



A Publication of
Princeton Christian Church

The Princeton PathFinder

The Body of Christ **Harvest Time**

September
2022

And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way

Ephesians 1:22-23



In This Issue

- *Growing Amongst the Weeds*
- *Sowing and Reaping*
- *Spiritual Harvest*
- *Reflection on Seeds Sown*
- *You Can't Reap What Is Not Sown*

Growing Amongst the Weeds

The other day I was having a conversation with a random person and the subject came up (as it inevitably will) of why God allows bad things to happen to "good" people. I said that I've had to learn to look at life with a BIG picture mindset because that is how our God looks at things. They asked how I thought pain and suffering could possibly fit into the BIG picture of God. My mind began to scramble through the many ways I could explain this but I simply asked them to open up Google on their phone and type in The Parable of the Weeds.

The Parable of the Weeds

24 He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, 25 but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. 26 So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. 27 And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds? 28 He said to them, An enemy has done this. So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' 29 But he said, No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, 'Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but

I said God explains this very thing Himself so let's look at what He has to say about this: God sowed good seed and He is awaiting a good harvest when harvest time comes. As long as the breath of God is in the world then harvest time has not come. He loves the seeds that have grown and those that will be growing among the weeds; He doesn't want harm to come to them, so He allows and helps us to grow until the proper time. In the end, the good will be separated from the bad, but not until the end so we must keep doing what we are created to do and that is....

TARES Look IDENTICAL To WHEAT



WHEAT: before it is fully ripe.



TARES: *Lolium Temulentum*

GROWING AMONGST THE WEEDS.

~Aaron Jones

Sowing and Reaping

*Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life,
so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together.*
John 4:36

I'm a country boy. I grew up in Montgomery county Indiana just outside of Crawfordsville. You could not grow up in Montgomery county and not be familiar with farming. In 1979 Priebe Farms hosted the national Farm Progress show and Crawfordsville was the home of Dekalb Seed Company.

Spending a summer detasseling corn for Dekalb was a right of passage for many of us. It was how a lot of people earned money for their first car. My great grandfather Jesse Plunkett farmed in Walnut township with a team of horses, my grandpa Al Wright farmed with a a Farmall H and my Uncle Cecil Smith managed Weaver's popcorn farm and worked the ground with a 2 lung John Deere.

Today I live in the country outside Princeton surrounded by pastures. I love it out here especially on crisp fall mornings when the farmer across the road fires up his old 2 lung John Deere to take hay out to his cattle. I like the simple things in life and few things are simpler than a 2 lung John Deere.

John Deere was a blacksmith who developed the first commercially successful, self-scouring steel plow in 1837 and founded the company that still bears his name.

Deere was born in 1804 in Rutland, Vermont. After his father was lost at sea when he was four years old, Deere was raised solely by his mother. As a young man, he won acclaim for his workmanship and ingenuity as a blacksmith. When the New England economy collapsed in 1836, he followed other Vermonters to Illinois, where he established a blacksmith shop in Grand Detour.

Legend has it that the iconic John Deere green and yellow paint scheme was chosen by Mrs. John Deere. The green represents growing crops and the yellow for crops ready to harvest. When I here ol' Johnny Pop in the morning and see those colors it reminds me that we have jobs to do.

A seed is planted , it grows and at harvest produces many seeds that can be planted to produce an even greater harvest. The farmer arises early , before dawn , he has his morning coffee and plans his day. At first light he is in the field ready for the harvest.

We are tenant farmers working our Heavenly Fathers spiritual fields. If we are going to be good stewards of the field entrusted to us we need to take a lesson from the farmer raising grain. We must arise early before first light and go to our Father for instructions for the day. From springtime until harvest we must be diligent. Reaping a harvest is year round work. We must prepare our hearts (spiritual soil) to receive the blessings of God. We must share those blessings with others (plant the seeds) so that God can multiply them. We must pray that God nourishes the seeds and makes them grow. We must be diligent in keeping weeds out of our lives and away from seedlings. And at the appropriate time a great harvest will be gathered into God's store house and we will hear , " Enter in good and faithful servant".

