

Galatians 6:7-10

⁷Do not be deceived: God is not to be mocked. Whatever a man sows, he will reap in return.

⁸The one who sows to please his flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; but the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

⁹Let us not grow weary in well-doing, for in due time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. ¹⁰Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to the family of faith.

Berean Standard Bible, UK

1

Gardening 101. Galatians 6:6-10

Sow, with high expectations, into the lives of others. 6:6-7

You are indeed sowing. 6 "share all good things"

You will indeed reap. 7 "You reap whatever you sow"

Choose well what you will sow. 6:7-8

You will reap the same seed as you sow. 7 "You reap whatever you sow"

Weeds will indeed grow, self-sown. 8 "sows to please his flesh"

Keep tending, even after you sow 6:9-10

Nurture your seeds. 9 "do not become weary in doing good"

Nurture other gardeners. 10 "as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people"

2

Seven rules for reapers. Galatians 6:7-10

I reap only by the rules. 7 "Do not be deceived: God is not to be mocked"

I reap only what has been sown. 7 "he sows, he will reap in return"

I reap the same kind as is sown. 7 "Whatever a man sows"

I reap only after it has been sown. 9 "in due time we will reap"

I reap more than has been sown. 9 "reap a harvest"

I reap good only by perseverance. 9 "we will reap if we do not give up"

I reap because I keep sowing. 10 "let us do good to everyone"

From principle to practice. Galatians 6:7-10

Principle 1. Actions have consequences. 6:7-8

I need to work with God. 7 "Do not be deceived: God is not to be mocked"

I need to work with nature. 7 "Whatever a man sows, he will reap in return"

I need to work with the Spirit. 8 "sows to please his flesh... sows to please the Spirit"

Principle 2. Better actions have better consequences. 6:9-10

I need to work consistently. 9 "Let us not grow weary in well-doing"

I need to work continually. 9 "in due time we will reap a harvest"

I need to work observantly. 10 "as we have opportunity, let us do good"

Quality plus quantity. Galatians 6:7-10

Living with quality. 6:7-8

Think truthfully. 7a "Do not be deceived"

Think theologically. 7a "God is not to be mocked"

Think consistently. 7b "Whatever a man sows..."

Think consequences. 8 "will reap... will reap..."

Living with quantity. 6:9-10

Act with endurance. 9a "not grow weary in well-doing"

Act with stamina. 9b "in due time we will reap"

Act with generosity. 10a "let us do good to everyone"

Act with priority. 10b "especially to the family of faith"

Galatians 6:7-10

Think deeper. 6:7

Understand myself. 7a "Do not be deceived"

Understand the Lord. 7a "God is not to be mocked"

Think forward. 6:7-8

Understand my present. 7b "Whatever a man sows..."

Understand my future. 8 "will reap... will reap..."

Act inwardly. 6:9

Act with endurance. 9a “not grow weary in well-doing”

Act with patience. 9b “in due time we will reap”

Act outwardly. 6:10

Act with love. 10a “let us do good to everyone”

Act with generosity. 10b “especially to the family of faith”

6

Why am I weary? Galatians 6:7-10

The causes of my weariness.

Poor thinking. 7a “Do not be deceived”

Poor theology. 7a “God is not to be mocked”

Poor priorities. 8 “sow to the flesh...”

The cure for my weariness.

Encouragement. 9a “not grow weary in well-doing”

Hope. 9b “in due time we will reap”

Commitment. 10a “let us do good”

7 – Leaders, Business

Building better community. Galatians 6:7-10

This is an application of a management model / change management / team building

Forming. 7a “Do not be deceived. God is not to be mocked”

Storming. 8 “sow to the flesh... reap destruction”

Norming. 9a “not grow weary in well-doing”

Performing. 10a “let us do good to everyone”

Transforming. 10b “especially to the family of faith”

8

Plant something worth plucking. Galatians 6:7-10

Sow with open-eyed clarity. 6:7

Sow by understanding myself. 7a “Do not be deceived”

Sow by understanding the Lord. 7a “God is not to be mocked”

Sow with long-term maturity. 6:7-8

Sow in my present. 7b “Whatever a man sows...”

Sow for my future. 8 “will reap... will reap...”

