“Reaping What You Sow”
Galatians 6:7-10

Please turn with me in your BIBLES to our scripture text this morning in Galatians the sixth chapter, verses seven through ten.

READ: Galatians 6:7-10

P R A Y E R

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Introduction

During our time here on earth we must abide by two sets of LAWS. First and foremost, we must abide by THE LAWS OF GOD and secondly, we must abide by THE LAWS OF MAN.

Man’s laws are constantly changing. What may have been legal six months ago may be against the law today. And let’s face it, man has created some pretty “stupid” laws.

For example...........

-In Alabama it is against the law to chain an alligator to a fire-hydrant.

-In California, it is against the law to set a mouse trap without a hunting license.

-In Georgia, it is illegal for a man to carry an ice cream cone in his back pocket on Sundays.

-In Indiana, where I grew up, it is against the law for monkeys to smoke cigarettes in South Bend.
-In Kentucky, it is against the law for a woman to marry the same man three times.

-And did you know it is against the law here in North Carolina to use an elephant to plow a cotton field?

-And believe it or not, there it is also against the law here in North Carolina to sing off-key.

Now let’s be honest. Many of man’s laws are hard to take seriously aren’t they? In fact, some of man’s laws are downright ridiculous.

But when it comes to the LAWS OF GOD, we had better take every one of them seriously!

Someone once said.........”You Cannot Break God’s Laws, you can only BREAK YOURSELF AGAINST GOD’S LAWS when you violate them.”

Today we are going to look at one of GOD’S UN-CHANGING LAWS OF LIFE.............and that is the LAW OF SOWING AND REAPING.

You notice, PAUL starts out this SEVENTH VERSE with a very stern warning:

WARNING: “Do Not Be Deceived: GOD CANNOT BE MOCKED.”

The GREEK word Paul used for “MOCKED” literally means, “one cannot not TURN HIS NOSE up at God.”

Did your son or daughter ever “turn their nose” up at you when you told them to do something? They were “mocking” you! To “snub the nose” at someone is an act of mockery.

A lot of people snub their nose at GOD ! They believe they can OUTSMART GOD.................that they can BEAT THE ODDS.................that they can VIOLATE GOD’S LAWS and get by with it.
Paul says, “DO NOT BE DECEIVED, you can’t fool GOD......you can’t pull one over on GOD.......you can’t outsmart GOD.....you can’t turn your nose up at GOD’S LAWS without reaping serious consequences.

GOD SEES ALL AND HE KNOWS ALL!

- One can HIDE his sin from his family.
- One can HIDE his sin from his friends.
- One can HIDE his sin from the people he works with.
- One can HIDE his sin from his neighbors.
- One can HIDE his sin from his brothers and sisters-in-Christ.

But do not be deceived, one can NEVER hide his sin from GOD! God cannot be mocked!

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Having issued this stern warning about “the futility” of trying to fool God, Paul now states GOD’S UNCHANGING LAW in very clear and precise terms.

verse 7b “A man reaps what he sows.”

Paul uses a very simple “agricultural law” to illustrate a “divine law.”

- If a FARMER sows CORN seed.............he doesn’t reap SOY BEANS does he............He reaps CORN because that is what he sowed.

- If a FARMER sows COTTON seed.........he doesn’t reap POTATOES does he..........He reaps COTTON, because that is what he sowed.

In VERSE 8, Paul now illustrates how this LAW OF SOWING AND REAPING works in our LIVES.

( N E X T   P A G E )
First of all, let’s consider the NEGATIVE aspect of this LAW.

I. If I Sow To Please My Sinful Nature I Will Reap Destruction

1. Verse 8a

2. What does Paul mean by “pleasing the sinful nature?”

   Well, if you will back up to Galatians chapter 5, verse 17, you will see.

   When one “sows to please the sinful nature” it means he does the exact opposite of what God wants him to do. He does what PLEASES self rather than what PLEASES GOD.

3. If you move down to VERSES 19-21 of Galatians 5, Paul list “the seeds” one sows when he is living to please his or her sinful nature.

   READ: Galatians 5: 19-21

4. Anyone who thinks they can live a life of SIN and not “get burned” is only fooling themselves.

5. The Apostle Paul tells us in ROMANS 3: 23 that “The wages of SIN is DEATH.” That means one cannot SOW THE SEEDS OF SIN in his or her life without INVITING SOME KIND OF DEATH UPON THEMSELVES.

   (A) “Sowing the seeds of sin” will lead to the DESTRUCTION of one’s REPUTATION.