The next time you see that familiar green and yellow let it be a reminder that we have work to do.

~Ron Smith

Spiritual Harvest

What is a spiritual harvest?

Throughout the Bible, the harvest carries spiritual significance. It is used in parables ([Luke 8:4–8](#)) and as a metaphor for spiritual growth and health ([2 Corinthians 9:10](#); [James 3:18](#)). The harvest has always been a beautiful and important part of life on earth, the time when the year's work bears fruit and the people are fed. It is symbolic of bounty, health, and abundance. Israel celebrated the time of the harvest with a feast, appropriately called the Feast of Harvest ([Exodus 23:16](#)).

Jesus spoke of a spiritual harvest waiting to be reaped. *As Jesus traveled, “he saw the crowds, [and] he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest””* ([Matthew 9:36–38](#)). Here, Jesus referred to the many souls needing to be brought to repentance and faith as a harvest waiting to be realized.

Jesus used the same metaphor of a spiritual harvest in Samaria. After talking to the [woman at the well](#), Jesus told His disciples, “Don’t you have a saying, ‘It’s still four months until harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest” ([John 4:35](#)). In the days following this statement, many of the Samaritans became believers in Christ ([verse 41](#)). Jesus saw the spiritual harvest of souls awaiting in that village.

A spiritual harvest is the result of God’s work in the heart of man. It is clear from the [parable of the seed and the sower](#) that some people’s hearts are good soil; when the Word of God is sown there, the person accepts it and continues to mature ([Luke 8:9–15](#)). There is nothing we can do to change the soil—that is God’s job ([Ezekiel 36:26](#)). However, we can be faithful to sow the seed, help the plants to grow, or reap the harvest. The process of spiritual growth and maturity, from the heart’s regeneration to the recognition of faith, is often a long journey. In fact, the Bible indicates that the sower, the tender, and the reaper are likely to be different people at different times ([John 4:35–38](#); [1 Corinthians 3:6–9](#)).

Just like the physical growth of a field, the spiritual growth of people is a natural, organic process, overseen by God Himself. If we don’t see anyone getting saved, it can be discouraging, but we need to remember that sowing is just as important as reaping. Some of us are sowers and may never see the result of our labor. That is why our focus should be on pleasing the One who sent us into the field rather than on controlling the rate of growth or the amount we reap.



~Continued on Page 4

Spiritual Harvest *(Continued)*

God's laborers in the spiritual harvest of souls are promised great reward for their faith and perseverance (**James 1:12; 1 Peter 5:4; 2 Timothy 4:8; Hebrews 11**). This applies to all aspects of our spiritual lives, including witnessing and seeing people saved and growing in the Lord, which is the spiritual harvest we all long to see. Sometimes we don't see it. Nonetheless, believers are exhorted with these words: *"Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up"* (**Galatians 6:9**) and *"A harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace"* (**James 3:18**) and *"Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them"* (**Psalms 126:6**).

Jesus told us to pray to the Lord of the harvest for more laborers (**Matthew 9:38**). We should pray about all aspects of the spiritual harvest process, including the preparation of the soil. We can ask God to change people's hearts. *"The Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth"* (**2 Timothy 2:24-25**). *God will use us in His fields, each according to our gifts and the need of the moment, as we trust Him.*



Of course, God is the great evangelist. It is his mission and by his grace alone that we are saved. Yet the Lord does clearly call us to be His ambassadors. (**2 Cor. 5:18; Acts 1:8, Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16**). He commissions the Church, his mystical body on earth, to bring the good news into the world.

And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" (**Romans 10:14-16**)

Interestingly the early church never had to be taught methods of how to share the Gospel. We don't read Paul teaching evangelism techniques or witness skills. The first followers of Jesus were so transformed and ignited by their encounter with the Risen Lord that *"they could not help but speak about what they had seen and heard"* (**Acts 4:20**). *They shared "to make their joy complete"* (**1 John 1:4**). *The Gospel burst forth in their lives, in their speech and in their actions. "And the Lord added to their number those who were being saved."* (**Acts 2:47**).

