

Sowing and Reaping

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[0 : 00] Galatians chapter 6, probably the most commonly read or quoted verse, maybe in the book of Galatians, I would say surely in the chapter, is verse number 7.

I want to read that with you, Galatians 6, verse number 7. If you're there, the Bible reads, Be not deceived, God is not mocked.

For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. Now, this is not the first time, I'm assuming all of you have heard this verse.

It's pretty common. It's a law, and it's something that applies to, or rather, Paul is applying the law of sowing and reaping to a man's life.

And it's something that is very easily, commonly seen in nature all around us. The food, most of the food we eat is a principle, a product of this law of sowing and reaping.

[1 : 17] And there's several principles that accompany this that we're not really going to spend time with tonight, but I'll just throw out a thought or two. These represent two different seasons, sowing and reaping, meaning the timing of the two.

It's not one on top of the other, but there's a time gap kind of in between. And so we're talking about two different seasons, possibly two different seasons of life. Not only that, that in sowing and in reaping, there's two different quantities.

You always reap more than what you sow. You can put one little apple seed in the ground, and with the right conditions and time, that can produce bushels of apples with multiple seeds within it.

You always reap more than you sow. That's the principle. And now tonight I want to consider this verse and take something away from it that I believe is important.

I think it will motivate you to serve Jesus Christ. And so I want to cover tonight three things. And the first thing we're going to look at is the statement of sowing and reaping. We'll kind of analyze this statement here in verse 7.

[2 : 24] And then we'll look at the setting of sowing and reaping in the chapter, what Paul's talking about when he gives this. And then we'll close with the seasons of sowing and reaping.

And there are seasons. He mentions it in verse 9. In due season we shall reap. And so I want to use this and try to challenge you. And I think it will be a blessing if you listen and you'll take it to heart.

Remember the other Sunday we talked about characteristics of the people of God and how the first one is that we gather together. And we did that tonight. You did that.

We came together. And here we are. And so check that one off the list. Praise the Lord for that. The second thing was that God has a message. The man that God has called, he gives him a message to deliver.

And I believe God's given me a message to deliver. And I have it. And I'm ready to go. And I want to deliver to you as Aaron did all the words which the Lord has spoken. And now your job is to believe it and then submit to it, to obey it.

[3 : 28] And so let's get something out of this tonight. I think we can. So let's pray together before we do. Father, please now take this time and this thought and humble our hearts and quiet our thoughts and minds.

And let each person in here just be spiritually drawn to the word of God. I pray, Lord, that a spiritual interaction would take place tonight in this room.

And that each person would hear distinctly the truth of this passage and of this message from the Bible. And that they would take it to heart. That they would understand it and apply it in their life.

And Lord, may this change us and quicken our minds to spiritual things. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen. Amen.

All right. So the statement of sowing and reaping. Let's analyze the statement here. It's in verse 7 again. Be not deceived. God is not mocked. For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. [4 : 30] First thing I want us to understand is that this is a certain statement. It's a statement of fact. You see that? He says, whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

It's a certain statement. That is, no man or woman, none, not one, can circumvent this and find a way around it. Can outsmart it. Can outdo it or outlive it.

It's not possible. This is a law. And it is in effect. It is in operation in your life today and yesterday. As a matter of fact, all of your life, this law has been in operation. It's a certain statement. And until God disappears, until God ceases to exist, this law will be in order and will be in operation.

It is fixed. And you will be confronted with this truth, with this reality. Whether you've come to grips with it as an understanding or not.

[5 : 35] Whether you've never read this or heard this a day in your life. You'll come to grips or you'll be faced with the reality of it. Regardless of your opinion about it. This is a statement of fact.

Nobody in this passage and in this book is asking if you agree or if you disagree. If you care or don't care. If you want to learn more or don't. Nobody cares.

The statement is a statement of fact. It's true regardless of how you respond to it. And whether or not you approve. There are many statements of fact like this.

Many certain statements in the Bible. The Bible starts with a certain statement, doesn't it? In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth. Nobody's asking for whether someone objects or someone approves.

