

Galatians #17 – Sowing and Reaping
Pastor Deborah Oakley – 2-9-25

We are continuing our study through the book of Galatians and today I'm preaching a message entitled Sowing and Reaping.

Last week Pastor Joe spoke on Love in Action and he taught us that love gives. In our passage today, Paul shows us three places we should be giving - to those who teach us, to the family of God, and to our own spiritual lives. Of course - we are ultimately giving to God.

Galatians 6:6 says we should give to those who teach us.

Those who are taught the word of God should provide for their teachers, sharing all good things with them.

This is simply saying that those who feed and bless you spiritually should be supported by you financially. Paul repeated this principle in several other places. 1 Corinthians 9:11 says:

If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much if we reap a material harvest from you?

1 Corinthians 9:14 says:

The Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.

1 Timothy 5:17 says:

Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.

According to Strong's Concordance, the word honor here means money paid. That's how the Good News Bible translates 1 Timothy 5:17-18.

The elders who do good work as leaders should be considered worthy of receiving double pay, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching. For the scripture says, "Do not muzzle an ox when you are using it to thresh grain" and "Workers deserve their wages."

Contrary to what many people believe, most pastors are not getting rich off the church. Many work two jobs just to make ends meet.

Remember Pastor Joe taught us last week to carry each other's burdens. Well, this verse on giving to those who teach us comes right after that. So Paul is showing us that **one way to carry burdens is to provide for the financial needs of your teachers in Christ.**

Passages like this are important biblical truth, but they are often neglected because it can be awkward for the preacher to preach since it can seem self-serving.

It's such a blessing to serve a church family that gives generously. In the early years of our church we did not make anything. We worked outside jobs until the church grew enough to pay us. Even then we worked for little pay for years because we felt the money needed to go to hire other ministers - like worship, children and youth.

But we knew that if we kept sowing, we would reap a harvest. And there came a time when we started making a normal salary for a church our size. Thank you so much for sowing into Grace Fellowship Church and all our ministers. God will bless you for it. We know that because Galatians 6:7 says:

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

I GOD CANNOT BE MOCKED

The Greek word for mocked comes from the word meaning nose. It literally means to turn up the nose and someone in disdain. To despise or ridicule. But God says He will not be mocked.

The context here is giving to those who teach us. Paul is addressing those who are hesitant to give to those who teach. Paul says those who see giving as a waste are mocking God. It is selfishness that mocks God's generosity towards those who give to the church and it's ministries.

That's why Paul reminds them of God's principle of sowing and reaping. Giving to teachers of the Word is not throwing away money; it is like planting seeds, and whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

Every one of us is SOWING words, thoughts and actions every day, and someday there is going to be a payday - a harvest. We are going to REAP that which we have thought and said and done.

You are a sower and I am a sower. You are going to reap a harvest, and I am going to reap a harvest. We'd better take care what we sow, so that our harvest will be one we really want.

Paul's point is not that God's people should give to teachers just because it is good for the teacher. They should give because it is also good for the one who gives. That's because of principle of sowing and reaping.

2 SOWING AND REAPING IS A DIVINE LAW

Galatians 6:7 says:

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

Sowing and reaping is a divine law because whatever actions or choices you make (or what you "sow") will ultimately result in corresponding consequences or outcomes (or what you "reap"). Essentially, "you get what you give" or "you reap what you sow."

When a farmer plants a seed in the ground, he expects to receive whatever he planted: If he planted corn he would get corn, if he planted apple seeds he would get apples - if he planted watermelon seeds he would get watermelons. You reap a harvest after its kind.

Well, the same is true in the spiritual realm.

If you sow love, you reap love.

If you sow forgiveness, you reap forgiveness.

If you sow generosity, you will get generosity.

It is impossible to escape the law of the harvest.

And that seed of faith that you planted - that you've prayed for, believed for and waited for - You will reap what you have sown. That dream you prayed over, the one that God gave you. That you spent countless hours working on, that you have invested your life and finances into... those seeds will produce. You will reap what you sow.

That person that hurt you. The one that you forgave. You just made a deposit of forgiveness in your heavenly bank account. Someone is going to show you the same forgiveness. You will reap what you sow.

Listen to this amazing story about sowing and reaping. In 1981, Dr. Michael Shannon, a pediatrician, saved the life of a 3.2-pound premature baby boy named Chris Trokey. Doctors only gave the baby a 50/50 chance of survival. But Dr. Shannon helped save his life, staying with the infant around the clock until he was stable.

Thirty years later in 2011, that same pediatrician was in a car accident. Firefighters pulled the doctor from his vehicle. Dr. Shannon spent 45 days recovering in the hospital. It was after this that Dr. Shannon discovered that one of the firefighters that saved his life was Chris Trokey, the same child he had saved thirty years ago. The doctor saved the baby and the baby saved the doctor 30 years later.

The principle of sowing and reaping has application beyond giving to teachers and ministers.

It has a general application in life; what we get out of life is what we put into it.

We may fool ourselves by expecting much when we sow little, but we cannot fool God and the results of our poor sowing will be evident.

3 THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SOWING TO THE FLESH AND SOWING TO THE SPIRIT

Galatians 6:8 says:

The one who sows to please his flesh will of the flesh reap destruction; but the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

Two weeks ago I taught on the winning the war between the flesh and the spirit. A big key to winning that war is sowing to the spirit rather than the flesh. There's a big difference.

Sowing to the flesh means you give to yourself to feed your selfish desires. That results in destruction in your life. Sowing to the spirit means you give to God and you sow His word into your spirit. That gives life to your spirit.

Sowing and reaping is not just about financial giving and gain. Yes, we must give financially if we want to reap a financial harvest. But if we want to reap to the Spirit, we should not hesitate to sow to the Spirit with whatever resources God has given us. His word, His Spirit, His family, His ministers. Sowing in all these areas will result in a spiritual harvest.