~Robin Fortner

Reflection on Seeds Sown

Harvest time is a time to reflect on what you have sewn throughout the year. You can either be a sower of good seed (a blessing to everyone you meet) or you can sow bad seed (be a lesson or a bad witness). In Galations 6: 9 -10 it says not to give up sowing good seeds. We are to plant good seeds throughout our life and God will do the rest. I have seen good seed grow in my marriage. We do our best to pray with the girls every night and I believe God is working in our girls and they are getting better with being more involved in service. My wife and I pray every night before bed and I believe those good seeds are growing and working on us as bringing us together closer to God and each other. I personally see her reaching to pray to God first now instead of giving up.

The Harvest or Good seed that others have planted in me is really wanting me to be a better leader and to search God more. So, I believe we should strive to plant good seed everywhere we walk and before you know it harvest time will come and you will see the seeds grow and want more of the living water that they can only get from Our Lord and Savior. Build your faith and plant those seeds!

~Eric West

*The real measure of a
person's wealth is what he
has invested for eternity.*



Harvest Time

‘Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.

James 5:7-8 NIV

In a few short weeks we will begin to see the farmer in the fields picking corn, combining beans, harvesting the fruits of his hard labor. The work he began much earlier in the year has now produced.

The farmer, it seems to me, must be a man of faith, and one who possesses a great deal of confidence in his work. He spends much of the winter months preparing for the planting in the spring. The land must be prepared, equipment maintained and ready for service, planning for what crop will be planted in which field.

When all is ready he watches. He studies the weather patterns and waits for the just right time to begin preparing the soil and for planting. Planting begins and is eventually completed.

And then he waits again. All the while, he is watching the growing crop, patiently, and most likely, prayerfully, anticipating favorable weather and perfectly spaced rainfalls which will produce an abundant crop.

James recognizes these things about the farmer, but he also recognizes that those who live in Christ experience much of the same preparation, anticipation and waiting that the faithful farmer does. He works. He waits. He exercises patience. He depends upon the provisions of the Lord.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we know He is coming again. We know His harvest is in our future. We must learn to do all that we do knowing we are dependent upon His provisions. We must exercise patience.

Although the farmer may face discouragement if a crop does not meet his expectation, the next spring he will be in the field, continuing to fulfill his purpose. Followers of Jesus Christ, also meet with disappointment and trials. His Word teaches us to stand firm, to continue to serve our Lord, fully knowing that His return is very near.

James 5:7-8 NIV – “Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming.

~Gary K. Fair



Photo by Gary K. Fair

You Can't Reap What Is Not Sown

- * *It is as certain as the sun coming up.*
- * *It is as reliable as the orbit of the moon.*
- * *It affects the wealthiest entrepreneur on earth as surely as it impacts the poorest peasant.*
- * *Wise men approach it with caution. Foolish men plunge on, and are ruined.*
- * *It is not theory. It is law.*
- * *It is an ultimate justice – a court that never experiences a mistrial.*
- * *Nobody outwits it. Nobody escapes it.*
- * *The careless fall headlong over it. Mockers are broken by it.*
- * *It is as solid a principle as the reputation of God.*

I refer to the Biblical law of sowing and reaping.

(Galatians 6:7-10)

This Biblical passage has become a familiar proverb in our day, even among those who do not know God. "You reap what you sow," is often heard. "What goes around comes around." "Garbage in, garbage out."

7 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. 8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. 9 And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. 10 So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Yet I don't think most really understand what this means for them.

Let's look at this passage more closely and see what we can learn. There are several key points we need to dig into this Law of Sowing and Reaping. The first one is the obvious, bedrock meaning from this passage. The other points come from more careful consideration of this whole metaphor of sowing and reaping.

1. We Reap What We Sow.

It's a straight cause-and-effect principle. If we sow to the flesh (that is, do the things that appeal only to our fleshly natures) we will reap corruption, a word whose Greek equivalent comes from a root meaning, "to shrivel, to wither, to spoil, to rot." The idea is that while sowing to the flesh might look great at first, the things we gain by it will eventually rot or spoil on us.

On the other hand, if we sow to the Spirit (that is, do things that build up our spiritual lives) we will reap something that doesn't shrivel, wither, spoil, or rot. The implications are eternal.