None of that matters. The statement is put forth as a statement of fact. A certain statement. The Bible's full of these. And that one there is a fact.

[6 : 34] That God created the heaven and the earth. It's the truth of it is not reliant upon your acceptance of it or your agreement with it. It's a statement of fact. Remember what Paul said in 2 Corinthians 13?

For we can do nothing against the truth. It's truth. It's there. You can disbelieve it, but it doesn't change it. You can fight it. You can blog about it.

You can text your friends against it. You can come up with 13 reasons why it's not. But if it's the truth, you can do nothing against it. You can't harm it. You can't change it.

And this right here, verse 7, is a statement of truth. It's a certain statement. If you try to illustrate this.

If you see a sign on the street, on the road, it says, Speed Limit 65. You probably in L.A. laugh at that. You probably say, whatever.

[7 : 33] 65, I don't think so. But if that sign is there, and let's just say it says 65. It doesn't matter if you're 95 years old.

It doesn't matter if you're on a little moped. It doesn't matter if you're an IndyCar or NASCAR race driver. It doesn't matter what you're driving or who you are.

That is a statement of fact. It's not reliant upon who you are, what experience you have, what qualities you have. None of that matters against the statement, right?

It is posted. It is declared. That's what we're looking at here. Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. Period.

Statement of fact. Everybody's got that? We can move on. Number two, it's a neutral statement. It's a neutral statement. Look at it. It says, for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

[8 : 34] The statement doesn't lean to the left. It doesn't lean to the right. The statement's not positive. The statement's not negative. You get to decide how it gets applied in your life.

But the statement itself is neutral. It can apply to the works of darkness that Paul tells us to avoid. And that's probably very often how you hear this verse preached.

To stay away from sin and beware of sin and how it's going to corrupt your flesh. And yes, yes, yes. More than not, you hear this verse preached in a negative light.

But the verse itself, the statement of fact, is also a neutral statement. It can apply to the works of righteousness. As a law, it can be applied to sowing wheat or to sowing tares.

But it's neutral. It's neutral. And the point is that you get to decide what the whatsoever is in the verse.

[9 : 37] You get to decide what the word that shall he also reap. It's a neutral statement. It's neither a threat of harm nor is the statement a promise of blessing.

You decide what that verse is going to say. Now, thirdly, it's a personal statement. It says, for whatsoever a man soweth.

That's a person. That's one person. Whatsoever a man soweth. It's not written about a nation. It's not written about a race of people.

It's not a statement of end time prophecy for the second coming of Jesus Christ. No, it is an absolute personal statement to a man. To every man.

Man, woman, or child. It's a personal statement. And you know who that person is? You know that person real well. That person is you.

[10:35] That person is you. And whatsoever a man soweth. You can slip your name in there. That shall he or she also reap.

You're the one. That's in this verse. Therefore, you better be aware that this law, that you are subject to this law of sowing and reaping. You can't outrun it or outsmart it.

So, whatsoever you sow, that shall you also reap. And you'll do well to apply this to you personally.

The fourth thing I want to say about as far as this statement is that it's an overlooked statement.

It's a forgotten or a disregarded statement. And why would I say that? Well, look at the verse. Paul starts it pretty strong. He says, be not deceived. Does Paul think that these Christians were deceived?

Was he worried about them being deceived? Be not deceived. He said, God is not mocked. Before he ever gets to the statement, he's really, really drawing our attention here.

[11:40] Like getting our focus on something. Like, wake up. Listen. Why? Because it's an overlooked statement. Because you think, you actually think that you can get away with things that you do.

Amen. Amen. You think so. You overlooked this statement. I know you do. Because I do. We think that we'll get away with it.

We pretend, we imagine that we can do it and it's not going to affect us. We'll just ask for forgiveness. We're smart enough to hide it. We know how to handle or work our way around technology or slip our way past certain other catches or tells.

And in our hearts, we think. And in our minds, we convinced ourselves that, but not me. But not me. Why? Because this is a disregarded, overlooked statement.

