TODAY IS THE FATHER OF TOMORROW

**DATE: 4/6/2016 Wed.**

**TEXT: Galatians 6:6-8**

**INTRODUCTION**

Someone once said – *“Today is the father of tomorrow”*

We now come to a very Great Truth in the Bible

The Truth of Sowing and Reaping

A lot of folks don’t understand this Great Truth

**v. 7 –** ***“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap”***

We find a warning here, therefore it’s very important that we understand it, so as not to get into trouble

What exactly is the Law of Sowing and Reaping?

Most of the Bible was originally written to those living in an agrarian society

People familiar with working the land, managing livestock, and raising crops

Many of Jesus’ parables involve the farming life

Not surprisingly, then, the Bible contains many references to sowing and reaping

While Sowing and Reaping is a Natural Law / It is also a Spiritual Law as well

The principle applies to everyone, both Christians and non-Christians

There are a few things that are important about this principle

**1.** We always Reap What we Sow

**2.** We always Reap More than we Sow

**3.** We always Reap Later than we Sow

Let’s stand to read the Word of God and then pray

And think on this thought …

**“TODAY IS THE FATHER OF TOMORROW”**

Let’s read together **vs. 6-8 …**

**~~~Prayer~~~**

This passage is often applied to the lost, to warn them of their wickedness and their day of judgment

While that application can be made, we must realize that the passage was written to God's people

A day of reckoning is coming and the Christian who thinks that he can play with sin and sow to the flesh will answer to God

God's people do not escape the consequences of their sin

Paul's admonitions are serious

First, we must …

**I. FORM A BOND – v. 6**

A Bond is a link that binds people together in a Relationship / something common

***“Let him that is taught in the Word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things”***

Before Paul talks about the Law of Sowing and Reaping

He talks about the relationship of the Teacher and the Student / and what ties them together

There is to be unity in the Body of Christ

That is, Everybody on the same page

**Ephesians 4:3, 13 –** ***“Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” “Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:”***

There needs to be a Bond Formed …

**A. ‘For’ Those Who are Taught** (The Teacher toward the Student)

The word ***“taught”*** means *to teach orally, to instruct, to inform by word of mouth*

**1. ‘**What’ someone is Taught

The only real teaching that can go on in the Church is the teaching of the Word of God

**Isaiah 28:13 – *“But the Word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little;”***

Anything else is only men’s philosophy

**Hebrews 4:12 -** ***“For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart”***

**2. ‘**Who’ does the Teaching?

The Pastor / Teacher

**Ephesians 4:11, 12 –** ***“And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;” “For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:”***

While there are many who can teach …

The majority of the teaching, that is done in a church, is done by the Pastor of that Church

**I Peter 5:2 –*“Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint,***

***… but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;”***

A Bond must be formed …

**B. ‘With’ Those Who Teach** (The Student toward the Teacher)

This Bond must go both ways

The word ***“communicate”*** means *to come into communion or fellowship with, to become a sharer, to be made a partner, to associate one’s self*

The congregation should communicate (share) with those who teach

Communication is expressed in 2 ways –

**1**. Verbally

By verbally communicating back and forth

True learning cannot take place apart from active participation of the student in the process

We need to let each other know that the Truth is being understood

The Student to the Teacher

The Teacher to the Student

**2.** Materially

By providing for and meeting the physical needs

**Philippians 4:16, 17 –** ***“For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity” “Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account”***

**Hebrews 13:16 –** ***“But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased”***

**I Timothy 5:17 – *“Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the Word and Doctrine”***

Not only are we to **Form a Bond**

But we are also …

**II. BOUND BY A LAW – v. 7**

***“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap”***

The Law of Sowing and Reaping is an immutable and a unalterable principle

We are Bound to this Law whether we like it or not

To Be **Bound** means - *obliged to do something or behave in a particular way, e.g. for legal or moral reasons*

Because this verse is used in so many applications

It might seems as though it is out of context, not so

Paul is referring to the importance of obedience to the Word of God

And the results, of not learning, what is being taught

**A. The ‘Problem’ – v. 7a**

***“Be not deceived; God is not mocked:”***

The lack of spirituality has 2 basic faults …

**1.** Self-deception – ***“Be not deceived”***

The command literally reads - *Stop being deceived*

The Galatians had permitted themselves to be deceived by the Legalist

They were substituting Works for Faith

They were allowing their flesh to control the source and results of their religious activity