The positive here is encouragement not to give up on doing good in our lives for the Lord. The negative on the other hand is a warning that spells out the results of doing evil.



You Can't Reap What Is Not Sown (Continued)

A Christian man was presented with a proposal from his non-Christian father-in-law who was willing to put up money so the younger man could go into business for himself. It sounded like a great opportunity, so with little hesitation, he plunged right in. It wasn't long before the money coming in was substantially more than this man had ever made in the past, not to mention the heady experience of such quick "success".

He was spending a lot less time at home with his wife and kids, and frequently missed church (though his family continued to attend) but he assured all concerned that he had everything under control. His absence from these important things was only temporary. Once he had the business on its feet, things would get better. Soon though, he was working seven days a week. He had purchased several new vehicles to replace the old ones he had been using and had made the down payment on office space in a good location. He also hired a contractor to remodel a portion of his home. It seemed that things were going better than they ever had, at least from a financial standpoint.

His frequent absences from the church meetings though had now become constant. Several Christians who loved this man cautioned him of his neglect of his family and his spiritual life. "I'm doing fine" was always his answer. "As soon as I can get beyond this current raft of obligations, I'll return to the church." It didn't work out that way. In fact, in order to save money, he had his wife go to work in the business with him as a secretary and bookkeeper. They hired someone to watch the kids during the long hours they were away from home. Now no one was attending church and no one related was tending the home front. The church leaders requested a meeting with the man and his wife but were politely told that there just wasn't enough time right now. So, months went by. Several Christians were so bold as to go visit this man at his office since that was the only place to catch him. "We're fine" was the response. "No need to worry about us. We'll get back to church as soon as we get passed this hurdle."

Soon though, there was no contact at all between this family and their Christian friends. The months turned into years. No one heard from them.

Naturally, people moved on with their lives.

Then late one evening the wife called the Elders of the church and told them that her husband was in jail. Could someone from the church please go down to the police station and help him? When the Elders arrived, they were surprised to find that the wife wasn't there. Apparently, she had called from another

location. There in the County Jail, through the two-way glass, the story came out. The man had started drinking when he found out that his wife was having an affair. After an angry confrontation, he had stormed out, climbed into his vehicle, and sped off into the night. At some point, he ran down and killed a pedestrian along the road. Sitting there in the visitation room, the man poured out the rest of the story. The affair had been going on for over a year. He lost his head when he found out.

Now he was charged with manslaughter.



~Continued on Page 9

You Can't Reap What Is Not Sown (Continued)

Could the Elders help him, he asked? Could God help him? He remembered something he had heard in a sermon one time about God's word having answers and the truth setting one free. Surely he needed some of that now! Could God get him out of this jam and give him his wife and family back?

Brothers and Sisters, there is a terrible truth looming here with awful implications. But it needs to be said. Do you know what it is?

"Whatever a man sows, this he will also reap."

What had this man sown? Neglect of his wife and family. Neglect of his spiritual life. Love of money that was out of balance with his love for God. He had gone from "seek first God's kingdom" to "don't seek His kingdom at all." What was he reaping? He got an extended jail sentence. His wife divorced him to go with her lover. His teenage children rebelled. He filed bankruptcy and lost his business. Eventually, because he couldn't make the payments, he lost his half of the house they had lived in.

The Bible *does* indeed have answers to all of our problems. God has provided for us ***"all things pertaining to life and godliness" through the true knowledge of Christ (2 Peter 1:3)***. But please hear me on this: The answers God gives are mostly ***preventative*** rather than ***remedial***. In other words, He tells us how to ***avoid*** these kinds of problems, not how to make them vanish when we have ignored His warnings.

Could this man repent of all his neglect, turn back to God, and restore his hope of eternal life? Yes, if the turning in repentance is genuine. Would such a move restore his wife and family and business? That is far less likely. Why? Here comes that awful law again: We reap what we sow! When we sow to the flesh we reap corruption. We reap things that shrivel, wither, spoil, and rot. Should this man be angry when God doesn't step in and take away all of his problems? Could God be blamed for these troubles? Yes, God could be wrongly blamed, and many who find themselves reaping what they have sown, do in fact angrily blame Him. But the truth is, this man can rightly blame only himself. God has published a book full of warnings about things like these. But that book is meaningless to people who don't pay attention to it.

