

Riverview Baptist Church
February 7, 2016
Galatians 6:7-10
“Spiritual Harvest”

Memory verse:

*“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”
Galatians 6:9*

Sunday school Scripture:

⁷Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. ⁸Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. ⁹Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. ¹⁰Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” Galatians 6:7-10

Introduction:

“Sow a thought and you reap an action; sow an act and you reap a habit; sow a habit and you reap a character; sow a character and you reap a destiny.” — Ralph Waldo Emerson

Emerson’s words really summarize the truth found in today’s lesson very well. Today we are going to look at the way God’s oversight and judgement of our lives works through His own spiritual law of the harvest to bring us into fruitfulness or destruction.

Presentation:

1. God is our undecivable and ever perceptive final judge! Verse 7a
 - a. We should not be deceived or led astray by others to believe that God doesn’t care to punish or reward his children! Why do Christians sometimes fall into the belief that God doesn’t care what we do? What is the general attitude of American society toward Divine judgement? YOLO, You only live once is a life principle for many. Just do it! Etc.
 - b. We should not mock God by acting as though He can be deceived or ignored! The word “mock” literally means turning up our noses at God, dismissing him as unimportant.
 - c. Hebrews 4:12-13 NIV - *For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.*
 - d. What role does God’s word, the Bible have in our lives? How does our attitude toward the Bible and our habit of reading it show us whether or not we are ignoring God?
 - e. Remember that just because we may ignore Him, he will not ignore us.

2. God established the earthly principle of sowing/harvest and uses this principle to describe our spiritual reality! Verse 7b
 - a. This is generally true! It is also true that sometimes good people suffer and that sinful people prosper. But this is a proverbial truth. It is true as a principle over time not in each minute looked at in isolation from the “bigger picture”. God may have a divine purpose for hardship in

your life. Also, remember that spiritual prosperity or fruit should not be directly equated with financial or material prosperity.

- b. Reaps the type of seed he sows. Apples seed produces apple tree.
 - c. Reaps in proportion to what he sows. More sowing = More reaping. Less sowing = Less reaping.
 - d. Reaps only after he sows. There is always delay between sowing and reaping. This means if we don't sow, we don't reap. Some Christians sit and wait on things to change and never let the Spirit change them and their habits. The fruit of that life will never change.
3. God's judgment through the spiritual law of sowing and reaping is both a warning and a promise. Verse 8
- a. Sowing is used figuratively to refer to our actions. What do we do with our lives?
 - b. The term "flesh" here refers to our material desires. The desires characterized by the fact that we are human beings. They are corrupted by sin and we can't simply live by every desire. If we sow seed based on our desires, it will result in negative things happening in our lives over time. You cannot live spiritually and be governed by your appetites and desires.
 - c. The "fruit" of the "flesh" is death, destruction, decay. This is referring to the ongoing negative outcomes in this life of living out of step with the Holy Spirit. God is not out to get people. He has however, made the world to work in a specific way both spiritually and biologically. When people work against God's spiritual law, death and destruction is the inevitable result. "If you play with fire, you're going to get burned!" That is one way of summing up this truth.
 - d. The term "eternal life" in this text can be misunderstood. It is used as a reference to the fruit of the Spirit that comes from walking in step with the Spirit, which was taught in chapter 5. Be careful not to lead people to think that eternal life here means "go to heaven". Paul has not changed his teaching at the last minute to say that if you sow certain spiritual seed you go to heaven and if you sow other seed you go to hell. Eternal Life is used here to refer to the fruit of the spiritual walk. We reap the life characteristic of the Spirit now, on earth. It may be delayed in some of its fruitfulness and harvest, but it is a sure promise.
 - e. Eternal Life begins when you are saved! R. Alan Cole, Commentary on Galatians, *"Betz is right in saying that this is an eschatological warning: all references to harvest in Scripture seem to point to the last day. But Christian experience can be described as "entered eschatology": the first fruits of this eschatological harvest of good or ill are reaped even in this world."*
4. God encourages His own followers with hope of a harvest! Verse 9
- a. What discourages the committed Christian?
 - b. When discouragement sets in, sowing "doing good" sometimes stops. Doing good is not what results in our salvation, it results from our salvation. While Paul always ties our salvation to grace through faith as a gift from God, he always reminds Christians of our obligation to fulfill the Law of love and to do good!
 - c. Any cease in sowing damages the future harvest.
5. God wants us to do good as a consistent way of walking in the Spirit and sowing for the harvest! Verse 10
- a. Do good to all people!
 - b. Do even more good for God's people!

