirit, or
- you can walk in the flesh and realize the fruit of the flesh.

Paul wants to warn us that whatever you plant is exactly what you will harvest.

Most people, including most Christians, are somewhat deceived, to one degree or another, about the consequences of their sinful behaviors.

Reason?

- Because we are under grace and not law,
- Because we have been forgiven and that's forever,
- Because we cannot lose our salvation,
- because God is so gracious, He keeps on forgiving our sins,
- Because we haven't contributed to our salvation by our works, we can't sustain our salvation by our works.

The apostle Paul writes, "Don't deceive yourself."

Self-Deception:

He has been talking like this already in the book of Galatians.

Galatians 3:1, *O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified?*

Galatians 3:3, *Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?*

Otherward it can be said don't wander away.

1 Corinthians 3:18, *Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise.*

So not only can we be led astray and deceived by somebody else, we are good at deceiving ourselves.

You really don't need somebody else to be deceived, because you have a deceptive component in you. Even as a believer you have the remaining sinful flesh.

Jeremiah 17:9, *"The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?"*

So, you have within you a force for deceit.

Obadiah 1:3, *The pride of your heart has deceived you, You who dwell in the clefts of the rock, Whose habitation is high; You who say in your heart, 'Who will bring me down to the ground?'*

Your heart is arrogant.

Your heart is self-protective, self-promoting, self-fulfilling, self-aggrandizing, and self-defending.

Pride is the primary sin!

So, you have a selfish heart that will want to spin your life the best way. It will want to make you feel the best about your situation and your behaviour.

As long as you are still in this world you have that deceptive heart.

James 1:22, *But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.*

You can deceive yourself coming and hearing the Word and doing nothing about it, thinking because you know the truth, that's enough.

That is a self-deception.

James 1:26, *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.*

Self-deceit is a problem for everybody, for all of us, and it tends to be that the deception.

- You are saved,
- You are on the way to heaven,
- You are under grace.

The Lord will never let you go, so there can't really be too serious consequences if I walk in the flesh.

Deception by Satan

Satan the deceiver in the world who deceives the whole world.

Revelation 12:9, *So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*

Revelation 20:3, *and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.*

So, you not only have an internal deceiver, you have an external deceiver running loose in the world. The potential for deception is very great.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11, *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,¹⁰ nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.*

Don't be deceived about who is a true believer. You can be deceived about that.

Deception by Friends

You can be deceived by choosing bad friends.

1 Corinthians 15:33, *Do not be deceived: “Evil company corrupts good habits.”*

Don't kid yourself. If you associate with bad company, they corrupt your morals. Don't be deceived.

Deception by Church

Don't be deceived about the church.

Romans 16:17-18, *Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. ¹⁸ For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.*

Don't be deceived by troublemakers in the church, those who tear up unity, those who sow discord, and trouble.

Deception by False Teachers

Don't be deceived by false teachers.

Ephesians 4:14, *“that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting”*

2 Timothy 3:13, *But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.*

We have to live in a very protective way, because there is the potential for deceit in us, and there is the reality of deceit all outside us.

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

Don't be partakers with them. You must know you have a propensity to be deceived. That is why faithful pastoral ministry must be biblical, because the only way for you to be protected from deception is to know what it looks like and the Scripture reveals that.

So, you can be deceived by

- Self-Deception.
- Deception by Satan
- Deception by Friends,
- Deception by Church,
- Deception by False Teachers.

Paul is saying here in Galatians 6.

Don't be deceived that you can walk in the flesh and it will be fine.

You don't want to be a legalist. At the same time, we weren't saved by law, and we can't be perfected in the flesh.

Having begun in the Spirit, are you now perfected by the flesh?

It is not about works but it is about the power of the Spirit. Your works didn't contribute to your salvation.

God is not fooled, that means, God is not ignored. You cannot insult God. You cannot violate His holy law and think you are going to get away with it.

Jude 1:17-18, *But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: ¹⁸ how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts.*

We are in the last time.

The world is full of mockers mocking God, shaking their fists in the face of God as if He didn't exist, sneering at God. This is a culture that mocks God relentlessly.

You have a choice as a believer!
You can walk in the Spirit, or you can walk in the flesh. Don't think for a moment that you can walk in the flesh and not pay the consequence. You can't mock God and get away with it.

People like Nebuchadnezzar who mocked God in the book of Daniel.

What happened to him?

He was turned into an animal.

Belshazzar in Daniel chapter 5 who mocked God.

What happened to him?

Devastating destruction of his entire kingdom.

God will not be mocked.

Romans 1:18, *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,*

They turn from the Creator to the creature.

Romans 1 describes a mockery of God, and the wrath of God is released on men when they mock God. The wrath in Romans is the wrath of turning them over to their sin, to immorality, homosexuality, and a reprobate mind.

Eternal wrath.

God's eternal wrath is hell, where all unbelievers will suffer punishment forever.

Eschatological wrath

The wrath at the end of human history. This wrath described by the prophets and by our Lord in the Olivet Discourse at the end

of His ministry in Jerusalem. Described detailly in the book of Revelation. There is coming horrendous wrath from God on the earth.

