**Reaping The Harvest**

***6****Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches.****7****Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.****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.****9****And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.****10****So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. (Galatians 6:6-10, ESV)*

 The quality of the harvest is dependent on what we have sown – whatever we sow, that we will also reap. May the Lord bless you dear brothers and sisters as we speak today about sowing and reaping in keeping with the theme of harvest. Many people wonder as to why the above example from agricultural life has lasted this long and has been used effectively until today. Why is it important to speak about sowing and reaping when by and large we do not live near farms or planted fields? Today’s message is connected to the answer to the last question. In truth, what is manifested in this farming example is a spiritual law that shows up in nature along with the soulish and spiritual realms. Let us talk, then about this spiritual law which is also a timeless truth….

 We reap a life filled with the Holy Spirit when we express our faith through works of love. The Apostle Paul wanted to help the spiritual life of the church to grow. In the verses before our passage, he had spoken about learning to bear each other’s burdens in compassion. He had instructed that every church member check him or herself and not to boast about something or someone wrongly. Rather, he said that each person needed to bear their own burdens (in the spirit of not interfering with others[[1]](#footnote-1)). After these, we come to our main verses, within which we see the stress of sharing what you learn with the leaders. Paul says that every church member is to sow to the life of the Spirit. It is true that one may get tired of doing good when he or she is not accepted, or fruit is not seen for the efforts put forth. However, the Apostle says, “let them not grow weary,” because there is a specific time for harvesting or reaping those rewards. If the opportunity arises, one should do good, especially in the church (meaning among the church family).

 If I can mention an example, it would be that of the student or the athlete. The student dedicates time to have a successful exam. The athlete dedicates time to train, so that when the competition or game takes place, he or she can put forth the best effort. If the student becomes lazy, he should not expect to reap a good result. If the athlete does not practice and devote time, she will lose or be a liability for her team.

 Similarly, we are called today as a church body and as a preview of the true “Final Harvest” of souls, to sow the Spiritual[[2]](#footnote-2) through our deeds and not simply through our words. All those things that Paul mentioned before our passage in Galatians 6 are examples of the works that we are called to do among ourselves. Paul is clear in his language about faith being expressed through works of love. Therefore, if we want to reap the Spiritual, which is the life we are called to as believers, then let us do what Galatians 6 says to do:

* Let us guide the sinner humbly and gently.
* Let us be careful not to fall into temptations ourselves.
* Let us bear each other’s burdens lovingly.
* Let us not think of ourselves as something more than what we are.
* Let each of us examine his works and let there not be opportunity to boast off the back of another.
* All the above are “seeds” that we sow for the life of the Spirit.
* These are the deeds that will cause the fruits of eternal life to grow within us.

Again, we must not grow weary in doing good. We must not tire even if we do not see the fruits of our labors. Rather, whenever you can do good, do not hold back, but do it and you will have fulfilled the Law of Christ. All the above shows the way to reap the Spiritual Harvest.

We reap a life filled with the Holy Spirit when we express our faith through works of love. The quality of the harvest is dependent on what we have sown – whatever we sow, that we will also reap. The Lord Bless you; Amen.

1. This is not a contradiction to the verses prior but speaks about people who are not mature enough to serve compassionately and tend to interfere and then boast/take credit while marginalizing and shoving aside their brothers and sisters (off the backs of whom they succeeded). It is to these that he is saying, “Mind your own business.” [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Note the capital “S,” referring to the Holy Spirit [↑](#footnote-ref-2)