

## **Sowing and reaping - Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2015**

***“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will 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.” Gal.6:7-8***

Beloved in The Lord,

There is a universal law that applies to all spheres of life and that is that we reap what we sow. There is a saying that states that today is the father of tomorrow. This simply means that we will reap the consequences of what we do. Everything we do has a consequence.

It is important that we understand this truth, and that we realise that we are responsible and accountable for our actions. It seems to me that we are living in an age where many do not understand this, especially in the younger generations. We are responsible for our actions and the choices we make have consequences. We cannot always blame someone else when we are reaping negative things in our lives. Whatever a man sows, he will also reap. You cannot live life irresponsibly and carelessly and then hope that in the end everything will be ok.

Our text today is both a warning and an encouragement. The warning is that God is not mocked and the encouragement is that if we sow to the Spirit we will reap eternal life.

It is important that we understand that we are created for eternal life. This life we live in the flesh in this world is only a minute part of our total existence. We spend 70, 80, maybe even 90 or a 100 years in this flesh, but that is nothing in comparison to eternity. We heard in our first reading today a prayer of Moses. Amongst other things he wrote:

***“As for the days of our life, they contain seventy years,  
Or if due to strength, eighty years,  
Yet their pride is but labor and sorrow;  
For soon it is gone and we fly away.***

***<sup>11</sup> Who understands the power of Your anger***

***And Your fury, according to the fear that is due You?***

***<sup>12</sup> So teach us to number our days,***

***That we may present to You a heart of wisdom.” (Psalm 90:10-12)***

A number of important things are stated here. The first one is that life is fleeting. Look at this year. It was only just Easter, now that Father's Day has passed Christmas decorations are beginning to appear in the shops.

Moses said that we fly away. This is important. When we die, then only a part of us dies. Our body or flesh dies. It returns to the dust. The soul and spirit fly away. Where do they fly to? They fly to an appointment with Almighty God, where there will be a time of reckoning. We read in the letter to the Hebrews:

***“And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment,<sup>28</sup> so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time***

***for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.” (Hebrews 9:27-28)***

It is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgement. This is the path for all men. Each one of us will appear before Almighty God, the Sovereign of the universe to be judged by Him. Life has consequences, and how we will fare in the judgement will be dependent upon how we have lived this life.

“For whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.”

Please remember that God is not and will not be mocked. Many people think that they don't need God, that they can ignore Him, or they can toss Him the crumbs, and then they believe that after this life they will be in paradise. They falsely hope for good after this life. Just think about it logically. If you reject God and His Word here, how can you hope to enjoy His Heaven after this life?

We cannot play around with the important issues of life such as God, sin, death and eternity. These are very weighty matters indeed. So serious are these matters that God shed the blood of His Son on the cross, so that whoever believes in Him, may receive the gift of eternal life with Him in Heaven.

The Gospel is very simple:

***“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. <sup>18</sup> He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” (John 3:16-18)***

These words of Jesus clearly show us consequences: ***He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already...***

We must understand that the Bible teaches that there are two very different judgements awaiting people in eternity. If you are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ and have accepted Him as your personal Lord and Saviour then the judgement you will face will be to assess your works and assign rewards, based upon your service to God. The moment that you trust Jesus as your personal Saviour you are born again and guaranteed a place in Heaven. Your destiny is sealed forever. The thief on the cross looked to Jesus in his dying moments and received from Jesus the promise that he would join Him in paradise that very day. When we are born again our eternity is settled. The judgement we will face will be an assessment of our service. Those things that we have done in accord with God's will, out of love for Him, will be rewarded.

However, if we do not trust in Jesus, if we do not open our heart to Him in faith, then we will face a very different judgement in eternity. The verdict and the sentence are already known: Guilty of sin and condemned to eternal death. Total darkness and solitary confinement with no hope of escape – ever.

The crossroad is faith in Jesus Christ. We are talking about heart faith not head faith. Have you opened the door of your heart to Jesus, or are you just playing around with religion? Faith is a personal relationship with God the Father through Jesus Christ.

Jesus said:

***“Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me. <sup>21</sup> He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. <sup>22</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” (Rev.3:20-22)***

Do you have ears? Do you hear what Jesus is saying? If you haven't as yet, opened the door of your heart to Jesus, then do it today, before it is too late. God is giving you an opportunity right now. Tomorrow may already be too late. You have no guarantee that you will be alive tomorrow. Are you ready to stand before Almighty God?

Please understand that these words are spoken in love and humility. Neither I, nor God desires for any of you to be eternally lost. This is why this Word comes to you today. God is inviting you to Himself. The good news is that if we come, He accepts us just as we are. If we repent of our sins, He forgives us.

We read:

***“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1.John 1:9)***

The first word is so very important – “IF” . If we confess, then....

The reverse is also true. If we do not confess, then we do not receive forgiveness. Verse 10 states:

***“If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.”***

“For whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.”

If we humble ourselves, if we confess, if we repent, if we trust in Christ alone, then all will be well. If not then it won't be.

I said at the outset that we have a warning and an encouragement. We have adequately dealt with the warning. Let us briefly look at the encouragement.

If we live for God and sow to His kingdom, then we know that the harvest will be good. God never misses anything and our labour for Him is never in vain and will be rewarded.

Paul writes:

***Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord. (1 Cor.15:58)***

Whatever is done for God, sown in His kingdom is never in vain.

Jesus said:

***“He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.  
41 He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet’s reward;  
and he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a  
righteous man’s reward. 42 And whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these  
little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you, he shall not lose his  
reward.” (Mt.10:40-42)***

The reward will not be lost for the one who does God’s work, who loving sows in God’s Kingdom.

Only that which has not been done to honour God will be lost.

“For whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.”

Today in our Harvest Thanksgiving service, let us take a good look at our lives and into our hearts and assess what is there. Let us ask ourselves: “Who am I living for?” “Who do I serve?” “What am I sowing?” “What will I reap?”

The invitation from Jesus Himself is to come to Him. To lay our life at His feet in faith. When we come to Him, what has been is gone and all things are made new.

However long we have left to live, may that time be totally God’s, dedicated to Him, and for Him. May we sow to eternal life.

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All Bible quotations taken from New American Standard Bible.