Natural Wrath.

We see in natural disasters, plagues and all of those kinds of things though human history, where in some cases in the past, millions of people died from a plague. Modern time, tens of thousands die in a tsunami, and some die in a hurricane, etc.

The fallen world and cursed world is subject to these cataclysmic events, which are a form of divine wrath.

Eternal wrath is after time has ended.

Eschatological wrath is a period of time in the future.

Natural wrath comes and goes at points in time and place.

Cyclical Wrath:

This wrath operating all the time!

It's cyclical, it's always in place, and it's sowing and reaping wrath.

What you sow, you reap. Never stops. It is happening all the time.

Whenever he sows, that's when he will set in motion the wrath of God.

This is a divine principle.

If you think you can violate it, you are mocking God.

Divine Law

This law is laid out all through Scripture.

Job 4:8, *Even as I have seen, Those who plow iniquity And sow trouble reap the same.*

Proverbs 1:31, *Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way, And be filled to the full with their own fancies.*

Proverbs 11:18, *The wicked man does deceptive work, But he who sows righteousness will have a sure reward.*

Hosea 8:7, *“They sow the wind, And reap the whirlwind. The stalk has no bud; It shall never produce meal. If it should produce, Aliens would swallow it up.*

Hosea 10:12-13, *Sow for yourselves righteousness; Reap in mercy; Break up your fallow ground, For it is time to seek the Lord, Till He comes and rains righteousness on you. ¹³ You have plowed wickedness; You have reaped iniquity. You have eaten the fruit of lies, Because you trusted in your own way, In the multitude of your mighty men.*

Agricultural scene: sowing, breaking up the ground, the rain, and the result is righteousness.

On the other hand, the prophet says, “You have plowed wickedness, you have reaped injustice,” or unrighteousness. So, this is a biblical principle.

The harvest is determined by the planting, like begets like.
If you want wheat, you don't plant strawberries.

The law is true and it's true in a moral sense.
The fruit of a life is determined by what that life has planted. A man's character and condition are the harvest of his habits.

Think about a child, foolishly indulged and encouraged to think only of its own whims and wishes. It may be cute, but the obstinate, stubborn, self-centered, undisciplined adult reaps the whirlwind.

Every habit, good and bad, of those early years seems to have permanently affected your whole life. The battle is largely won or lost before it seems to begin.

Proverbs 22:6, *“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he was old he's not going to depart from it.”*

This is an inexorable law that works in life.

Psychiatry and Psychology brought only hopelessness.

Why?

Because of this law of cyclic wrath.

The only way that you can get out of the bondage of this law is to become a believer and to be transformed. Even then the law still operates. But for nonbelievers, they can only sow sin, and they can only reap corruption.

This divine wrath is inescapable for anyone without the knowledge of God through Christ. Only the divine miracle of the new birth and regeneration can get you out of that total bondage. Still one have to be aware that they are subject to deception, subject to walking in the flesh, and reaping what the flesh sow.

Numbers 32:23, *But if you do not do so, then take note, you have sinned against the Lord; and be sure your sin will find you out.*

Psalms 90:8, *You have set our iniquities before You, Our secret sins in the light of Your countenance.*

You didn't fool God. You may have mocked Him, but you didn't fool Him, you didn't hide anything.

Isaiah 3:11, *Woe to the wicked! It shall be ill with him, For the reward of his hands shall be given him.*

Isaiah 59:12, *For our transgressions are multiplied before You, And our sins testify against us; For our transgressions are with us, And as for our iniquities, we know them:*

Romans 2:9, *tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek;*

You do evil, you are going to get tribulation and distress.

So, the law of God is unchanging, immutable, and relentless, as God's nature is unchanging and relentless.

You cannot escape it!

It is a form of operating wrath built into the world.

For Christians

What about forgiveness?

Am I not forgiven?

Yes.

What about grace?

Do I not receive grace?

Yes.

What about mercy?

Have I not received mercy?

Yes.

God, at the point of salvation, intercepts that fully operating law, intercepts and gives new life. Now you have the capacity since being freed from that law to do what honours God, to walk in the Spirit by the miracle or redemption.

Christian can now reap what Christ has sown.

Yet in your daily life, that principle still operates.

- If you walk in the flesh, you will harvest the flesh.
- If you walk in the Spirit, you will harvest the Spirit.

Example:

Salvation doesn't prevent people who drink and smoke and harm their bodies from getting sick or getting cancer.

The Christian who gets in a fight may be a Christian, but it's not going to prevent him from having his teeth knocked out.

If Christian drive recklessly and go off the road, have an accident, the fact that being a Christian isn't going to protect you from the sowed irresponsibility and ended up with the results.

If you are a Christian and you sin immorally with another person, that is not going to necessarily protect you from venereal disease.

Nemesis, Greek god

The Greeks even saw this law. They didn't attribute it to God, but the Greeks invented a god by the name of Nemesis. They believed that Nemesis was the god who watched everybody's behavior. When a person did a wrong deed, immediately Nemesis took off after that person. This god got on the trail of the wrongdoer, and sooner or later, Nemesis would catch up and pay vengeance.

