THE ETERNAL LAW OF SOWING/ REAPING
“We Reap Only What Has Been Sown”
GALATIANS 6:7-10

1. THE ETERNAL LAW…SOWING AND REAPING. Paul was keenly aware that the God that had given him life, and had created the vast universe was a God that abided by laws. It is the nature and character of God to set laws into motion and to operate by the laws that He and He alone has established. God has set laws in every arena of His created world. From God’s vantage point a law is not an arbitrary standard, but rather a law is fixed in His universe and can not be altered by time, cultures, generations, or conditions and applies to all peoples. The only occasions in Scripture when God transcended laws were to bring Him ultimate honor and glory. Some examples of God transcending His laws are: 1) The parting of the Red Sea, 2) Allowing the sun to stop in its course to bring honor to His name, just to name two. Yet in each case it was God who allowed it to bring honor to His name. He is the One who made the laws and He alone decides what can transcend the law. Two other translations of verse 7 are, “A man will always reap the kind of crop he has sown” or “You will harvest what you plant”.

2. THE ETERNAL TRUTH…WE REAP ONLY WHAT HAS BEEN SOWN. When we make choices in life, whether to us it appears to be a small choice or a gigantic choice, the first law reveals this reality- our decisions are not insignificant regardless of what we say, or others say. Our choices affect us, though they may not affect us immediately (this is another law) nonetheless they do affect us. When Paul was talking to the saints at Galatia, he wasn’t attempting to intimidate them, or scare them, but was giving them a sobering truth that their life’s decisions carried with them consequences that would either result in good or that would result in bad.

The law of the harvest is a reminder that we should seriously consider how we live, work, and operate on a daily basis. Paul’s word to the Ephesians was, “Therefore be careful how you walk not as unwise men…” Eph. 5:15

First an example from the farmer’s world. Consider the fact that a farmer plants 4 rows of potatoes, 3 rows of tomatoes and 6 rows of corn. Without question, the farmer will at the proper time look for a specific harvest. He will not look for asparagus, onions or turnips in the place of what he has planted. He knows that he has planted 3 specific items, and the laws of God are such that he must reap those 3 items. The farmer doesn’t waver from expecting a harvest. As he planted last year and received a harvest last year, so will he do the same this year. He reaped and received from the earth exactly and precisely the types of food that he planted. The law of God regarding sowing and reaping is precise, we reap “only what has been sown. Sadly all too many times we can read this verse and somehow believe that it only works part of the time, when in truth it is a law for all avenues of life.

Second, and example from the procreation world. The law of sowing and reaping doesn’t only apply to the farmer’s world but apply specifically to the world of procreation. It is the law of God established in nature, that each animal shall produce “kind” after itself. Consider how foolish the idea if cats produced dogs, or bears produced pigs. The point is clearly seen- by God’s creative design each animal produces of its own line. Also by God’s creative design human beings produce human beings.

Third, an example from the spiritual world. Paul makes it abundantly clear that we have been given the privilege of choice yet, he declares that the person who sows to please his own wrong desires, and he will be planting seeds of evil that result in death. However, the person who sows to the Spirit, in obedience to God must reap eternal life. Consider these scenarios:

Scenario 1: A person who cares nothing about God, and lives to satisfy his personal passions, desires and self interests. What will become of his life? The Bible is clear that there will be “death”. The death will occur in his desire to know God, and conscience (when a conscience is deadened a person habitually commits wrong with no remorse).

Scenario 2: A saved parent chooses to shun and avoid and reject growing in the faith. The byproduct is a life that is self centered. The result, is a desire for others to serve him or her. Life is oriented around self, rather than the eternal truths of God. What will the end be? There must be a death. Why? Because of the law of sowing and reaping. Whenever there is the sin, there is the law of death- in relationships, in children.

Scenario 3: Consider parents who do their best to be faithful to the Lord, and to the Lord’s house are raising children. Not only do they take them to church but do their best to live it out in front of them. Through the process of time, the children see the faithfulness of the parents, not only at church, but at home, and in their personal walk. The result is spiritual success in the life of the parents and in the lives of the children. The parents sowed faithful loving devotion toward their children, and faithful devotion toward the Lord, and the byproduct will be a continuation of that devotion through their children. Not by chance or happenstance, but through a life of sowing “good works”.

3. THE ETERNAL PRINCIPLE…REAPING WHAT HAS BEEN SOWN (The Positive Side)- The truth is we are blessed and given many
things for which we did no ounce of toil, work or labor.

