

Remnant Life Church
Sunday, April 28, 2013

“Your Money?”

Part 3

“Sowing and Reaping - The Principle Foundation of God’s Blessing” Galatians 6:7-10

- We know how many people have come to the place of feeling like they do whenever the church talks about money
- We know that tithing and giving are not a creation of man but a command by God
- We now need to understand the base principle of blessing in our lives – sowing and reaping

1. Sowing and reaping is a principle in ALL of God’s creation

- a. In **nature** there is a basic truth that whatever is sown into the ground is what will be reaped when it grows
 - i. You can never sow the seed of one plant and expect to harvest the growth of another
 - ii. A good seed produces a good crop; a bad seed yields a bad crop
- b. In our **natural lives** the same principle applies with how we live our lives
 - i. Wise, Godly decisions in our day to day lives yield good consequences; foolish, selfish, ungodly ones yield negative consequences - *Wealth is a crown for the wise; the effort of fools yields only foolishness.* **Prov. 14:24**
 - ii. You reap what you sow, **more** than what you sow and **longer** than you sow.
 1. Consequences – both good and bad - can carry with us through extended periods of time
 2. Sin consequences always costs us more than we wanted to pay; takes us places we did want to go, and keeps us longer than we wanted to stay.

2. The Spiritual ramifications of sowing and reaping are of even greater importance

a. *Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.* Gal. 6:7-10

b. **Terms**

i. **Flesh** – the part of us that wants independence from God.

Christians still maintain the flesh that we war against our entire lives yet the Lord teaches us to overcome and subdue.

1. *For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.* Gal. 5:17

2. *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.* Eph. 6:12

ii. **Sows to please the flesh** – gives in to the temptations or pleasures of the flesh

iii. **Destruction** – the ultimate result or consequence of living to the flesh is death. – Romans 6:23

iv. **Sows to please the spirit** – living a life focused on obeying and pleasing God

v. **Eternal life** – the time after we are free or released from the body

1. Eternal life in the Spirit is to be present with God; eternity without God is to be absent from His love and every good thing

2. If we sow to the Spirit we are going to reap things that will last in eternity – peace, integrity, healthy relationships

3. We can enjoy those things here and now if we understand 2 rules that cannot be changed or circumvented:

c. **First rule** – God will not be mocked! Gal. 6:7

i. What does that mean?

1. When God places laws and principles in place for us to live by and we ignore them, we are wrong and very foolish to believe that there will not be consequences.
2. If we break the laws of the land do we not pay?
3. If we break God's laws why do we think that there is no consequence to that?

d. **Second rule** – what you put in is what you will receive out

i. *Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.* **Luke 6:38**

1. This has often been taught incorrectly
2. Jesus is not saying that every time you give you will receive a greater measure back.
3. It is speaking of the grain merchants in the marketplace
4. What Jesus is saying is that when you give expect for God to faithfully give back in abundant measure.

ii. As you sow into the Kingdom of God through your obedience, He is faithful to allow you to reap in that same measure.

1. *Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.* **2 Cor. 9:6**

2. God actually challenges us to test Him

a. *Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.* **Malachi 3:10**

b. When we refuse to obey the commands of God with regard to what we have, we mock God – how can we then ask for His blessings?

3. How do we sow today?

a. I believe that we tithe off of the gross of our earnings

i. *Bring the whole tithe...* **Mal 3:10**

ii. Take advantage of the opportunities given by the government

iii. There were no income taxes taken every time you earned money

1. Taxes were paid but were usually annual or seasonal
 2. This is why Jesus said to give to Caesar what he deserved but give to God what He deserves
- b. Give the “first fruits”
- i. Your tithe check to God should be the FIRST check you write not the last
 - ii. Satan will make sure that you end up with less if you put everything else ahead of God
 - iii. Less than 8% of adults tithe their income – CHRISTIANS!
- c. If you are expectant of God for great things in your life than sow generously.
- i. Tithe; Gifts; Acts of kindness; Love; Mercy; Grace; Compassion

4. What Does God Expect Of Us?

- He expects us to be good stewards or caretakers of what He gives us.
 - **Matt. 25** the parable of the faithful servant – trusted with little, given much
- He expects us to be obedient to His Word and His principles for living.
 - *But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him. I John 2:5*
- He expects to richly bless His children. **Luke 12:22-31**
 - *Then Jesus said to his disciples: “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest? “Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! And do*

not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.