

We Reap What We Sow
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Text: Galatians 6:6-10

Galatians: [Bibliography](#) or [Manuscripts and Greek Exegesis](#)

UBS 4th Edition Paragraph Topic: Bear One Another's Burdens

Central Idea of Message: Believers and unbelievers alike will reap what each sows, for this is an inviolable law of God.

Introduction: Only a fool would think he could sow tares and reap wheat. Nevertheless, the world has long been populated by fools who seemingly live by just such a contradictory rule.

Yet, the Bible teaches otherwise, declaring that people reap what they sow. Hence, believers and unbelievers alike will reap what each sows, for this is an inviolable law of God.

I. Reaping and Sowing (vv. 6-8)

A. Sharing good things with teachers of the word (v. 6; cf. 1 Cor. 9:11; Phil. 4:14-18; 1 Tim. 5:17-18)

1. Teacher and taught should enjoy fruitful fellowship together
2. Bearing one another's burdens sometimes includes ministerial support
 - a) Those who are learners should participate in the support of their teachers
 - b) Paul seems to be implying that pay and overall aid are due those who labor in the word and in doctrine
 - c) There are many ways of showing appreciation to ministers and the Bible acknowledges that financial assistance is one of them
3. The teacher who sows is entitled to reap and the student who reaps is expected to sow
 - a) Reap spiritual fruit
 - b) Reap material fruit

B. People will reap what they sow (v. 7)

1. Do not be deceived
 - a) Those who think they can get by with their sin are self-deluded
 - b) Never assume that you or anyone else gets by with evil

- c) **While God forgives sin, he does not often release us from the consequences of our sin**
 - (1) Salvation is never in jeopardy for the Christian, because sin's penalty of death has been dealt with by the cross
 - (2) All of us eventually have to face the consequences of our actions
 - (a) Believers suffer consequences in this world and loss of, or shortage of, reward in heaven
 - (b) Unbelievers suffer consequences in this world and indescribable eternal consequences in hell
- 2. God is not mocked
 - a) **People in general, and Christians in particular, commonly trivialize sin**
 - (1) Sin ridicules God
 - (2) Carnality in the life of a Christian is sin
 - (3) **Christians who sin intentionally treat God with contempt and wrongly regard their salvation as immunity to sin rather than as deliverance from it (cf. MacGorman 122)**
 - b) One cannot mock God privately or publicly through sin and avoid his judgment
 - c) Never assume that God either does not know or does not care how you live
 - d) Be sure your sin will find you out (Num. 32:23)
 - (1) Not that God will find out, he knows already
 - (2) Our sin finds us out and sows seeds of corruption and death
 - (3) Sin discovers what we want and caters to it
- 3. Whatever is sown is what will be reaped: an inviolable law of nature; no miracle crops
 - a) Sowing seeds of hate and expect love?
 - b) Sowing seeds of war and expect peace?
 - c) Sowing seeds of dishonesty and expect integrity (cf. MacGorman 122)?
 - d) Sowing seeds of prejudice and expect goodwill?
 - e) Sowing seeds of lust and expect meaningful marriages (cf. MacGorman 122)?

- f) Sowing seeds of alcohol and nicotine use and expect sons and daughters to be drug free (cf. MacGorman 122)?

C. **One can sow to the flesh or to the Spirit (v. 8)**

1. One who sows to his or her flesh will reap corruption
 - a) Selfishness
 - b) Those who sow tares will not reap wheat
2. One who sows to the Spirit will reap eternal life
 - a) **Choices made in life lead to habits; habits find their way into one's character; character determines one's destiny (cf. Dean 110)**
 - b) Cultivate the Spirit-filled life by making wise choices, establishing wholesome habits, and building godly character
 - c) Those sowing to the Spirit demonstrate that they are headed for eternal life, whereas those sowing to the flesh demonstrate that they are headed for eternal death

II. **Remaining and Serving (vv. 9-10)**

A. **Harvests are not immediate (v. 9)**

1. Never lose heart in doing good
 - a) It is easy to get discouraged when you do not see results from your labor
 - b) Despair is the enemy of Christian character and service (cf. Dean 110-1)
 - (1) Parenting
 - (2) Teaching
 - (3) Preaching
 - (4) Serving
 - c) **Christians seem to get tired of doing good faster than the wicked get tired of doing evil (cf. Dean 111)**
2. In due time we will reap
 - a) Seeds sown to the flesh often take a long time to produce evil consequences
 - (1) A sinful relationship that seemingly begins well but ends in turmoil and hatred: adulterous
 - (2) A little social drinking that is apparently under control but eventually leads to alcohol abuse, then DUI's, then spousal abuse, then child abuse, then,

loss of employment, then complete loss of one's moral, ethical, and spiritual compass

- (3) The consequences of sins committed in youthfulness are readily seen in agedness [scars, tattoos, divorces, illegitimate children, etc.]
- b) Seeds sown to the Spirit also often take an extended period of time to produce glorious harvests
 - (1) Raising children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord from the crib may not produce great fruit until the children are teenagers and beyond (twenty two and up!)
 - (2) Serving as a teacher and seeing a young boy grow up to be a mighty man of God
 - (3) Tending toddlers in the nursery and many years later seeing those little ones happily married, serving the Lord, and even working in the nursery themselves
- 3. Do not relax your sowing efforts!
 - a) Do not lose heart!
 - b) Sometimes we think that our godly efforts are in vain, but God promises a harvest

B. Seize the opportunity to do good to all people, especially to Christians (v. 10)

- 1. While we have opportunity
 - a) While you are physically able to hammer
 - b) While you are financially able to help by giving above and beyond your tithe
 - c) While you are mentally able to teach, witness, or preach
 - d) Never miss an opportunity (deer hunts)
- 2. Do good to all people: believers and unbelievers
- 3. Do good especially to Christians
 - a) One is not likely to do good to strangers if that one is not doing good to those of his or her own household of faith
 - (1) Every person in his or her right mind does well for those in his or her own household (1 Tim. 5:8)
 - (2) Christians have a responsibility to one another
 - (a) Churches are families of faith and should be closely knit: in today's

setting, many churches are missing
this connectedness

(b) Churches are families bound
together by relationships,
obligations, and privileges

(3) Go a step further with brothers and
sisters in Christ

b) The household of faith is the beginning point
for doing good to the ends of the earth

**Conclusion: Illustration. Believers and unbelievers alike will
reap what each sows, for this is an inviolable law of God. Life
is the season for sowing, whereas the afterlife will be the
season for reaping. What sort of harvest are you expecting?**