

Unlocking Freedom: A Study in Galatians

Galatians 6:7-10

Sermon preached by Chris Lofquist

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Introduction

If you brought your Bibles go ahead and open them to **Galatians 6:7-10**, as we seek to find the truth in God's Word. In today's world that concept of **truth** is under much attack. For most, truth is no longer objective, but rather subjective. What I mean by that is for many in today's world what is true for me may not be true for you. And yet I believe whole heartedly that truth is objective. That is to say that if something is true, then it doesn't matter what you feel or think, that which is factual and true does not change. You may push back and say, well something may have been true for you when you were a child and has now changed since becoming an adult. That can be the case. But there are certain laws of morality, spirituality, and nature that God placed in effect to bring order to this world. Certain facts that are true no matter the age. Take gravity for example, no matter how you feel about gravity, or what age you are, there is truth to this scientific fact that due to the earth's motion around the sun, we have a force (gravity) that pulls us toward the ground. Furthermore, it is true no matter how old you or how you feel about it that the earth is round and not flat (as it once was thought). These are undeniable truths. In our text this morning we will read about another undeniable truth – particularly that what you sow you will reap. So without further ado, let us read **Galatians 6:7-10**. *Prayer.*

“Whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.”

As we work our way through this principle of sowing and reaping we will seek to answer two basic questions, first, what does it mean to sow and reap? And second, how does this principle of sowing and reaping look in my life? So, let's begin with the first question...

1. **What does it mean to Sow and Reap?** (vv. 7-8)

If you remember the context in which Paul is writing these words, he just finished several chapters explaining from every angle that Judaism and legalism has no part in salvation and Christian living. After these warnings Paul unfolds a few thoughts concerning Christian living and how to care for a brother or sister who have fallen in sin. It is from that line of thinking that Paul writes these next sentences regarding sowing and reaping. It is understandably a response to those who may not like being held accountable and helped. Those who have been deceived. And for those Paul offers a strict warning followed by true statement. **Verse 7** – *“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked, for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap”*. Don't be deceived by others and don't deceive yourself, God is not the fool, and will not be made out to be one, if you are caught in the terrible consequences of sin, it is because of your sinful actions. This concept of sowing and reaping does not allow us to pass the blame, especially not to God. Now this has been a hard pill to swallow all throughout history. However, it may be an even more difficult truth to hear today. We live in a world of victimhood, where nothing is ever our fault. We make a poor decision, and we are told to blame our parents, our upbringing, our circumstances, our gender, and even the color of the skin. And across all

generations, we have justified sin with the statement, “*I didn’t have a choice, or I couldn’t help it because (insert excuse).*” However, God has just reminded us of an undeniable spiritual and moral truth – you will reap what you sow. This is a self-evident truth, meaning, this moral truth can be explained through physical experience. In the world of agriculture this is understood every year. When a farmer takes a corn seed and plants it, he will get a cornstalk. When he takes a tomato seed and plants it, a tomato will come of that seed. This isn’t rocket science. If you take a bean seed and plant it, you will not get a watermelon. There has never been a cucumber that has sprouted from a rogue carrot seed. This is not possible. For in the farming world, whatever seed you plant will reap that vegetation which you planted. This is not a subjective truth, this is objective – and therefore it does not shift based on what I really want. If I plant a tomato seed and really hope and wish for a green pepper to sprout, I will forever be disappointed. Farmers witness this truth of sowing and reaping every year, and you do not have to go far to experience it yourself – and see it to be absolutely true. So Paul is taking this agricultural truth, and under inspiration of the Holy Spirit, applying it in a spiritual sense – and it is just as accurate and true. **Verse 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.*” The Christian has only 2 fields in which they can sow, that of *his own flesh* and that of the *Spirit*. As stated in previous sermons, the ‘flesh’ refers to the believers uncleansed or not fully clean humanity. It is the sinful nature that still lingers on as we strive to walk in the newness of life Christ has provided for us. And it is in opposition to the will and Word of God – it opposes God’s standards – and if allowed it will lead to all manners of selfishness, immorality, and rebellion. Paul says here, that if we *sow according to the flesh, we will reap corruption*. The word ‘corruption’ means, ‘destruction, ruin, and decay’. It refers to food spoiling, going from bad to worse. In our lives this looks like a little ‘white lie’ that harmed no one, turning into a full-blown scandal that takes everything I cherish away from me. When we sow to the flesh, we will always reap destruction and decay. **We need to take this as a warning.** Imagine the corruption and devastation you can stop if you just take a moment to evaluate this principle of sowing and reaping? For the believer it can lead to wrecked relationships and broken fellowship with God. For the unbeliever, this corruption and ruin is eternal – “*For the wages of sin is death.*” The stakes are high and there is no greater lesson to learn in life than this – when you sow to the flesh you will reap decay. That’s one field we have the freedom to sow into, but trust me, you will not like the results.

