

LAW ONE: WE REAP ONLY WHAT HAS BEEN SOWN
TEXT: **GALATIANS 6:7-8**

**Galatians 6:7-8 Be not deceived; God is not mocked:
for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.**

**⁸ 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.**

Law One: We Reap Only What Has Been Sown

Law Two:

We Reap the Same in Kind as We Have Sown

Law Three:

We Reap in a Different Season Than We Sow

Law Four: We Reap More Than We Sow

Law Five: We Reap in Proportion to What We Sow

Law Six:

**We Reap the Full Harvest of the Good only if We
Persevere**

Law Seven:

We Can't Do Anything About Last Year's Harvest

THE SEVEN LAWS OF THE HARVEST

LAW ONE: WE REAP ONLY WHAT HAS BEEN SOWN

Usually, when we think of the concept of reaping what we sow, we think of it in a negative sense. We think of suffering for sinful actions or foolish choices.

However, the laws of the harvest have a positive side, too. There is a promise of blessing for sowing that which is good, as well as a warning against sowing what is bad. Look again at our text.

"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 reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap everlasting life."

We can sow the things of the flesh or the things of the Spirit. The one reaps corruption – things that cannot even endure for time. The other reaps benefits that last for eternity.

Life is filled with choices. The decisions we make and those that others make affect us everyday.

Choices are important. They can have a life-changing impact. Sometimes we see the effects immediately.

At other times, we don't feel the results for years, but the Laws of the Harvest cannot be avoided. No man will mock God by setting aside even one of these laws.

All of life is built upon the labor and sowing of others. Someone naturally, purposely, or inadvertently sowed that which we reap.

Sometimes the results are positive. Sometimes they are negative. In other words, this law of the harvest, We Reap Only What Has Been Sown, has both a positive and a negative side.

I. The Positive Side

Blessings we reap because of what God has sown

1. The Blessings of providence.

a. Matthew 5:45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

Take special note of the pronouns in this verse. It is His sun. He causes it to shine upon the world; He makes it rain - not on the good and deserving only, but on the evil and undeserving, too.

b. Acts 17:24-25 God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;

²⁵ Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;

God gives to men every essential of existence: life, breath, and "all things." All men live by the grace and goodness of a benevolent Creator.

2. The Blessing of Salvation.

a. John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

God took the initiative to redeem sinful humanity by giving His son in payment for the penalty of sin.

b. Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Whether or not men receive the gift, it is there for the taking.

Blessings we reap because of what others have sown

1. Personally, we benefit from the contributions others have made into our lives.

a. Think of those who have instructed, encouraged, and challenged you, building good things into your life.

b. If we can succeed and excel, others have made it possible.

Illustration

A young woman tells of an experience that forever changed her outlook on life. She was in the sixth grade, and it was the day for end-of-the-year parent/teacher conferences.

One by one, the other children and their parents were called into the office to meet with the teacher, but this little girl's parents never came.

They hadn't cared enough to come. At last, it was her turn. She entered the office and sat with head bowed, embarrassed that her parents were not there.

Then her teacher spoke the words the girl would never forget.

She said, "**First, I want you to know that I love you. Second, I want you to know that it isn't your fault that your parents didn't show up. Third, you are a great student and deserve to have your work reviewed.**"

Then the teacher began to give that girl the same time and attention which she had given every other student.

In so doing, she gave her a dose of **self-esteem** that has sustained her well into her adult years.

2. Nationally, we owe a great debt to those who have given us a free and prosperous country in which to live.

a. How different would life in America be if our forefathers had not founded this nation on Christian principles?

b. How many of our freedoms would have been lost if men had not been willing to fight and die to preserve them?

3. Spiritually, we would not enjoy the privileges of our Christian faith if it were not for the faithfulness of others.

a. What if someone had not cared enough to share the gospel with you?

b. What if others had failed to obey the Great Commission and plant churches all over America?

II. The Negative Side

We reap the wrong others have sown

1. We all reap the sin of Adam.

Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

a. When Adam sinned, he made all men subject to sin – its power and its penalty.

b. His sin also caused the earth to be cursed, so that we must live with sickness, suffering, hardship, and death.

2. We reap sorrow and suffering from the sins and failures of our family.

a. Numbers 14:18 ¹⁸ The LORD is longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation.

The consequences of sin can be passed on to several generations.

b. Ezekiel 18:2-3 What mean ye, that ye use this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying, The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge?

³ As I live, saith the Lord God, ye shall not have occasion any more to use this proverb in Israel.

A father or mother cannot sin without bringing hurt to their family.

c. Proverbs 17:25 ²⁵ A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her that bare him.

When a child rebels and makes foolish choices, he grieves his parents.

3. We reap the wrong of foolish or corrupt leaders and the effects of living in a godless society.

a. Romans 1:21-32 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

²² Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

²³ And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

²⁴ Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

²⁵ Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

²⁶ For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

²⁷ And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

30 Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

When a generation abandons its faith in God and turns to humanistic philosophies and pagan religion, all of society suffers.

b. Proverbs 29:2 When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.

We reap the wrong we have sown

1. God is willing to forgive us our sins, but we cannot always escape the consequences.

2. Although a man may hide, excuse, or ignore his sins, he will reap the effects of his behavior – in the form of suffering, guilt, or the judgment of God.

Numbers 32:23 But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out.

III. The Law Applied

Consider the harvest before you sow.

1. What will be the results of your choices?

To yourself? To others?

a. We reap only what has been sown.

Someone will be affected by your choices.

b. We cannot escape the fact that we have a responsibility to others.

THINK ABOUT IT: If we only reap the blessings and fail to sow good things back into the lives of others, then the next generation will not know the blessings we have enjoyed.

Deuteronomy 6:10-12 And it shall be, when the LORD thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildedst not,

¹¹ And houses full of all good things, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou shalt have eaten and be full;

¹² Then beware lest thou forget the LORD, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

2. Are you sowing anything that will bear eternal fruit?

a. Only one thing upon the earth that will outlast the earth: the souls of mankind.

b. Every Christian needs to be involved in some way in personally winning others to Christ.

Mark 8:35 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.

- There is a harvest to be reaped for our bus ministry.
- There are families to be reached for Christ.
- **The fields are white unto harvest.**

All that is lacking is reapers. The Soul-Winners.

Be thankful to those who have sown so that you could reap good things.

1. Thank God for His blessings.
2. Don't abuse the blessings passed on to us by others through ingratitude or indifference.

Realize that God's grace is greater than the negative things we reap.

1. Past offenses can be forgiven, and the effects of bitterness put away.
2. As Christians, we can rest assured that when we have godless rulers we must endure hard times, and yet, God will sustain and care for His children.

Psalm 37:10-13 For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be.

¹¹ But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

12 The wicked plotteth against the just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth.

13 The LORD shall laugh at him: for he seeth that his day is coming.

Psalm 37:22-26 For such as be blessed of him shall inherit the earth; and they that be cursed of him shall be cut off.

23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.

24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand.

25 I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

26 He is ever merciful, and lendeth; and his seed is blessed.

3. It matters what choices we made then, and those we make now. Our future is based on the choices and actions of our past and of today.

4. Decide now what it is that you want to reap in the future and plant the right kind of seeds.

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