

God's Law of Sowing and Reaping

by

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Preface

By special request this book is being printed and distributed so that its message may bring help and encouragement to those who would be harvesters of eternity bound souls.

Many have made an effort to reach the lost with little success because they have not understood the positiveness of God's promise, or because they did not recognize the processes of spiritual growth.

Others have not had the compassion or courage to even make an effort to reach the lost.

It is the purpose of God that all of His children be fruitful in soul winning. "Ye are My witnesses saith the Lord."

The time is late!

Millions are perishing!

WILL YOU HASTEN TO THE HARVEST?

It is the prayer of the author that the message of this book will result in thousands making a commitment to soul winning.

WILL ANYONE BE IN HEAVEN BECAUSE OF YOU?

God's Law of Sowing and Reaping

The subject we are taking up tonight is "SOWING AND REAPING." We have been asked to teach on this very vital subject. We're going to take our time and I pray that this does us a lot of good.

SOWING AND REAPING

Sowing and reaping is the natural law that God established for the world. Without it, the world and its substance could not continue. In everything, it is evident.

EVERYTHING REPRODUCES AFTER ITS KIND

Let us to read the record from Genesis 1: 11, 12, 21, 24.

" and God said, let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit and AFTER HIS KIND, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass and herb yielding seed AFTER HIS KIND, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, AFTER HIS KIND: and God saw that it was good. And God created whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, AFTER THEIR KIND, and every winged fowl AFTER HIS KIND, and God saw that it was good. And God said, let the earth bring forth the living creature AFTER HIS KIND, cattle, and creeping thing, and the beast of the earth AFTER HIS KIND: and it was so, and God made the beast of the earth AFTER HIS KIND: and it was so."

You will quickly notice that God made everything to reproduce AFTER HIS KIND. In verses 26 and 27 regarding mankind God said, " let us make man in our image, after our likeness. So God created man in HIS OWN IMAGE." Thus was the law of SOWING AND REAPING established.

So you see that everything reproduces after its kind; herbs reproduce herbs

Fish reproduce fish

Cattle reproduce cattle

Men reproduce men.

Fish cannot reproduce cattle!

MONKEYS CANNOT REPRODUCE MEN!

If you want corn,

YOU MUST PLANT CORN!

If you want beans,

YOU MUST PLANT BEANS!

Thus was God's law of SOWING AND REAPING established.

DIFFICULTIES MUST BE OVERCOME

After the fall of Adam, things became more difficult. They had to work in order to sow and in order to reap.

" for by the sweat of thy face shalt thou earn thy bread, and the ground shall bring forth unto thee briars, and thistles."

This was the curse send upon them because of sin; and from that time on down till now the condition steadily seems to be getting worse. I suppose as sin abounds, the sowing and reaping process gets a little more complicated.

As you know, when I was a boy and some of you were younger, there were not nearly so many things needed to raise a crop as there are today. It's not because know less, it's because we are beset with more plagues and insects - things that never used to bother us.

We never heard of bean beetles when I was a boy, but they came to Ohio quite a number of years ago and now you can't raise a bean without putting poison on the vine or something to kill the bean beetles. I was very delighted when I came to New York State to find out that they hadn't seemed to have arrived yet in this area.

Then look at the fruit trees; you could grow apples and peaches in your backyard and they were delicious. You didn't have to spray them. All this spraying process has taken place in my lifetime. Now you can scarcely raise any fruit at all unless you spray to kill

the insects.

But as there are difficulties in growth in the natural law of sowing and reaping, so are there difficulties in the spiritual law of sowing and reaping.

I believe that one of the greatest hindrances to new church work and pioneering is the fact that men have grown weary and discouraged and have quit before reaping time!

It is therefore very vital for us to understand God's laws of sowing and reaping soul that we will not get discouraged and quit before the time of reaping arrives. A worker, if he does not understand, they feel that his labor has been in vain, and leave discouraged.

GROWTH SOMETIMES IS SLOW

There are some kinds of seeds, some kinds of trees, some kinds of crops, which take a long time for them to produce a harvest. Winter wheat is a very good example. In this section of the country, it is almost a year from the time you sow the wheat until you reap the harvest. It is not quite so long in Ohio, where I was raised, but it is a long time. It goes through a winter season when it looks as though it is dead. It is frozen by the winter winds and really looks DEAD. If someone did not know, if they had never been told what to expect, they would have been so surprised and discouraged to see if frozen and brown, that they would not have waited to reap.

There are many things such as fruit trees that do not produce a crop for several years. An apple tree will take from 5 to 10 years to even start to produce a crop of any size, and before comes to full production, it will take longer than that.

It is amazing how many seeds will lay dormant in the ground for many years, perhaps 10 or 20, until some proper conditions arise such as being turned up to the sun or receiving the proper amount of moisture and heat; and then after all those years, it will grow!

You wouldn't think that there was a seed there. You would think that it would either grow the first year or it would never grow, but that is not true. And I think sometimes the reason we get discouraged and quit in the work of God is because we fail to understand the law of sowing and reaping.

In the book of Galatians, there are some very outstanding passages relative to this wonderful study. We're going to begin in the sixth chapter with the seventh verse:

" be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season ye shall reap, if ye faint not."