And so Paul introduces it with such a warning and such a strong, like, like red light flashing. Catch your attention. Be not deceived.

[12:54] God is not mocked. Listen. Don't overlook it. Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. The choices you make, the decisions you make, the deeds you do, do not go unnoticed to God.

Now keep your place here and I want to take you to Ecclesiastes chapter number 8. It's right after Proverbs. Ecclesiastes chapter number 8.

Almost dead center in your Bible. You'll find Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes. Ecclesiastes. This is an overlooked statement.

And here's why. Ecclesiastes chapter 8. And we're going to read verses 11 through 13. I'll give you a minute to get there.

Ecclesiastes 8 verse 11. Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily. Because you don't get punished for it.

[14:10] Because you don't get caught and punished right away. Therefore, the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. To keep doing it.

To keep doing it. Verse 12. Though a sinner do evil a hundred times and his days be prolonged. Yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God.

Which fear before him. But it shall not be well with the wicked. Which shall prolong his days. Which are as a shadow. Because he feareth not God. He's going to get it. The statement is.

The wicked are going to get it. I know he's going to get it. From God. But because it doesn't happen immediately. Because it doesn't happen the same moment the sin happens.

Therefore, he thinks he could get away with it. He thinks the judge of all the earth isn't going to catch him. Or going to deal with him. And so, he overlooks what Paul teaches and teaches to us.

[15:08] Be not deceived. God is not mocked. Whatsoever man soweth that shall he also reap. Moses in the book of Numbers said, Be sure your sin will find you out.

And Paul adds this in Galatians 6 on top of it. Now that's some thoughts about the statement here. It's a certain.

Like an absolute statement. It's neutral. You decide how it's going to be applied to your life. And the effect that it will have on you. It's personal.

And it's commonly overlooked. Now, let's consider then something else. I told you that the common teaching on this and the preaching on this is about warning Christians about their carnal desires and lusts.

And how you're going to reap corruption if you continue to sin. And God's not going to let you get away with it. And all of that is true. And amen to all of that. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 11, For this cause, that is because these believers weren't judging themselves and correcting and repenting of their sins.

[16:16] For this cause many are weak and sickly and many sleep. So there was some problems and people were experiencing it in their flesh.

Corruption because of their sin. And that's a very, very true application of this statement as we see in the next verse. And so it's very common to point out the dangers of sowing to the flesh.

But let's look closer at the setting or at the context of this statement. So we're in verse 7. Let's back up to verse 1.

Galatians chapter 6. I would go back into chapter 5. But for time's sake, chapter 6 will satisfy for now. Verse 1. And brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are...

What's the next word, somebody? Ye which are spiritual. So who's Paul writing to? Who's he talking to? His audience is a spiritual Christian. Ye which are spiritual, restore such in one in the spirit of meekness, considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

[17:21] The man that's overtaken in a fault, probably not listening to the word of God right now. But the spiritual Christian is and Paul is giving him something to do.

A responsibility to restore his fallen brother. Look at verse 2. Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ.

There's the exhortation to be bearing the burdens of others. Now verse number 6. Galatians 6.6.

Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.

This is about giving and supporting. And so we could just say this is a command to support the ministers of the word of God. What I'm showing you, these are all good things that Christians are to be doing.

Look at verse number 9. Let us not be weary in well doing. Doing well. Good things for in due season we shall reap. Look at verse 10. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good.

[18:26] Do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith. So the context of the passage, not just taking verses 7 and 8 out of the context and just preaching against sin in your life.

That's fine and has its place. But looking more in depth into the setting of this statement. On both sides of the statement, the passage, the text is potent with doing good deeds.

Especially to believers, to those of the household of faith. The body of Christ. Helping the fallen.

Caring for the weak. Supporting the ministers.

Doing good. Well doing. You know what the context is about? Sowing to the spirit. Sowing to the spirit.

And it's filled with examples of what that can look like. Now back in chapter 5, Paul calls believers to live in the spirit. He calls believers to, two times he mentions, to walk in the spirit.