First, we reap blessings of what God has done for us. The truth of the God that we serve is that He has done many wonderful things for us that we did not even ask for or even know to ask for. God is gracious and good toward all men, whether they desire to acknowledge it or not. Every good and wonderful gift comes from God above (James 1:17). There is the gift of God’s salvation through Christ. Whether man is grateful or thankful, the truth remains that before our birth, 2000 years ago, before the birth of many of our ancestors, God sent Jesus Christ to die on the cross to provide the way of salvation for all who would believe. We are the benefactors of something that was accomplished before we were ever born.

Second, we are blessed by what others have done and their “sowing”. Consider some inventions that are blessings to us: air conditioning, telephone, electric heating, automotive travel, all manner of inventions that make life easier. The principle is clear; we are blessed and the benefactors of what other have sown, though we did nothing in the sowing process. Others have labored “sown” and we have entered into the blessings of their labors.

It is said America rests upon four cornerstones: the English Bible, the English language, the common law, and the tradition of liberty. But liberty, language, and the law might have been drawn from the Bible alone. Without the Bible, America could not have become what she is and when she loses its guidance and wisdom, she will be America no more. Our forefathers planted into the fabric of our nation the ideas of life, liberty and pursuit of happiness, and a faith in God as the foundation of our world. The powerful principle of reaping and sowing is obvious- their sowing has resulted in our blessings. It has been said that South America was settled by the Pilgrim Fathers, who came in sea and labor and the law was settled by the Pilgrim Fathers, who came in search of gold, but North America was settled by the Pilgrim Fathers, who came in search of God. That is what made the difference. The sowing and reaping of others long before we arrived on the scenes has resulted in our personal blessings.

Consider the sleepless nights the apostle Paul stay awake writing to the many churches. Had he not been led to pen his letters we would not have a great portion of the New Testament. The principle again- we are blessed by what another has done.

4. THE ETERNAL EFFECT...WE REAP THE WRONGS OTHER HAVE SOWN (The Negative Side)- First, we reap a certain amount of wrong inherited from our parents. King David declared, “In sin did my mother conceive me.” (Ps. 51:5) It is a sobering truth that all the negative habits that we have as parents will be passed onto our children whether we are conscious of it or not.

A child that hears criticism each day for 18 years on the average of 4 hours a day has accumulated 26,280 hours of negative input. If that same child goes to church and hears a positive message each Sunday morning and night including Wednesday, they have accumulated only 2,808 hours of positive input. They have received better than 900% more negative input than positive input.

Second, we all reap the sin of Adam and we pass it on to our children. We are the recipients of Adam’s sinful nature because of his rebellion. His decision to rebel cost all mankind a perfect world and a perfect society. The fact is we each have a sinful nature (a bent toward doing wrong). Because of the sin passed onto us through Adam, we are sinful through nature and in need of the redeeming grace of Jesus Christ. Apart from trusting Christ, a person will reap the eternal consequences for their sin for the “wages of sin is death”.

Third, we reap the wrong of foolish and corrupt leaders and the consequences of a decaying society. Scripture reveals the devastation that came upon the land of Egypt because of the wickedness of Pharaoh. Because of his utter contempt for the Lord, the land reaped the consequences of the plagues of God. Throughout the Scripture, there is a sobering reality that the rise of wicked leadership cost their society and cost them greatly. There is a high price to pay when wicked leaders get into office all because of the given law “we reap what we sow”. When a society has no desire to godliness, morality, then there is the election of godless, immoral leaders that will be a pain to that given society.

5. CONSIDER WHAT YOU SOW. First, sow what it good. Since we reap what we sow, the one thing that Paul encouraged the church to do was to “sow” those things that would result in the blessings of God. We need to be doing what we can while we can and leave the results with God knowing that our labor is never in vain (1 Cor. 15:10, 58)

Second, sow, knowing that there are consequential implications on others as well as ourselves. You cannot sow “loving kindness” without reaping “loving kindness”. You cannot sow generosity apart from reaping the exact same. The law of God stands firm, we must, absolutely must reap what we sow.

Third, sow with a thankful heart. Remember that all good will not go unrewarded. That saint who sows good will reap good, and others will reap good by his much sowing as we have reaped the good from others sowing.

Fourth, sow with an obedient spirit. It is the process that we, as well as others reap from obedience. Paul made it his business to sow, knowing full well there would be a day of harvest.