

Choices Matter: The Laws of Consequences

Lesson 6

Galatians 6:9; Proverbs 26:13-14, 28:19

April 26, 2020

We Reap in a Different Season

Introduction

The repercussions of our actions (both positive and negative) can come months or even years after the actions that caused them. The Bible is filled with examples of people who saw punishments come long after their sin and servants who waited a lifetime to see rewards. Our human nature wants to see the results of our service immediately. Still, Jesus calls us to patience and to not grow weary in doing good concerning one another. Likewise, if we don't see the immediate consequences of our selfishness, we might be led to think that no damage was done and that we have escaped consequence, or even worse, that there will be no consequence.

Our sin will have repercussions that will come later. Secrecy and selfishness today can result in divorces that don't happen for years. Anger and deceitfulness damage relationships in ways that can take years to repair. We reap what we sow. Our sin will cause damage that might not be seen for years, but obedience to Jesus will, in time, result in greater trust in our marriages, relationships, and churches.

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

Pray and read Galatians 6:9, Proverbs 26:13-14, and Proverbs 28:19.

What questions or observations do you have about these passages?

What do the passages say?

1. What do we reap when we sow to please our flesh?
(Galatians 6:8)
2. What do we reap when we sow to please the Holy Spirit? (Galatians 6:8)
3. What is the reward for not giving up on doing good?
(Galatians 6:9)
4. When will we reap the rewards of sowing to “please the Spirit?” (Galatians 6:9)
5. How does a sluggard respond to adversity and responsibility? (Proverbs 26:13-14)
6. How is the sluggard eventually rewarded?
(Proverbs 20:4)
7. What will we receive if we work versus when we “chase fantasies?” (Proverbs 28:19)

What do the passages mean?

1. Given the context provided by Galatians 6:1-8, what do you think Paul means by the phrase “doing good”? Why would Christians become weary of “doing good?” (Galatians 6:1-9)
2. Reaping what we sow cuts both ways, eventually resulting in either destruction or reward. What are the motivations of those who reap destruction? What are the motivations for those who are rewarded with eternal life? (Galatians 6:7-8)
3. David was a man after God’s own heart, but he struggled when he had to wait for God’s rewards and had to continue doing good. Read Psalm 13. What does David seem to be waiting on? Why does he continue to trust God? (Psalm 13)

4. Read James 5:7-9. What is James' advice to these early believers with concerning patience and reward? (James 5:7-9) How does this coincide with Proverbs 26:13-14 and 28:19?

Applying the passage

1. Galatians 6 describes the necessity for believers to “do good” not only in relationships with others but also especially within the church family. Has there been a time that you grew weary serving others? How long did it take for you to see the fruits of your labor? (Galatians 6:1-10)