[19:30] And back in chapter 5 he says, be led of the spirit. And now in chapter 6, sow to the spirit. The context and the address here is for believers to use their time remaining in their life to live for Jesus Christ.

And to sow and to work and to walk in the new man. To do good works. Works that have spiritual value. And that result in you reaping spiritual rewards.

Being a blessing to a brother or a sister. Or whatever the need is. As he mentioned a few things in this passage about their burdens. Or if they're overtaken. Or in need of support.

Or just doing some good deed toward them. Looking to fill a need. Like this passage describes.

There's other ways to do it. You could take it upon yourself to support a work of God.

You can support a missionary. Not by just giving in an offering that we take up here. Or not by the church collectively. But you personally, on the side of your own finances. Can, if the Lord lays

somebody on your heart.

[20 : 45] Or you could pray about it. You can give and support their work. You can do it on your own. That's sowing to the spirit. Last week we had a brother here that was involved in Bible printing.

Track printing. And that's a ministry that is completely designed at getting the word of God into the hands of someone who doesn't have it. And getting gospel tracks into the hands of sinners.

It's trying to reach the lost. That's a great opportunity to do good. That's a great way to sow to the spirit. If you could see, this would be discouraging and probably embarrassing.

But if you could see in a pile all of the things that you've bought with your money. All of the items that were either never used or were just impulse buys that got discarded or thrown away or given away or passed on or yard sale or whatever.

If you could see the amount of money that you in your lifetime has just let slip through your fingers. I'm not talking about making poor investments and things not working out.

[21 : 57] I'm just talking about the waste, the vanity. If you could see the lump of that money, I think it would be embarrassing. I think it would be embarrassing. And especially like, you know, being rich Americans, it would be a shame probably more than that.

But imagine if you could take that lump of money and you could invest it in something that's going to be eternal. Something that's not going to burn.

Something that will never be embarrassing nor regretful. If you could invest it in a gospel ministry or in some means of reaching the lost or some form of supporting the work of God.

If you could invest it in something eternal. Could you imagine the difference at the judgment seat of Christ when you're asked to give account of yourself to God and you have to give account of what you've done with your finances?

I think it would be incredible if you had the confidence that you knew and you chose to not throw away money on stupid things but rather invest it in eternal things that would please Jesus Christ.

[23 : 02] You'd be so thankful you did at the judgment seat of Christ. You could invest it in the work of God in eternal investment. The takeaway tonight from this is beyond just understanding the consequences for your sins.

But it's to understand and believe that there are real blessings that are in store for the work and for the labor that you and I do for Jesus Christ in this life.

For the sowing to the spirit that we do. Be not deceived, Christian. Just because you don't see the results today. Just because you don't see the soul saved from the tracks or the money that you send out or the work that you attempt to do.

Be not deceived. Don't think God's not pleased with your labor. And don't think God can't use that labor. Did anybody buy that little book he was selling last week, The Price of a Coconut?

You bought that? Yeah, so he gave me one and I read it and some of my kids read it. And just that little story of this kid with his shiny dime from years past.

[24 : 13] It's worth reading because there's a moving of that on your spirit to do something like this. To sow to the spirit.

To do something that God can take and use. Something that's not about you. But something that's solely for Jesus Christ. Hear God take this and use it for your glory.

The takeaway tonight is to challenge you to consider sowing to the spirit. Sow to the spirit. Just because you don't see the results today doesn't mean God's not aware.

Doesn't mean God's not keeping track of your work, of your prayer, of your giving, of your door hangers, of your tracks, of your attempts to reach another.

He's very aware. And that's what this is about tonight. It's getting you to consider your need to sow to the spirit. To sow to the spirit.

[25 : 10] Now back in Galatians 6, let's take a look at this again. I'll read from verse 7 down to verse 9. And I want to consider thirdly the seasons of sowing and reaping.

Verse 7 says, Be not deceived. God is not mocked. For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption.

But he that soweth to the spirit shall of the spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well-doing.

For in due season we shall reap if we faint not. I want to point out something here about the seasons of sowing and reaping. All of the verb tenses, whether it's past, present, or future.