It's also true that we sow by the way we live. We choose what kind of seed we want to reap, either seed that conforms to life in Christ, or seed that conforms to our flesh.

**If we sow to our flesh, the flesh will increase in size and strength.
If we sow to our spirit, our spirit will increase in size and strength.**

When we sow to the Spirit — even with material things — what we reap is not necessarily material things, but something better. So we don't give as a money-making scheme, but we are confident that giving will always result in gain in our lives, never loss.

Some of that gain will be financial and some will be spiritual. Some of that gain will come in this lifetime, some is stored up in heaven. But will always reap what we sow! So, Paul said to give to our teachers and sow to the spirit. The third place he says to give is to other people, especially God's family.

4 DO GOOD TO ALL

Galatians 6:10 says:

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Caring for our church family is not just the pastors' job – it is a ministry for all of us.

Elders and pastors can't do every single bit of caring that takes place in the church – but we have the responsibility to see that it happens. We are to be examples of caring for our church family and we are to equip others to care for our church family.

This is why we have a culture of care in our church family and it's why we equip care ministers to help care for our church family. All of us have a responsibility to care for one another. 1 Corinthians 12:25 says:

There should be no division in the body, so that all the members care for each other equally.

By the way - how do you show your love for God? By doing things like worshipping Him and obeying Him? Yes, but here's a way that is often overlooked. Hebrews 6:10 says:

For God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked for Him and how you have shown your love to Him by caring for other believers.

We love, serve and give to God by loving, serving and giving to people. Don't say you love and serve God if you don't love and serve people.

And notice - God says that He will not forget how you have worked and shown love to Him by loving others! That's means He will make sure that you reap what you sow.

You can care for others by praying for them, listening to them, carrying burdens with them and giving to them. And you will reap what you sow.

Some people make the mistake of thinking that they will reap back from the person they sowed into. Sometimes that's true, but sometimes you will reap a harvest from someone you did not sow into. Just know that God will not forget and you will reap what you sow! But keep in mind, there is a time of waiting between sowing and reaping.

5 DON'T GROW WEARY IN DOING GOOD

Galatians 6:9 says:

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

It's easy to grow tired of sowing when you haven't seen a harvest yet. By the way, notice that Paul said let US not become weary. He included himself in what he wrote to the Galatians. Because of the deception brought in by the legalists, Paul's work among the Galatians had not yet really been rewarded, so he needed to remember not to lose heart himself.

We live in an instant society, so it's hard for us to wait for the harvest. We're a high-speed internet, microwave, HOV lane, express line society that doesn't want to wait. I've known people who tithed one Sunday and when they didn't get a harvest the next week, they stopped giving. NO! Paul says to keep sowing and you will reap a harvest!

The New King James version of Galatians 6:10 says:

Let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

It is easy but dangerous to lose heart. In the ancient world, this phrase translated lose heart was used for the kind of weariness a woman experiences during labor before delivery. It describes a time when the work is hard and painful, but also unfinished and unrewarded.

It's easy to lose heart when we feel like that, but that is exactly when we must hang on and not grow weary while doing good. Sometimes it seems like all we do is work and wait. Maybe you're still waiting for God to perform a miracle. **You've waited in the past; you're waiting in the present and you'll wait in the future.** Waiting is a part of life; it always has been and it always will be. However, God promises that we won't have to wait forever.

Notice that Paul tells us not to grow weary in doing good. In other words we are not to give up. We must continue doing good, continue to pray, continue to worship, continue to believe, and continue to patiently wait for our harvest.

Too many times we want to stop... but think about that. What if you did give up? What does that get you? Probably nothing. **The only sure way to fail is to give up.** But your due season will come... If you don't give up.

So what does due season mean? The Amplified Bible says it means in due time and at the appointed season. In The New Living Translation it means at just the right time.

The word due means - something that rightfully belongs to you or something that is owed or expected to happen. The word season means - a special period or a time characterized by a particular circumstance or feature.

So if you put these definitions together **a due season is – a special period of time or an appointed time when we receive that which we have expected - that which is owed us - or rightfully belongs to us.**

So, don't give up. Habakkuk 2:3 says:

For the vision is yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it. Because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

There is a due season when you will reap what you have sown. This is a promise from God! When we sow in faith we will reap a harvest in God's timing!

Moses waited 80 years to lead Israel to freedom.

David waited 20 years to be King.

Joseph was in a prison for at least 2 years.

Abraham was childless for 100 years.

God could have answered these prayers much quicker, but He didn't. He made them wait instead. And He often makes us wait too. Psalm 27:14 says:

Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.

God rarely does things in our time frame, and if we're not careful we can end up accusing God of being uncaring or letting us down. We can end up questioning God's timing. But God is never late - He is always on time! Hebrews 10:36 says:

For you have need of patience, that, after you have done the will of God, you might receive the promise.

That means that waiting does not mean doing nothing! It means keep doing good and keep sowing seed and you will reap a harvest!

So I declare today that you will have your due season in God's timing!

Your due season will come in due season.

You have prayed and fasted!

You have believed God's Word and declared God's Word.

In due time you will have more than enough.

Things might have been rough.

The waiting has been tough.

But in due season God will say "ENOUGH!"

You will possess your blessings.

So call in your blessings from the north, south, east and west.

In due season your blessings will overtake you.

You will have peace and no one will make you afraid.

You will pursue your enemies, and they will be before you.

God will look on you with favor and make you fruitful.

You will still be enjoying last year's harvest when you have to make room for the next one.

Your due season is coming so believe it and receive it.

You will reap what you sow in Jesus' name! Hallelujah!