

I. Introduction.

II. You will reap what you sow. v. 7-8

- A. God has established the principle of sowing and reaping. v. 7**
- 1. In nature. Gen. 8:22 2 Co. 9:6**
 - 2. In life. Prov. 20:4**
 - 3. You cannot sow one thing and expect to reap something else.**
- B. Those who sow fleshly things will reap corruption. v. 8a 5:19-21,16 Hos. 8:7**
- 1. Do not be deceived. v. 7a Gen. 3:1ff 2 Co. 11:3 1 Co. 15:33 Heb. 3:13 Jer. 17:9 2 Pet. 2:19 John 8:44**
 - 2. God will not be mocked. You can't fight Him and win. Ps. 2:1ff**
 - 3. Unbelievers sow to the flesh and reap everlasting destruction. 5:21 2 Pet. 2:12,19 2 Th. 1:9 Hos. 8:7 Rom. 2:5-8 6:23 8:5-8**
 - 4. Believers, because of God's mercy, reap disciplinary consequences. Heb. 12:1ff**
 - 5. The Bible is full of examples of those who sowed to the flesh and reaped the consequences. Ps. 2:1ff 1 Sam. 2:29 17:43 Acts 12:22-23 2 Sam. 12:9ff**
 - 6. Nations and communities also reap what they sow. Gen. 6:5ff 15:16 19:1ff Num. 26:65 Ezek. 8:17 2 Chron. 36:16**
 - 7. How does one sow to the flesh? 5:19-21,26,15 Js. 1:14-15 Eph. 4:25-27 Ro. 13:14 1 Co. 15:33 Pr. 23:29ff 7:21ff 13:20 6:10-11**
- C. Those who sow to the Spirit will reap eternal life.**
- 1. How do you sow to the Spirit? 5:22-24 6:9-10 2 Co. 9:6 1 Co. 9:11 Js. 3:18 Psalm 1 Col. 3:1ff Eph. 4:29 Mt. 6:33**
 - 2. The outcome is eternal life. 1:4 John 3:16 Mt. 25:31-46 Ro. 6:23 8:6**
 - 3. Will we also reap other rewards? 5:22-23 Prov. 3:10 Mt. 25:31-46 5:12 1 Co. 4:5 2 Co. 5:10 Rom. 14:10**
 - 4. There is also a law of proportion – sow much and reap much. 2 Co. 9:6**
- D. Does reaping what we sow contradict salvation by grace? 5:21 Mt. 25:31ff Ro. 8:13**
- 1. What we have sown would produce death, apart from God's grace. 3:10,24 Ro. 6:23**
 - 2. Justification comes by faith alone. 2:16 Eph. 2:8-9**
 - 3. On the cross Jesus reaped the punishment our sowing deserved. 3:13 Isa. 53:6 2 Co. 5:21 1 Pe. 3:18**
 - 4. Those who continue to sow to the flesh demonstrate by the fruit of their lives their true (lost) nature. 5:21 Mt. 7:16ff 1 Co. 6:9-10 Luke 6:43**
 - 5. Those to whom God gives faith have the indwelling Spirit Who produces good fruit (works) in them. 6:9-10 Eph. 2:10 1 Co. 6:11 Titus 3:3-7 2:14 1 Jo. 2:3ff**
 - 6. Believers will give account to God. 6:5 2 Co. 5:10 Rom. 14:10**
- E. What are you sowing and reaping with your life? Rom. 8:12ff Mt. 6:21**

III. Keep on sowing good seed/works. v. 9-10

- A. Don't lose heart in doing good. v. 9 2 Th. 3:13 2 Co. 4:1,16 Eph. 3:13 Luke 18:1ff
1 Co. 15:58 Phil. 1:27
1. Why might we be tempted to lose heart? Ps. 73:3ff 42:1ff 2 Pe. 3:4,8-11
 2. The season of reaping will surely come at the right time. 2 Co. 5:7 1 Jo. 3:2
Ro. 8:18-19 Js. 5:7-8
 3. Jesus endured the cross because of the joy set before him. Heb. 12:2-3
 4. Following in His steps requires perseverance and effort.
 5. He will help you continue to the end. Isa. 40:28-31 2 Co. 9:8
 6. Eschatology is the key to endurance. Romans 8:18 2 Cor. 4:16-18 2 Pet. 3:3ff
- B. Do good to all men – what responsibilities do we have to the world around us? v. 10
1. This is the opportune time for sowing. Eph. 5:16 Ps. 90:3,5-6,9-12 Col. 4:5
 2. Jesus made the most of His time. John 9:4
 3. The greatest good we can do for the lost is to point them to Christ. John 4:35-38
Mt. 9:37 28:18-20
 4. We also should seek to be a blessing to our neighbors/community. Jer. 29:5-7
1 Tim. 2:1-4 Eph. 4:28 5:22ff
 5. We should even do good to our enemies. Mt. 5:43-48 Rom. 12:17-21
 6. We should be watchful of the opportunities God places in our path.
 7. We also need to be discerning. 2 Th. 3:10
- C. We should especially be concerned about our brothers and sisters in Christ. 2:10
Acts 2:45 4:32ff 6:1f 2 Co. 8-9 Eph. 2:19 1 Ti. 3:15 Mark 3:34
- D. We should be most concerned about loving God. Mt. 22:37

IV. Concluding applications. 1 Th. 5:23 Rev. 22:12

Discussion questions

1. Can you think of times in your own life when sowing to please your sinful nature has reaped hard consequences?
2. In what ways are you tempted to sow to the flesh?
3. How are you sowing to the Spirit?
4. What do you expect to reap?
5. Why are we sometimes tempted to lose heart?
6. What enables us to endure in doing good?
7. How can we do good for the community?
8. What do you plan to do as a result of this passage?
9. What kind of reward do you expect to reap?
10. Is it wrong to be motivated by rewards?