Apply:

- Consider your attitude toward God's watchful reign over your life!
- What destructive appetite are you continuing to sow?
- What step is the Spirit asking you to take that you haven't taken or are not consistently taking?
- Are you discouraged? Admit that to God and someone else this week and memorize verse 9!
- Who can you do good for this week?

TEACHER'S STUDY MATERIAL:

<https://carm.org/dictionary-judgment>

Judgment is condemnation. It is the carrying out of the legal penalty upon someone due to breaking the [Law](#). There are several judgments: the judgment of the believer's sins ([John 5:24](#)), the judgment of the believer's self ([1 Cor. 11:31-32](#)), the judgment of the believer's works ([2 Cor. 5:10](#)), the judgment of the nations ([Matt. 25:31-46](#)), and the judgment of the wicked ([Rev. 20:11-15](#)).

There is no judgment for the Christian in respect to [salvation](#) ([Rom. 8:1](#)). We were judged in [Christ](#) on the cross 2,000 years ago. However, as Christians, we will be judged according to our works ([2 Cor. 5:10](#)) with, most probably, varying degrees of rewards, but remember, the judgment of our works does not affect our salvation.

The Baptist Faith and Message is a short description of the foundational doctrines commonly held among Southern Baptist churches. It is the basis for formal cooperation in many Southern Baptist groups and endeavors. It is not infallible and is occasionally amended. Therefore, churches and Christians individually are free to for their own statements of belief. I include this section as a basis for study and conversation on the topic of God's judgement that is front and center in today's lesson. I included the section on the Kingdom in order to give some larger understanding of the realm of God's reign.

IX. The Kingdom

The Kingdom of God includes both His general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King. Particularly the Kingdom is the realm of salvation into which men enter by trustful, childlike commitment to Jesus Christ. Christians ought to pray and to labor that the Kingdom may come and God's will be done on earth. The full consummation of the Kingdom awaits the return of Jesus Christ and the end of this age.

[Genesis 1:1](#); [Isaiah 9:6-7](#); [Jeremiah 23:5-6](#); [Matthew 3:2](#); [4:8-10,23](#); [12:25-28](#); [13:1-52](#); [25:31-46](#); [26:29](#); [Mark 1:14-15](#); [9:1](#); [Luke 4:43](#); [8:1](#); [9:2](#); [12:31-32](#); [17:20-21](#); [23:42](#); [John 3:3](#); [18:36](#); [Acts 1:6-7](#); [17:22-31](#); [Romans 5:17](#); [8:19](#); [1 Corinthians 15:24-28](#); [Colossians 1:13](#); [Hebrews 11:10,16](#); [12:28](#); [1 Peter 2:4-10](#); [4:13](#); [Revelation 1:6,9](#); [5:10](#); [11:15](#); [21-22](#).

X. Last Things

God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and

Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.

[Isaiah 2:4; 11:9; Matthew 16:27; 18:8-9; 19:28; 24:27,30,36,44; 25:31-46; 26:64; Mark 8:38; 9:43-48; Luke 12:40,48; 16:19-26; 17:22-37; 21:27-28; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; 17:31; Romans 14:10; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 15:24-28,35-58; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 1:5; 3:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 5:1ff.; 2 Thessalonians 1:7ff.; 2; 1 Timothy 6:14; 2 Timothy 4:1,8; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 9:27-28; James 5:8; 2 Peter 3:7ff.; 1 John 2:28; 3:2; Jude 14; Revelation 1:18; 3:11; 20:1-22:13.](#)