The other field we can sow into is the Spirit, and sowing in this field will reap eternal benefits. The Christian who is focused on and obedient to God’s Word, walking in line with the Spirit, will produce the fruits of the Spirit. The **Fruit of the Spirit**. These are the fruits that all humanity strives after, but can only reap when he or she sows in the Spirit. **To sow in the Spirit** is the same as walking by the Spirit (Gal. 5:16); or being led by the Spirit (Gal. 5:18). It is the same as being filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18). It is the same concept as abiding in Christ and in His Word and having His words abide in us (John 8:31, 15:7). It is the same idea as setting one’s mind on the things above, not on the things of this earth (Gal. 3:2), and not being conformed to this world but being transformed by the renewing of your mind (Rom. 12:1-2). And it produces or reaps an eternal harvest, impacting our very own lives and the lives of those around us.

The truth is you will always reap what you sow, therefore, sow in the Spirit and not in the flesh. The choice is easy, but how does this look in my life? What are some practical ways I can sow in the Spirit?

2. **How does this look in my Life?** (vv. 9-10)

Verse 9 – “*Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.*” Why would Paul begin answering this next question by saying, ‘let us not lose heart’ and ‘do not grow weary’? I think that one can lose heart and grow weary in sowing in the Spirit because the harvest at times can take a while. But Paul is reminding those, who feel this way, that one way in which they are to sow in the Spirit, is to be persistent in doing good, even when the results are slow. **For example**, you become a Christian, life is new again, and in your excitement, you tell everyone you know about Jesus. Some of your friends respond in belief and others not so much, but your family seems to be taking the longest to respond, but you continue on persisting in sharing the Gospel and testifying to it through doing good. However, over the years they become angry with your ‘good deeds’ and calloused to the Gospel message, they even say some pretty hurtful things rejecting you and your beliefs. Thoughts of discouragement and doubt cloud your mind, you say to yourself, ‘perhaps I should stop sharing the Gospel with my family, it doesn’t seem that they will ever respond in belief.’ That may be you this day. To you I say, don’t give up, don’t lose heart, keep sowing in the Spirit and in the message of Christ and trust Him to bring the harvest. When we as the messengers of Christ are rejected by those we love, that can cause us to lose heart, and like a weed, discouragement can hinder the harvest. The good that you do, through the proclamation of the Gospel and faithfulness to obeying the Word of God, will reap a harvest in due time – *so do not grow weary.*

There is much that can cause discouragement in our lives when it comes to ‘sowing in the Spirit’ and ‘doing good’. We can even be discouraged when we volunteer in churches. **For example**, the Spirit leads you to recognize a need in the body of Christ and so you follow His leading and with hard work you begin to volunteer in this certain ministry. At first, things are going great, but then after a while you begin to feel the burden of this ministry and doing what is good becomes harder. “Am I really having an impact? I mean these kids aren’t even listening when I teach the Bible lesson.” Discouragement lingering from the flesh, enters your mind and begins to ruin your enthusiasm to doing good. You feel the burden will crush you and it would be better for you to quit. To you I say, do not lose heart in doing good, for in due time you will reap a harvest, so do not grow weary. In this circumstance, there may be an opportunity for another believer to come alongside the weary volunteer and offer a helping hand. Which leads us to the next verse... “*So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially those who are of the household of the faith.*” (**v. 10**). The Christian walk is full of opportunity to do good. And yet, the way in which Paul words this sentence, reminds us that our opportunities are limited, and implies that we take advantage of them. Recognizing those great yet limited opportunities and doing good to all people is a practical way in which we can sow in the Spirit and reap into an eternal harvest. And although we are to be thriving in our opportunities to do good to all people, Paul gives special inflection to doing good to those in the Church.

*“..Especially those who are of the household of the faith.” This brings us full circle to bearing one another’s burdens, to gently seeking to restore a believer who has fallen in sin, and to loving each other enough to invest in one another’s life. How we interact is of the utmost importance, because Jesus would tell us to ‘A new commandment I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.’ (John 13:34-35). The world is watching how we treat one another, how we help one another carry the burden’s of life and ministry, how we speak to one another and about one another, and when we *do good to all people, especially those who are of the household of faith*, the harvest we reap will have eternal impact on those watching and listening.*

Conclusion

The greatest testimony you can have to the saving truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is in which field you sow into. Sow into the flesh and reap destruction and corruption, ruining your testimony. Sow into the Spirit by doing good, and in due time, a harvest of eternal impact will be reaped.

Close in Prayer