All of the verb tenses that Paul writes to the church here about examples of sowing to the spirit. They're all in the present tense. Meaning in verse 1, Ye which are spiritual, restore such in one. [26 : 15] That's now. In verse 2, it's bear ye one another. That's now. In verse 6, communicate unto him. That's now. Let us not be weary in well-doing. That's present tense.

All of this stuff is now. Why? Because, well, before that, the reaping in verse 9 is the future tense. You see that in verse 9? In due season we shall reap. It's in verse 8 too. He that soweth to his flesh shall future of the flesh reap.

But he that soweth to the spirit, present tense, shall future reap life everlasting. You say, what's the point? Well, I think it's easy. The time for sowing to the spirit is now.

Now. You realize your days of sowing to the spirit are numbered. Yesterday's gone. Last week is unattainable.

[27 : 15] You'll never rewind it and get back to doing something that you should have or could have done for Christ. It's over. But now is the time. Sowing to the spirit is for today.

It's for the present. Sowing to the spirit. The season of sowing is now. The reaping is in the future. Your opportunity to do something that will be rewarded in the everlasting days ahead is now.

Two things here. Look at verse 9. Verse 9. Let us not be weary. Let us not be weary, church, in well-doing. For in due season we shall reap if we faint not.

Don't quit. Don't give up. Don't back off. Now is not the time to slow down. Now is the time to give it a little bit more if you got it in you.

Give a little bit more. Do a little bit more. Take another step. As the Lord leaves and as the Lord allows, now is the time to sow to the spirit.

[28 : 25] Because tomorrow you may not have a time. The present is the time. So don't quit. Don't be weary. And don't faint. If you need something to help you with this, keep your place here, but flip over to Hebrews chapter number 12.

If you feel weary, and if you feel like you could faint and just walk away, and just lay it down, if you feel in your heart that you're just not seeing results and nothing's happening, then maybe this will help you here.

This is a command for the person who's getting wearied. This should be all it takes. Chapter 12 of Hebrews, verse number 3. That's all it takes.

That's all it takes.

That is absolutely the only thing it'll take for you if you get struggling, if you get depressed, if you're thinking this Christian life isn't panning out like I thought it would.

[29 : 47] If all this work is, we're not seeing results, I'm not seeing the numbers, and I'm not seeing, having the joy. The Bible says the joy of the Lord is your strength. You're not reliant upon outcomes and reaping to keep sowing.

But all you have to do is think what Jesus Christ did for my soul. My soul. And that should just wipe it right out.

You just, you dwell on that. You spend some time in prayer on that if you feel like fainting. If you feel like quitting or get discouraged or say, I'm just, I can't, can't keep going and keep going.

Just get on your face and let God bring the scenes of Calvary before you. That it was your sin. It was you. You were the sinner.

That was mentioned in that verse. And don't faint. Come back to Galatians 6. Galatians 6 and one more thought here.

[30 : 48] On the seasons of sowing and reaping. There are seasons now to sow. The season of reaping is in the future. So don't faint. Because the reaping is not to come yet.

And secondly, in verse 10, Galatians 6, 10, As we have therefore opportunity. That's an incredible thought right there.

That big word. Opportunity. As we have therefore opportunity. Let us do good. Unto all men. Especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

Don't pass up opportunities. God will give you opportunities. He'll make them wide open. Sometimes.

Sometimes. And sometimes. It won't be as clear. But if you pursue. If you pray. Your eyes will be opened. To an opportunity. Sometimes.

[31 : 47] The Lord will lay. Something on your heart. I'm not. Trying to. Beat this drum necessarily. About our brother last week. But just because it was so. So fresh for us. When.

When. When. When the Lord has somebody here. That's in the. In the. In the ministry. And raising money. And just doing those kinds of things. Sometimes. Sometimes. God just like. Puts his finger on a heart.

Somewhere. And. And some people are just distracted. With other things. Some people are taking notes. But somebody. The Lord just says. You should give.