Is all lost then? Not necessarily. This man may still find hope in his life. I'll come back to this issue in a little bit. For now let's consider some other aspects of this law of sowing and reaping.

2. We Reap More than We Sow.

This point is seen in the second part of the law of sowing and reaping. If we sow to the spirit (during this life) we will reap eternal life.

Think of the proportionality between cause and effect. We can live for God here and now, in this relatively short span we call earthly life, we will without a doubt receive ***much more*** than we ever put in. Live a relatively short time for God and you'll receive eternity with Him.

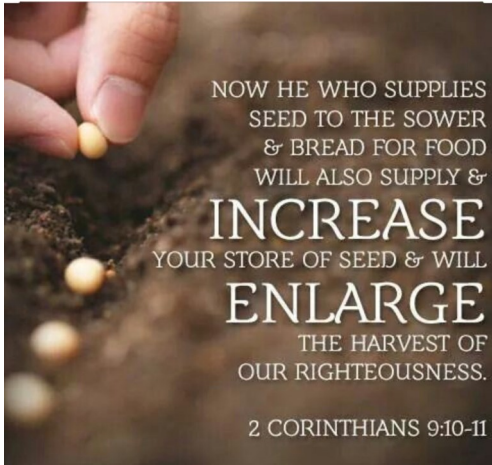
The return on our investment is out of this world...literally!

~Continued on Page 10



You Can't Reap What Is Not Sown (Continued)

Think about seeds. A single seed can grow a plant that produces hundreds or even thousands of seeds. A single bag of seeds can sow a whole field and produce hundreds of bags of new seed. We reap *more* than we sow. This is true in the positive sense, but it is also true in the negative.



In the negative sense, there is a warning in the Old Testament book of *Hosea*, in 8:7, that says: **"For they sow the wind, and they reap the whirlwind."** The idea is that if we sow a little bit of evil we will reap a lot of evil. We sow a stiff breeze and we reap a tornado.

Think of the story I just told you. Had the man known the terrible things that would ultimately happen as a result of his choices, perhaps he would have thought about them more seriously in the beginning. No, it isn't wrong to go into business for yourself. Neither is it wrong to work long and hard – provided you don't neglect the things that are critically important, like your wife and your children and your God.

A single seed is such a tiny thing – so seemingly insignificant. A handful of tiny seeds is still not much. What harm could there possibly be in sowing them? Satan's lie is.. "They look so helpless lying there". Yes, that's how they look, but when you consider a seed, don't think of just one seed. Think of a harvest. Think of reaping a field because that's the way the law of sowing and reaping works.

Since I mentioned it in the earlier story, let's consider church attendance among the several issues involved. What difference does it make whether I come here and meet with the Christians, worship, and hear teaching from God's word? That stuff can seem *so* irrelevant to what I'm doing sometimes. Yeah, I know those preachers say it's important, but they're just too impressed with their own importance. Besides, they've probably never had a *real* job anyway. They just want a crowd. It's not that important.

1 Timothy 3:15 says the church is the **"pillar and support of the truth."** What happens when you remove the support from something? Yeah, it falls down! So is the church important?

But you many will still insist: But, hey it's just a tiny harmless seed right! *It's only a temporary seed anyway!*

- Surely it's not as significant as my career!
- Surely it's not as significant as the yard work that needs to get done!
 - Surely it's not as significant as the house project!
 - Surely it's not as significant as "Family Time"!
- Surely it's not as significant as the 100 other things many put as a priority in their lives before God!

If we had the time I could set aside the issue of church attendance and make the same point with the other important disciplines of the Christian life. They may seem insignificant and unimportant, but they're seeds... tiny seeds that become a harvest – tiny seeds that, if neglected, become an empty field where a harvest should have been when you needed it.

As Paul says here in our text, **"do not be deceived."**

We reap what we sow. We reap more than we sow.