The pagan Greek culture recognizing that there are moral laws in the world that work. They attributed them to Nemesis when they should have been attributed to God.

Though we are forgiven and though we are headed for heaven, as long as we are in this world, living in this world here and now, this law is still operative. 'What you sow you will reap.'

David:

A man after God's own heart.

Wrote all those beautiful psalms, a true worshiper, whose life is marked by outrageous sin and always the consequences.

The eternal consequences have been settled, temporal ones have not. So that is the law stated.

The Law explained:

V 8, 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

Sows to his own flesh:

The act of choosing to gratify the cravings of your fallen flesh.

Flesh is always the starting point for sin.

Apostle James is writing to fellow brothers.

James 1:14-16, *But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.* ¹⁵*Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.* ¹⁶*Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.*

When you start with lust and it gives birth to sin it can bring forth death. This is the harvest of the flesh. Sow to the flesh, and from the flesh you will reap corruption.

We saw the list of works of the flesh in Galatians 5:19-21.

Holiness and Corruption

Christians sow to the flesh seemingly every day and wonder why they don't reap a harvest of holiness or usefulness.

- Holiness is a harvest.
- Corruption is a harvest.

Holiness is a harvest of sowing to the Spirit.

Corruption is the harvest of sowing to the Flesh.

In the case of the believer, this corruption is simply the corruption of your Christian experience.

- Loss of peace,
- Loss of joy,
- Loss of worship,

- Loss of service, and
- Loss of usefulness.

“I had forgotten that what a man does in secret he will one day shout from the housetop.” Oscar Wild.

But as believers, why would we do that?

Do we think we can mock God?

Are we deceived?

No!

You sow to the flesh, it's inevitable. It's a law.

You sow to the flesh you are going to end up with corruption in your life. Sow to the Spirit, that's going to reap eternal life.

Don't we already have eternal life?

Yes. We possess eternal life.

We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. We have been given eternal life. This isn't talking about future heaven. We have that secured and that's already ours.

Reap eternal life'?

This is about here and now at this present time.

This is where this law of sowing and reaping operates.

This law isn't operating in heaven.

Whatever you sowed to the flesh; the results are showed up here on this earth. Similarly, whatever you sow in spirit also will show up here on this earth.

What does it mean to going to reap eternal life?

We are going to reap the full blessings contained in that life which is already ours in Christ.

What are those blessings?

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, other blessings.

Divine law fulfilled.

V9, And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

The Galatians, and maybe some of you are thinking you have been sowing a lot of good things, walking in the Spirit.

When does the harvest come?

Answer is in **V9**.

“Let us not lose heart in doing good,”

because you can be pouring your life into walking in the Spirit and wondering why things are difficult in your life.

Due time is God’s time, in God’s season.

Christians frequently act like children with reference to this harvest. They want to sow and reap the same day.

Some of the Spirit-filled believers may be thinking that this sowing is very hard, and we are doing this. Some maybe getting tired.

Don't sin by becoming discouraged and entertaining fleshly discouragement.

"Don't lose heart" is a term used sometimes by a farmer who begins to slacken because he gets weary or worn out. Don't do that.

1 Corinthians 15:58, *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.*

Keep doing it!

Abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing your toil is not in vain. God will bring the harvest.

No place for weariness, and no place for spiritual laziness.

God has been faithful to us and we need to be faithful to sow the seeds of righteousness.

2 John 1:8, *Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward.*

Keep doing and moving. God will give you a harvest here and now, and a reward in the future.

Divine law fulfillment promised.

V10, *Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.*

The word “opportunity,” like a moment in time, like an event.

Greek has two words for time and season.

‘Karios’ and **‘Chronos’**.

Chronos is the word we get chronology.

Kairos is the divine time.

1 Thessalonians 5:1, *But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you.*

Both Chrono and Karis are used here.

Paul used the word Kairos.

What season?

The divine moment.

The whole New Testament is just full of verses that call us to this living goodness.

1 Peter 2:15-17, *For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men— ¹⁶as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. ¹⁷Honour all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.*

Matthew 5:16, *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*

The New Testament is full of calls on us to do good, to silence the critics, to manifest the transformation that Christ has wrought in our lives, to be lights in the world.

This is the heart of our Christian testimony.

So, while we are in this season of life, let us do good to all people. Let us be known by our goodness.

Titus 2:7-8, *in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, ⁸sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.*

Titus 2:14, *who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.*

This is the heart of our testimony,

- to sow righteousness,
- to sow in the Spirit,
- to sow good deeds,

“especially to those who are of the household of faith,”
Especially fellow believers. We should do nothing but good to one another, nothing but good, never anything but good.

Ephesians 2:19, *Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,*

You are part of His family from whom every family in heaven and earth derives its name. You are God’s family. You need to show good to the family.

There is a law operating in the world.
We can’t get around it or avoid it but it works.
The whole universe is built on laws, physical and moral.

God’s moral law is summed up in, “What you sow, you reap.”
That ought to be the motivation for living your life, walking in the Spirit, that you might reap the fruit of the Spirit.

Again, I say, you sow in the Spirit, you reap holiness.
Holiness is the harvest of righteous sowing.