To that. You should take that on. Personally. The Lord does that. He's done it to me. In my life. I'm sure he'll do it to you. He gives you an opportunity. To respond.

To act. To sow to the spirit. And Christian. Don't pass up the opportunities. God gives you. The ones.

[32 : 43] The specific ones. That he lays on your heart. That he opens your eyes to. Because he's not necessarily. Making it obvious. To everybody. But he's dealing with you. Personally. Do not.

Tell him no. Do not. Pretend it doesn't matter. Don't. Just say. Well I'll just wait a little longer. And it'll go away. You're a fool. If you tell the Lord.

And his spirit. No. You're a fool. You're going to regret it. You're going to reap corruption. God gives you an opportunity. To sow to the spirit.

And he's giving you an opportunity. To reap. Far more. Than you sow. I'm not preaching. The prosperity gospel on this. And I'm not telling you.

He's going to dump money on your lap. In this life. I won't promise you that at all. But I will promise you. That you'll reap more. And that you'll reap better. And that you'll be glad you took advantage.

[33 : 40] Of an opportunity. You know what will help you. Is if you'll set your affections. On things above. And not. On things. On the earth. Every opportunity you have.

To sow to the spirit. It's an opportunity to sow. A spiritual seed. And you are the one. That's going to reap from that. In the future. And just in closing.

As pastor. I want you all to reap. I'm serious. I want every single one of you here. To reap. You know. It would be so satisfying to me.

To stand at the judgment seat of Christ. And see Jesus Christ. Dump something on you. That would be a. Oh. What a. God knows that would glorify him. And please my heart.

To see you reaping. Because you sowed. Because you gave of yourself. And did something for Christ. I want Jesus Christ.

[34 : 41] To be glorified in you. And in the end. I mean. It's not about you. But. I think you're going to be glad you did. I think you're going to benefit. In the end.

And so. Remember tonight. You choose what you sow. You make that decision. And I'm exhorting you. Every one of you.

I'm exhorting you all. To sow to the spirit. Find something that you can do for Jesus Christ. And do it. With all your might.

And do it again. And keep doing it until he comes back. And as you set your affections. On laying up treasure in heaven. Sow. And sow. And sow.

And sow. Until he calls us home. Be not deceived. God is not mocked.

[35 : 40] For whatsoever a man soweth. That shall he also reap. You make the choice now. You choose if you're going to sow. To the flesh. Or to the spirit.

If you'll be selfish. Or if you can give something. To Jesus Christ. He'll be pleased with you. You'll be pleased with you. It's such a good feeling. It's such a liberating feeling.

To give to Christ. And to do it. Without reservation. And to overcome. Your carnal flesh. Telling you. No. No.

No. I can't afford it. Or no. You can't do that. You're not sharp enough. Or you'll be embarrassed. Or you're fleshed. If you just tell it to shut up. And go do something for Christ.

Oh. It's exhilarating. It's an adrenaline rush. All right. Let's be dismissed with that. Lord. As we met tonight. I pray that. That you take this. And embed it in us again.

[36 : 37] Lord. This book is so full of truth. And we need all of it. And I pray that this one. Would. Would work in us. Lord.

I pray that. You'll open our eyes. To opportunities around us. In our everyday. Opportunities around us. To sow to the spirit. With.

With the differences of people here. The differences of homes. The differences of families. And. And vocations. And daily responsibilities. There is surely.

A plethora of ways. That we can sow to the spirit. Please impress these upon us. Individually. As we leave.

Give us the courage that we need. The faith that we need. To say yes to you. And to oblige. And God. Strengthen our faith.

[37 : 32] And grow us. As children of God. In the new man. That we might. Sow more. And continue to work. And to labor. Until you call us home. Help us to be faithful.

Lord. Let us not do this. Just for our own greed. That we think. We're going to get blessings. But. Let us do it out of love. For our Savior. And we pray this. In Jesus wonderful name.

Amen. Amen. All right. You are dismissed tonight. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.

Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.

Amen. Amen.

Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.

[39 : 02] Amen.