

## The 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, July 21, 2019

### “Kingdom Principles ~ The Law of the Harvest”

#### Galatians 6:1-10

“Don’t be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant.” (Galatians 6:7)

God has firmly established this law of sowing and reaping into His creation—both in the physical realm and in the \_\_\_\_\_ realm; and the \_\_\_\_\_ that we plant today (either physically or spiritually) will determine the kind of harvest that we’ll reap in the future.

“Let the ground bring forth grass, and the herb yielding seed, and every fruit bearing tree bring forth fruit after its own kind. And it was so.” (Genesis 1:1)

“As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.” (Genesis 8:22)

#### THE PRINCIPLE OF SOWING AND REAPING

• **The first part of this principle is \_\_\_\_\_.**  
“Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow.” (v. 7)

Everything begins with a seed—the harvest is always the \_\_\_\_\_ of what we sow; and is determined by the \_\_\_\_\_ of seeds we plant.

We sow \_\_\_\_\_ seeds into our lives and relationships everyday—words, deeds, thoughts, prayers, attitudes, our time, talent, treasure. Life is filled with \_\_\_\_\_—and every time we make a choice, we’re \_\_\_\_\_ a seed. Our choices are not without \_\_\_\_\_ because every choice that we make has a consequence.

Since the law of sowing and reaping is always in effect—we need to ensure that we make \_\_\_\_\_ choices.

“So be careful how you live. Don’t live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days.” (Ephesians 5:15)

We need to be careful how we live—we need to be \_\_\_\_\_ in every moment. We need wisdom and \_\_\_\_\_ to help us make the right choices and to sow the right kind of seeds. Unfortunately, we often sow with little or no consideration for the harvest—we often sow for the fun of it, in the

heat of the moment, or out of our \_\_\_\_\_—in reaction to someone or something

“If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit.” (v. 8)

We can either sow in the \_\_\_\_\_ or in the \_\_\_\_\_—we can either put good seeds into the soil or bad.

“The one who sows sparingly will reap sparingly and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully... “He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.” (2 Corinthians 9:6; 10)

Scripture also says that we’ll reap \_\_\_\_\_ than we sow.

“Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted!” (Matthew 13:8)

When we sow bad seed in our lives, we’re going to reap the same as we sowed and more. Whether it’s anger, hatred, or bitterness, it will always come back to us in a \_\_\_\_\_ measure.

“They have planted the wind and will harvest the whirlwind.” (Hosea 8:7)

“If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully keep all his commands, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the world. You will experience all these blessings if you obey. Your towns and your fields will be blessed. Your children and your crops will be blessed. The offspring of your herds and flocks will be blessed. Your fruit baskets and breadboards will be blessed. Wherever you go and whatever you do, you will be blessed.” (Deuteronomy 28:1-6)

Our words, actions, and decisions are more significant than we can possibly know—they have \_\_\_\_\_—they echo through our lives and the lives of everyone we meet—they reverberate down through the \_\_\_\_\_ and into \_\_\_\_\_.

We don’t have a choice as to whether the law of sowing and reaping is going to \_\_\_\_\_ in our lives. We don’t have a choice whether the seeds we plant will \_\_\_\_\_ fruit. The only choice we have is what \_\_\_\_\_ of seeds we’re going to plant. The choices we’re making and the actions we’re taking today will bear fruit—either \_\_\_\_\_ fruit that will bring joy and life, or

\_\_\_\_\_ fruit that'll bring heartache and sorrow.

**What kinds of seeds are you sowing? Have you given any thought to what you're going to harvest from the seeds your planting today?**

- **The second part of this principle is \_\_\_\_\_.**

“So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.” (v. 9)

If sowing is the beginning of the process, then reaping is the \_\_\_\_\_.

We need to sow in such a way that we're \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of the harvest.

“The Kingdom of God is like a farmer who scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, while he's asleep or awake, the seed sprouts and grows, but he does not understand how it happens. The earth produces the crops on its own. First a leaf blade pushes through, then the heads of wheat are formed, and finally the grain ripens. And as soon as the grain is ready, The farmer comes and harvests it with a sickle, for the harvest time has come.” (Mark 4:26-29)

The process of sowing and reaping rarely happens over night—seeds take time to germinate and grow, fruit takes time to mature and be cultivated; and therefore faith and hope, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are a necessary part of the harvest.

Agriculturally speaking, the harvest isn't an event—it's a \_\_\_\_\_—a process that unfolds over \_\_\_\_\_. Similarly our lives are rarely defined by a single event, but by a process—a series of \_\_\_\_\_ and choices; victories and defeats; joys and sorrows.

Sometimes this harvest process is \_\_\_\_\_, taking a few days or weeks, sometimes it's longer—spanning months, years, decades—even generations. Indeed, many people reap in their later years, what they sowed in their youth. However, the harvest always comes in God's time and in His \_\_\_\_\_ season.

Often people are \_\_\_\_\_ because of the \_\_\_\_\_ in time between sowing and reaping. They sow bad seeds and because they don't see the immediate \_\_\_\_\_, they think they've got away with something—that they've pulled the wool over God's eyes.

We can't \_\_\_\_\_ anything from God—we can't live outside of the spiritual laws and kingdom principles that He's established. And sooner or later, the law

of sowing and reaping will have its full \_\_\_\_\_ in our lives.

When we sow good seed, we can sometimes be \_\_\_\_\_ into thinking that because we don't see immediate \_\_\_\_\_, the law of sowing and reaping doesn't \_\_\_\_\_.

This is why Paul \_\_\_\_\_ us to not grow weary; to not give up, or lose heart. Instead he tells us to remain \_\_\_\_\_ and steadfast, and to trust that God will bring the harvest—that we will reap what we've sown—in His time.

This \_\_\_\_\_ period between sowing and reaping is an excellent opportunity for us to \_\_\_\_\_ for the harvest. We need to ensure that our \_\_\_\_\_, minds, and lives are \_\_\_\_\_ enough to contain the blessings that we'll harvest—we need to \_\_\_\_\_ them so that they can be filled with the things of God.

“Enlarge your house, build an addition, spread out your home! For you will soon be bursting at the seams.” (Isaiah 54:2-3)

**How do you view the harvest—is it something that you think you can avoid? Are you mocking God—thinking that you won't reap what you've sown? Have you grown weary and discouraged waiting for it or do you trust that God will come through in the end—that all things will work together for good?**

The Law of the harvest isn't some \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ force in the universe, but rather, Paul invites us to place our \_\_\_\_\_ and trust in a \_\_\_\_\_—in Jesus, who is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Harvest. It's only by His grace and through His \_\_\_\_\_ working in us that we can produce a harvest of good fruit. And as we \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves to Him and His love, He can and will change and \_\_\_\_\_ our lives, and the kinds of seeds that we sow



**What kind of seeds are you planting in your life?  
What kind of harvest can you expect to reap?  
How is the principle of sowing and reaping working in your life?**