~ Continued on Page 11

You Can't Reap What Is Not Sown (Continued)**3. We Reap Only if We Sow.**

As with the points I've already made, this has both a positive and negative application. We reap only if we sow can mean that if we don't put seeds sown to the Spirit into the ground we will get to the end of life and find we don't have eternal life. We may find even before the end of life that we don't have the strength we need to live effectively.

But again I want to focus on the negative here. This statement holds an assurance that can provide security against ruining our lives. We reap only if we sow. If we don't *sow the seeds of a bad habit*, we'll never have to deal with the *difficulties that result from it*.

- If I don't allow myself to worry and dwell about difficult times, I'm far less likely to get caught in the downward spiral of depression.
- If I don't take that first drink, I won't ever - ever - become an alcoholic.
- If I don't flirt with members of the opposite sex, I won't be unfaithful to my wife.
- If I don't plant the seed, I won't have to deal with a rotten harvest.

I think this is what was behind Jesus' instructions in Matthew 5:27-28 when he said, *"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery'; but I say to you, that everyone who looks on a woman to lust for her has committed adultery with her already in his heart."*

What Jesus was doing here was moving the battle line against unfaithfulness back into the heart where the seed of it begins. Thoughts germinate and grow in the heart long before they become actions. If we strive to control the thoughts, if we attack and master the source of the problem on that level, though difficult at the time, it is not as difficult as dealing with the repercussions of the physical act, we minimize the potential for wrong actions. Life is far less difficult and complicated. That's what I meant earlier when I said that the answers God gives us in His word are more *preventative* than *remedial*. It's much easier to deal with impure thoughts than it is to deal with the impact of a betrayal on a marriage.

Jesus was speaking from the masculine perspective in Matthew 5, but this principle of gaining control of the thoughts applies to all of us, male or female.

It's a lot easier to crush a snake's egg than it is to contend with a four-foot viper!

A tiny spark can be extinguished with a pinch. Putting out a destructive forest fire takes millions of dollars and risks many lives.

We reap what we sow. We reap more than we sow. We reap only if we sow.



Sow.Reap.Harvest

~Continued on Page 12

You Can't Reap What Is Not Sown (Continued)

4. We Reap Later Than We Sow.

I called Paul's warning to your attention earlier – that one in verse 7: **"Do not be deceived."** We get deceived when we come to believe that this law of sowing and reaping really isn't true – or really doesn't apply to us. We get deceived when we think of those seemingly insignificant things in our lives that "don't really matter," forgetting that they are the seeds of far more weighty things. We get deceived when we think that since we've sown some seeds and seemingly gotten away with it, we are somehow immune or exempt.

As the familiar modern proverb says, "Some folks sow bad seeds all week, then come to church and pray for a crop failure." It doesn't work.

It takes time to get a harvest. In the positive sense, we must patiently sow those spiritual seeds and be confident that it will all be worth it. If we do we will see some of the results in the here-and-now and some beyond this life.

The same point (some will show up here and now and some in the afterlife) is also true. Paul made that point in 1 Tim 5:24 where he said, ***"The sins of some men are quite evident, going before them to judgment; for others, their sins follow after."***

Some reaping as a result of sowing to the flesh will come in this life, some in the next.

The idea that the sowing usually comes some time *after* the reaping also shows up in Ecclesiastes 8:11, which says, ***"Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed quickly, therefore the hearts of the sons of men among them are given fully to do evil."***

Because there is a delay between cause and effect, we get the mistaken idea that there is no effect. Yet my point here is that we reap *later* than we sow.

In the story I shared with you earlier, the choices the husband made at the start of his new business didn't seem to be that harmful. On the contrary, they actually seemed to benefit him. In fact, such a one could easily conclude early on that "God must approve because He seems to be blessing my business." Only after some years did the true harvest of neglect come due. And it was a bitter harvest.

We reap what we sow. We reap more than we sow. We reap only if we sow. We reap later than we sow.