       PROVERBS 10: 9 says, ”The man of integrity walks securely, but he who takes CROOKED PATHS will be found out.”

       Look at what “sowing the seeds of sin” has done to the reputations of men like TIGER WOODS, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, JOHN EDWARDS and most recently, SENATOR ANTHONY WEINER.

   (B) “Sowing the seeds of sin” will lead to the DESTRUCTION of one’s FINANCES.
PROVERBS 13: 21 says, "MISFORTUNE pursues the SINNER, but prosperity is the reward of the RIGHTEOUS."

PROVERBS 15: 6 says, "The House of the Righteous contains great treasure, but the INCOME OF THE WICKED BRINGS THEM TROUBLE."

BERNIE MADOFF "sowed the seeds of sin" and look what happen to HIS FINANCES. Now he is sitting in a North Carolina prison for the rest of his earthly life.

(C) “Sowing the seeds of sin” will lead to the DESTRUCTION of one’s FRIENDSHIPS.

One of the awful consequences David suffered after committing adultery with Bathsheba was the loss of his friends. Listen to his cry in PSALM 38:11, “My FRIENDS and COMPANIONS avoid me because of my wounds; MY NEIGHBORS stay far away.”

(D) “Sowing the seeds of sin” will lead to the DESTRUCTION of one’s HEALTH

One of the deceptive things about “sowing seeds of sinful living” is that the PHYSICAL EFFECTS may not show up for months or even years, but “mark God’s word” SIN WILL EVENTUALLY TAKE A HEAVY TOLL ON ALL WHO LIVE IN IT!

Does this mean everybody who has a disease or suffers from chronic health problems got that way because they “sowed the seeds of sinful living?” Absolutely not! Remember Job’s friends blamed all his health problems and tragedies on SIN in Job’s life when that was NOT the case.

BUT NOW LISTEN CAREFULLY! Those who do choose to “sow the seeds of sinful living” can expect at some point to pay a heavy price in the decline of their health.

PROVERBS 5: 11 says, "At the end of your life you will GROAN when your FLESH AND BODY are spent!"

PROVERBS 23: 29, 30, 32 “Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaints? Who has needless bruises? Who has bloodshot eyes? Those who linger over wine, who go to sample bowls of mixed wine. In the end “it bites like a snake and poisons like a viper.”

(E) “Sowing seeds of sin” can and often does lead to the DESTRUCTION of one’s FAMILY relationships.

PROVERBS 17:25 A foolish son brings grief to his father and bitterness to the one who bore him.
How many parents have had their hearts trampled on by a son or daughter who went off “the deep end” in a life of sinfulness?

How many marriages have been destroyed and families ripped apart because of a husband or wife’s adulterous relationships or addiction to alcohol or drugs?

You see, what one chooses to do OUTSIDE HIS HOME will have a “ripple effect” on everyone who LIVES INSIDE HIS HOME. When one chooses to “sow the seeds of sin” in his personal life, everyone closest to that person will suffer in some way or another.

(F) And “Sowing the seeds of sin” can and often does lead to the DESTRUCTION of one’s LIFE.

JAMES 1:13-16 When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own EVIL DESIRE, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. (now listen carefully) DO NOT BE DECEIVED, MY DEAR BROTHERS.

Tragically, hundreds of thousands of people leave this world prematurely each day because they couldn’t break free from sinful addictions that hastened their deaths.

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked! A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction!

-It may be the destruction of his REPUTATION!
-It may be the destruction of his FINANCES!
-It may be the destruction of his FRIENDSHIPS!
-It may be the destruction of his FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS!
-It may even be the destruction of his LIFE.

Well just as the LAW OF SOWING AND REAPING works in a Negative Way when it comes to SIN, that same law works in a POSITIVE WAY when it comes to RIGHTOUS LIVING.
II. If I Sow To Please The Spiritual Nature I Will Reap Eternal Life

1. GALATIANS 6: 8 b

2. What does Paul mean when he says, “Sows to please the Spirit?”

   Again, let’s back up to what Paul said in Galatians 5.

   GALATIANS 5: 16

3. One who SOWS TO PLEASE THE SPIRIT...........does the exact opposite of the person who SOWS TO PLEASE THE SINFUL NATURE.

   Whereas the one who “sows to please his sinful nature” lives to please himself, the one who “sows to please the Spirit” lives to please GOD.

4. If you’ll move down to VERSES 22 and 23...........You will see “THE SEEDS” that will be evident in the life of one who lives to please GOD.

