
Sermon Notes

October 2, 2022

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

Sowing and Reaping Galatians 6:7-10

Spiritual Agriculture

- ❖ The law of sowing and reaping
 - the law of sowing and reaping applies to us spiritually in just the same way it applies to agriculture
 - you reap what you sow

Sowing to the Flesh

- ❖ If you sow to your own flesh, you will, from the flesh, reap corruption
 - *those who plow iniquity and sow trouble reap the same.* (Job 4:8)
 - the prophet Hosea tells us that evil people *sow the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind.* (Hos. 8:7)
 - fools *eat the fruit of their way, and have their fill of their own devices.* (Prov. 1:31)
- ❖ *Don't be deceived*
 - the power of self-deception
 - *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?* (Jer. 17:9)

- *There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.* (Prov. 14:12)
- *Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.* (Jas. 1:22)
- *If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.* (1 John 1:8)
- the possibility of being misled by others
 - many who claim to be followers of Jesus peddle false teaching
 - Scripture tells us that in the latter times *evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.* (2 Tim. 3:13)
 - Jesus warns us as the end of time grows nearer that *false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.* (Matt. 24:24)

- ❖ *Corruption* = a picture of a rotting corpse or rotting food
 - corruption turns what is beneficial into what is harmful
 - the ultimate corruption is eternal death (Rom 6:23)

Sowing to the Spirit

- ❖ If you sow to the Spirit you reap eternal life
 - *Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap steadfast love* (Hos. 10:12)
 - believers who sow to the Spirit, produce the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23)

- sowing to the Spirit = walking with the Spirit, being led by the Spirit, being filled with the Spirit, abiding in Christ and in His Word, setting your mind on things above, giving your body as a living sacrifice, not being conformed to this world
- ❖ Eternal life is a quality of life, not just a quantity of life
 - Jesus sowed perfect righteousness and reaped the eternal life which He now gives to anyone who trusts in His finished work
 - if you are united with Jesus through saving faith, you are able to start enjoying the blessings and benefits of *eternal life* right now
 - picking blueberries
 - they don't all go in the bucket for future use, some are enjoyed during the picking process
 - possessing the *eternal life* Jesus gives does not shield or exempt you from experiencing the natural consequences of what you sow in this life

Gradual Growth

- ❖ You don't sow and reap on the same day
 - we mature by process
 - it is easy to grow tired of the sowing process and to be anxious for the harvest
- ❖ We must protect ourselves from growing weary in the process
 - 1 Corinthians 15:58
 - Hebrews 12:1-3

- ❖ Paul gives additional incentive in v. 9 as he reminds you that if you are genuinely and persistently faithful in sowing to the Spirit and in *doing good*, you will reap in due time
 - doing good to *those who are of the household of faith*
 - be active in the process
 - an outflow and overflow of the Holy Spirit's work within us
 - doing good to *everyone*
 - doing good to unbelievers will do more to win them to Christ than all the apologetics and arguments for Christianity in the world
 - kindness and love should lie at the heart of every word of testimony you share for Jesus

Personal Reflection

1. Are you sowing to the flesh or sowing to the spirit? How do you know this is so?
2. If you are sowing to the Spirit, are you reaping the fruit of eternal life right now? How do you know this is so?
3. Do you have a plan for cultivating your spiritual garden or is the crop within you more of the *que sera, sera* ("whatever will be, will be") variety?
4. In what ways are you doing good to *those who are of the household of faith*? How are you doing good to those outside the Christian family? Do you need to change anything in your life in order to be more fruitful with respect to this?