**2.** It mocks God

The word ***“mocked”*** is a verb

Which means *to sneer or to turn up one's nose*

In legalism, self-sufficiency ignores its need for God

It looks down upon the principle of Faith alone, as a sign of personal weakness

**B. The ‘Principle’ – v. 7b**

This foundational principle of life is clear

***“for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap”***

This analogy from farming can be applied to all areas of life

In our context it is referring to the Teacher and the Taught

**I Corinthians 9:11 *– “If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?”***

We saw that the person who sows brotherly concern will also reap reciprocal interest in **vs. 1-5**

Sin and righteousness, when sown, will produce their respective results

This basic principle has 3 obvious aspects

**1.** We need to consider the seed that is planted

**Job 4:8 –** ***“Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same”***

**Proverbs 11:18 *– “The wicked worketh a deceitful work: but to him that soweth righteousness shall be a sure reward”***

**Romans 2:6-9 …**

You always Reap what you Sow

Righteousness is not produced by the sowing of sin

**2.** The Harvest that is Produced

The Harvest is always after the planting / later

One of Satan’s deceptions is to get us to think when we have sowed the wrong things that we will not reap the consequences

We expect the lightening to hit us the moment we commit the trespass

But when it doesn’t, we think we got away with it

Doesn’t work that way

The Harvest is always later

That’s what scares me the most about my own life

**3.** You always Reap more then you Plant

One seed can produce many fruits

**II Corinthians 9:6 – *“He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully”***

**Hosea 8:7** charged that they who have sown the wind will reap the whirlwind

The effects of sin are greater than the sin itself!

It will be Greater in Proportion

Not only are we to **FORM A BOND**

But we also are **BOUND BY A LAW**

Then, lastly, let’s look at the **…**

**III. BASIS OF THE LESSON - v. 8**

Here’s the Basis of what Paul is teaching

***“For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting”***

When Paul discusses the Doctrine of the Resurrection of the body in **I Corinthians 15** …

He uses the analogy of planting a seed to illustrate physical death

**vs. 42, 44 –** ***“So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:” “It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body”***

A seed must ***“die”*** when it falls to the ground for it to produce new Life

**John 12:24 –** ***“Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit”***

**A. Sowing to the Flesh Produces ‘Death’ - v. 8a**

***“For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption;”***

The flesh speaks of our sinful nature

It is a nature that is an enemy of God and hates everything that is holy and decent

**Romans 7:18 – *“For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not”***

It was the old depraved nature that Jeremiah was speaking of when he said in **17:9 – *“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”***

This sowing is seen in its Harvest

**Galatians 5:19 -21 –** ***“Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,” “Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,” “Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God”***

Too many who claim to be believers are operating according the old corrupt nature

Such will be their reaping

They need the new operating system

America is corrupting because the churches are corrupting

And the teachers in the Churches are corrupt

**II Peter 2:19, 20 –** ***“While they (False teachers) promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage” “For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning”***

Finally …

**B. Sowing to the Spirit Produces ‘Life’ – v. 8b**

***“but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting”***

God's people are not dependent on the Flesh

**Romans 8:12 – *“Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh”***

God has given us the Holy Spirit to guide us and empower us to live above the flesh

**5:16 –** *“****This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh”***

Rather than a harvest of corruption / destruction and death, we can reap eternal things after the Spirit

Those who operate according to the Spirit of God will reap eternal things

**Ephesians 6:7, 8 *– “With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men:” “Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord …”***

Not only in this life will we reap according to our sowing, but also beyond the grave

We can be sure that our deeds will follow us into eternity where we will stand before the Just God of Glory and answer to Him

**CONCLUSION**

We engage in a right kind of Sowing and Reaping because of a Bond of Love for Christ and His People

And because of the Law of the Harvest, we are Bound by that Law

We Base our Faithfulness on the Lesson that …

Pleasing the flesh brings death / destruction

But, Pleasing the Lord brings Eternal Rewards

Just remember,

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