Sow with rock-solid authority. 6:9

Sow with endurance. 9a “not grow weary in well-doing”

Sow with patience. 9b “in due time we will reap”

Sow with warm-hearted surety. 6:10

Sow with wide love. 10a “let us do good to everyone”

Sow with deep generosity. 10b “especially to the family of faith”

Other possible titles

Ask Isaac (Sir Isaac Newton’s third law – action, equal and opposite reaction)

No escape

Sow the crime; do the time.

O no! Harvest time is coming.

Like it or not, we will reap what we sow.

It is now ‘Due Season’

Be a do-gooder

Here comes the harvest

For weary well-doers

Quotes and illustrations

²³ Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. ²⁵ Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me. John 12:23-26, NIV-UK

¹ “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit, he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and

burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. John 15:1-8, NIV-UK

Lord, may I not be a weed in your garden. May I be an attractive blossom; or a fruitful tree.

Do not judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant. Robert Louis Stevenson

Anyone can count the seeds in an apple, but only God can count the number of apples in a seed. Robert H. Schuller

God has equipped you to handle difficult things. In fact, He has already planted the seeds of discipline and self-control inside you. You just have to water those seeds with His Word to make them grow! Joyce Meyer

When life hands you dirt, plant seeds.

When people try to bury you, remind yourself you are a seed.

A seed fears neither light nor darkness, but uses both to grow.

Be like seeds; do not see dirt thrown at you as your enemy, but as ground to grow.

When seeds want to rise, they push past everything that is weighing them down.

Seeds never lose their potential, not even in dirt.

Show me your seed and I will show you your harvest.

Several years after inventing radar, Sir Robert Watson Watt was arrested in Canada for speeding. He'd been caught, ironically, in a radar trap. To commemorate this infamous event in his life, he wrote this poem about himself:

Pity Sir Robert Watson Watt,
Strange target of his radar plot,
And this, with others I could mention,
A victim of his own invention.

Have you ever been trapped by something of your own doing? (Thanks to Paul Decker)

Commentary

Inversion parallelism

Practice, v6 - how to treat people

Principle, v7 - sowing and reaping

Key, v8 - I reap what I choose to sow

Principle, v9 - sowing and reaping

Practice, v10 - how to treat people

Service suggestions – for a land / garden theme

Preparation

Prepare weeks ahead by planting bean sprouts, daily. So, by Sunday you have sprouts 1 day, 2 days, 3 days...etc old to show.

Special items

Wear an Akubra (country) style hat

Interview gardeners

Do you have a favourite plant? What are the growing conditions that allow it to flourish? How old were you when you planted your first seed? What is the most attractive feature you like to see bloom in the character of others? When is the best time to plant that character trait?

Anthem

Australia: The Great South Land of the Holy Spirit

England: This royal throne of kings (John of Gaunt's speech from Richard II)

USA: This land is your land, or Battle hymn of the republic

Prayer meditation

Poem 'Core of my heart' "I love a sunburnt country..."

Communion

Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies... (John 12:23-26)

Children's message

Vegetables do not come from a factory, but from a garden. You can be a gardener.

Offering

Galatians 6:10 Sowing into the lives of others worldwide

Benediction

Seize the day. Take the opportunity.

Special Handouts

Packet of seeds / a seed

Music and songs

Songs about sowing and reaping

Before You I kneel (worker's prayer) And a harvest of life is grown.

Bringing in the sheaves... Waiting for the harvest, and the time of reaping, CH 317

Touching heaven changing earth... Though we sow in tears, we'll reap in joy! Ot 21

Turn! Turn! Turn! A time to plant, a time to reap (Pete Seeger)

Songs about God reaping

I cannot tell... reap the harvest He has sown, H 185

Songs about reaping Heaven's joys

Where the soul of man never dies... everlasting joys I'll reap

Discussion starters for individuals or groups

1. What is the best thing in, or the best thing about, your garden?
 2. Why do you think there is such a strong emphasis on reaping what we sow, v7, 8, 9?
 3. We are not to sow to please the flesh (8a), but can't we sow to please ourselves?
 4. What sort of things could be sown to please the Spirit (8b).
 5. Why might we grow weary (v9)? How do you know if your weariness is a sign to use endurance, or a sign to move on to something else?
 6. What is the meaning of doing good to everyone (v10)?
 7. Why do you think the final emphasis is beyond generally doing good, and is on doing good to the family of faith?
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