

Choices Matter: The Laws of Consequences

Lesson 5

Galatians 6:7-8; John 4:35-38; Proverbs 3:1-2, 21:23

April 19, 2020

We Reap What We Sow

Introduction

It's always surprising when a spiritual leader, especially a leader in the church, is found to be corrupt. They have most people so fooled, yet they never, not for once, fooled God. Somewhere along the way, they started living for the flesh, pursuing their lusts or their greed.

Our verses this week follow the theme of reaping what you sow. If you plant an apple tree, it should be shocking if a grapevine pops up. The same goes for a life lived pursuing self. If we sow perversion, we will eventually reap destruction. However, if we sow pursuing devotion of our time to caring for others, giving generously of our resources, and sharing our faith, we will reap eternal blessings.

We shouldn't do these things because we have to, but as a love offering, overflowing from the thankfulness and devotion we have for Christ. We don't deserve the good gift of eternal life. We deserve the decay and destruction. Yet God graciously promises that at the time of the harvest, those that are faithful will be with him forever. How are you going to show your thankfulness to Christ? What seeds of the Spirit are you going to sow today?

Memory verse: "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows." —Galatians 6:7

Pray and read Galatians 6:7-8; John 4:35-38;
Proverbs 3:1-2; 21:23.

What questions or observations do you have about these passages?

What do the passages say?

1. Finish this sentence: “Do not be _____.
God cannot be _____.” (Galatians 6:7)
2. What will those who sow to please the flesh reap?
(Galatians 6:8)
3. If a person sows to please the Spirit, what will that
person reap? (Galatians 6:8)
4. What is ripe for the harvest? (John 4:35)
5. What can be gained for the reaper even though they
have not done the hard work? (John 4:38)
6. What is the reason the son should not forget his father’s
teaching in this proverb? (Proverbs 3:1-2)
7. What happens to those who guard their mouths and
their tongues? (Proverbs 21:23)

What do the passages mean?

1. One of the times of reaping is the coming of Jesus, where everything we ever did, said, or thought, will be judged by Him. It is easy to get anxious about if we are ready for Jesus to come back. What is the hope for Christians if we stand firm in faith and continue to do good? (1 Thessalonians 5:1-11)

2. In 2 Corinthians 9:6-15, a similar encouragement is given to that in Galatians. But this time, it is more along the lines of sowing or giving generously of your time, your resources, helping others when they are in need, and sharing the love of Christ generously to your neighbor. Why is it important to be mindful of the needs around you, and to give with a willing heart? (John 13:35; 2 Corinthians 9:11; 1 John 3:14)

3. What is the fruit that comes from a heart that follows the Spirit? (Galatians 5:22-23). What destruction is reaped when we follow our fleshly desires? (Galatians 5:19-21)

4. The phrase “heaven on earth” is often used in the Bible. We are bringing heaven to earth when we wholeheartedly follow Jesus. It’s not just when we die. Why is it essential to work out our salvation now, and not only as a “get out of jail free card” when we are about to leave earth? (John 10:10; 2 Corinthians 5:10)

Applying the passages

1. In action, you may be able to fool others, but God sees what’s in the heart. (Jeremiah 17:10). How have you tried to look the part at church or with close family and friends but secretly lived a different life?

2. What negative consequences have come in your life from living for the flesh? What about positive benefits for living in the Spirit?

3. Is it hard to continue to do good, or does knowing Jesus make it worth the trials and the mundane of everyday life? What promises or verses can you have in your pocket to pull out when you feel yourself heading toward self-gratification and fleshly desires?