5. We Reap Until We Have Harvested What We Sow.

Looking back at our text in Galatians 6, let's read verse 9: ***"And let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary."***

Paul was definitely speaking from the positive angle there when he spoke of reaping the results of *"doing good."* And it's a good lesson. For Christians who are focusing on sowing to the Spirit, while people around them seemingly get away with sowing to the flesh, the road can get long. It would be very easy to say, "I think I'll let up. I'm getting tired. Let somebody else do this for awhile." Paul reminds such a one not to quit.

The effort will be worth it ***"in due time."***

If you want kindness,
be kind.

If you want friends, **be friendly.**
If you want help, **be helpful.**
If you want love, **be loving.**

If you want respect,
respect yourself.

You will most often get more of the things that matter in life by **giving them first** than you ever will by trying desperately to get them or asking for them.

~Continued on Page 13

You Can't Reap What Is Not Sown (Continued)

But there is another possible application for his words. I asked you earlier what you would say if you were the Elders talking to that man in jail who was losing all he had worked so hard to accomplish. Here is how I might deal with his questions.

First, I would have to tell him the truth about the law of sowing and reaping.

"You mean you would tell him that he was to blame for his own problems? That would be cruel! How could you possibly hit him so hard when he is down?"

Be assured that I would do this as kindly as possible, but if I don't tell him the truth then he will end up blaming others for the problems that only he can resolve. You don't help someone by blaming other people for one's own wrongdoing.

Secondly, I would tell him to return to God with his whole heart. No half-hearted turnaround would do. He got into these problems by pushing God to the bottom of his priority list until his Creator was completely *off* his list. He must admit his sin and throw himself upon God's mercy. If he was truly a Christian in the first place, this repentance and return would remove the eternal penalty for his wrong. If he returns to God with his whole heart, he can still be saved. Though this man seems awash in his earthly problems, eternity is really the greater jeopardy and reward.

Thirdly, I would lovingly tell him the truth about what was ahead. He would have to reap the earthly consequences of his sowing. God would not likely remove that. It would probably be a long haul. The jail sentence would have to be served. His wife might never come back. His children might never forgive him. But his one greatest chance of any of these things happening would be a full return to His God including a complete rearrangement of his priorities.

Fourthly, I would tell him what Paul says here in our text: ***"And let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary."*** Though the bitter reaping might be long and difficult, if he continues to deal with it responsibly, while not putting more seeds of the flesh into the ground, eventually the reaping would be over. All of the nasty harvesting would be gone. This could come in this life. If not, it would surely come in the next. But during this time of bitter reaping he must resist the temptation to get angry and sow other evil things in his frustration that he would later have to reap.

Finally, I would tell him these things *once*. Then I would tell them to him *again* and *again*, as long as he would listen, because you can be sure that Satan would be whispering in his other ear the very opposite. "It's just too much." "It's hopeless." "All is lost." "You're doomed." "God can't help you."

The name of the game here brothers and sisters is **DECEPTION**. Many times it comes on hard, long, and fast. He has mastered his craft over the millenniums but ...

The One who is in you is grater than he who is in this world (1 Jn 4:4)

For the man I described it would be a long haul – a long journey, probably with much heartache. But it would not be a life without hope because Paul says in our text, ***"in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary."*** In due time the reaping would be over.

Ancient Israel began reaping what she had sown at the onset of the Babylonian Captivity. For 70 years she languished in obscurity and defeat. (**Jeremiah 29:1-14**) But ultimately, when the reaping was over, God restored her. He can do that for us, too. ***"In due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary."***

~Aaron Jones



The Princeton PathFinder

The Body of Christ
Harvest Time

Our Desire For Your Life Is Too...



Get In

Being in fellowship and being regular in attendance for your encouragement and edification of others.

Grow Up

Being in discipleship and having a growing relationship with Jesus and His word.
Having daily devotions and connecting through small group study times.

Give Back

Being a good steward, giving of your time, talents and resources.

GO Out

Being the Hands and Feet of Christ. This is where we share the gospel of Christ with our neighbors and the world.



219 N. Gibson St.

P.O. Box 567

Princeton, IN 47670

(812) 385-2136

www.princetonchristianchurch@gmail.com

www.princeton-christian-church.com

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
US. Postage

PAID

Permit No. 16
Princeton, IN 47670

Connect With Us



Check Us Out