   GALATIANS 5: 22 and 23

5. If the one who “sows to please his sinful nature” reaps destruction and death, then what does one reap when he “sows to please the Spirit?” He reaps God’s richest BLESSINGS in this life and in the eternal life to come!

   PSALM 1: 1- 3 says, BLESSED is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, or stand in the way of sinners, or sit in the seat of MOCKERS, BUT his delight is in the Law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates day and night. He is like a TREE planted by streams of WATER, which yields its fruit in season, and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.”

6. When you and I choose to “sow the seeds of righteous living” and seek to please God in all we say and do, God will bless our lives more than we can possibly imagine!

   How do we even begin to calculate the value of having God’s blessings on every area of our life, OUR MARRIAGE, OUR FAMILY, OUR JOB, and OUR FINANCES?
(A) When one “sows to please the Spirit” he reaps the **BLESSING of God’s **PROTECTION.

PSALM 33:18 “The eyes of the LORD are on those who FEAR HIM, on those whose HOPE is in His unfailing love.

PSALM 34:7 The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear HIM, and HE delivers them.

You see, how can one be confident of God’s protection when he’s out there “sowing seeds of sinfulness.” How can one pray for God’s protection when he or she is doing something outside of God’s will?

The only way I can be CONFIDENT of GOD’S PROTECTION over my life is when I am “sowing to please the Spirit” or living to please GOD.

(B) When one “sows to please the Spirit” he reaps the **BLESSING of GOD’S PEACE.**

COLOSSIANS 3:15 “Let the PEACE OF CHRIST rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.

PHILIPPIANS 4:7 And the PEACE OF GOD, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

It has been said, “There is no softer pillow to lay one’s head on at night than a clear conscience.”

How do you put a price tag on the PEACE OF MIND AND HEART God brings to one who truly tries to please Him in all they say and do? And even when we fail, there is a PEACE that comes from confessing our sins to GOD.

When one “sows to please the Spirit” he reaps the blessing of God’s PROTECTION and the blessing of God’s PEACE and next...........

(C) When one “sows to please the Spirit” he reaps the **BLESSING of GOD’S PROVISIONS.**

MATTHEW 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all of these things will be given to you as well.

The apostle Paul says in PHILIPPIANS 4:19, “And my GOD will meet ALL OF YOUR NEEDS according to His glorious riches in CHRIST JESUS.
Isn’t that a comforting thought! God is promising you and me that when we “sow seeds to please the Spirit”…when we make it our aim to please Him in the way we live our lives, Ephesians 3:20 tells us, “God will do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us.

When one “sows to please the Spirit” he reaps the BLESSING of GOD’S PROTECTION…..the blessing of GOD’S PEACE…..the blessing of GOD’S PROVISIONS, and finally…….

(D) When one “sows to please the Spirit” he reaps the BLESSING of GOD’S PERMANENT HOME

Look once again at VERSE 8 of our scripture text.......... 

v. 8 “The one who sows to please the Spirit will reap eternal life.”

While eternal life began the moment you and I accepted Jesus Christ as our LORD AND SAVIOR, we will not realize its complete fulfillment until our earthly life is over. What a comfort it is to know that the LORD has gone to prepare a PERMANENT HOME, a MANSION for us, that where HE is we may be also for all eternity.

A MAN TRULY REAPS WHAT HE SOWS! When one “sows to please the Spirit,” he reaps the BLESSINGS of........

GOD’S PROTECTION
GOD’S PEACE
GOD’S PROVISIONS
AND GOD’S PERMANENT HOME

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CONCLUSION

Illustration---Not long ago I stood at one of those SODA machines in the lobby at Wal-Mart. I didn’t have any change on me so I stuck a dollar bill in the bill slot. My bill went in and it came back out. I ran my fingers around the edges of the bill to straighten out any
folds or wrinkles. I stuck the bill in and it came back out. I tried a different bill to see if that would work. I stuck the bill in and it came right back out.

That’s sort of how it is when it comes to this matter of “reaping and sowing.” We get back what we put in. You can’t keep doing the same thing and expect a different result.

Perhaps you have been “sowing the seeds of sin” your whole life. And you have been expecting to get back happiness and fulfillment and contentment, but all you have gotten back is heartache and emptiness.

Remember you will always “reap what you sow!”

What you are today is the result of the seeds you sowed yesterday. And what you will be tomorrow will be the result of the seeds you sow today.

Listen to the word of the LORD as we close!

“Do not be deceived: GOD cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.”