You'll notice it says, " for whatsoever a man soweth, that **SHALL** he also reap." Now that's true whether it's good seed... or whether it's evil seed. There will be a day of reaping... whatsoever you sow. But to us as workers - gospel workers - it still says " whatsoever a man **SOWETH THAT SHALL** he also **REAP**." I want this emphasized - I want it to get into our hearts - into our souls that if we sow the seed of the word of God, if we sow it properly, and if we'll have the patience to wait, there will be a day of reaping. **THERE WILL BE A DAY OF REAPING!**

Let's read that again. "Whatsoever a man soweth - that **SHALL** he also reap." There is no doubt whatsoever in that, is there?

"WHATSOEVER A MAN SOWETH, THAT SHALL HE ALSO REAP."

And, Brethren, as sure as we are here tonight and this is the Word of God that we are reading, it **WILL** happen. I grant that there are proper ways to sow - you could go out and you wouldn't get a crop because you did not properly sow the seed. There is a proper way to sow, but according as a man sows, accordingly he shall reap. It's a law - it's a law of God. Almighty God made it when he created the world, and whatever we sow we have the promise that we shall also reap.

"For he that soweth to his flesh, shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."

We would like especially to take the angle of sowing and reaping relative to the ministry... And the salvation of souls. We know that whatsoever a man soweth in his own life and in his own character, he will reap what he sows. But what we definitely need tonight is to understand the law of God relative to sowing the good seed of the Word of God - if we expect to reap a harvest. And if we can get this ingrained into our souls, into our minds, into our hearts, it can be a lasting blessing all the days of our life. We have seen far too many workers go out and stay for a little while and then get discouraged, and blue, and quit and go home. I have seen many of them. Before we came to this area of the country there were workers who came to the Vermont, New Hampshire, and the New York area, only to get discouraged and leave with a feeling of defeat. We believe that they were good people - sincere people who did not understand the reward of waiting until the harvest. When we came to this area in the summer of 1958 we found no established work among white people between Buffalo and New York City... A distance of over 400 miles. Our progress has been very slow, and sometimes disappointing, but we are thankful to God for the things that are happening. To God we give all the glory for bringing us to this time of reaping, or we would not be here as we are tonight. It thrills me to see the potential we have here among us. If we'll all be workers, if we'll all be faithful sowers of the seed, and if we will have the patience to wait... We can reap a harvest, Brethren.

WE CAN REAP A HARVEST!

This ought to be your daily prayer, it ought to be the cry of your soul, the yearning of your very being, as you walk day by day as you go about your business of life, the business of the church, " O GOD, GIVE US A HARVEST OF SOULS!" We're going to have to get it quickly. We don't have long to wait; the end it is very near.

"WHATSOEVER A MAN SOWETH, THAT SHALL HE ALSO REAP."

Now, let us look at verse 9 – which I think is so important. “and let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season” - let's all say, DUE SEASON ye shall reap – if what? IF YE FAINT NOT.

Many have fainted before they obtained the reaping.

I remember in the year of 1947 we left the Newark church to go to Logan, Ohio. We felt

directed of God to go there. We had conducted services in Logan previous to our temporary stay in Newark. While in Newark, we would occasionally send a worker to Logan to conduct a weekly service. We had a very small handful of interested people there, but we held on to them. Some of my friends whom I sent there to assist said: "Brother Hanby might as well close the door because nothing is ever going to happen in Logan!" There had been reproach upon the work there. Previous ministers who had gone there had become discouraged and had left the work divided and scattered. So my friends said, "Brother Hanby might as well quit." But we believe that God makes no mistake.

His word is true

His grace is sufficient

He will help us fight the battle.

To God be all the glory – there is a substantial work there today.

We believe that the law of God will work. We know that it will work it easier in some places, every place is not the same. The Bible tells us that the people were more noble in one city than in another. Jesus told His disciples "If they will not hear you in one city shake off the dust of your feet and go on to another." But, the great number of people, the vast population we have in our cities make it certain that there will be some who are hungry for the word of God, who will believe... and receive the truth.

THE WILL OF GOD IS ALSO VITAL TO SUCCESS

It's a wonderful thing... it's an important thing... it's a rewarding thing... to know the will of God for the place you should go and for the things you should do. It will give you assurance in times of difficulty. It will help you to be patient until the reaping comes. Without it, you may be tempted to feel you have made a mistake; you have gone to the wrong place. **BUT ALWAYS REMEMBER** there is a law – a God-made law: If you do well - if you sow the seed - **YOU SHALL REAP!**

REAPING IN PROPORTION TO SOWING

"But this I say, he that soweth sparingly shall reap also...sparingly; but he that soweth bountifully shall reap also... bountifully."

Here is another guide to God's law of sowing and reaping. The harvest will be in proportion to the sowing. If you sow little – you will reap little. If you sow bountifully – you will reap abundantly.

The person who only sows seed in the backyard cannot expect to reap the same amount as he who sows 10 acres, nor with the abundance of the one who sows 1000 acres.

There is no shortage of the field,
the field is the world.

There is no shortage of the seed,
The word of God is the seed.

Let us sow... bountifully!

SEED SHOULD BE SOWN WITH TEARS

Let us turn now to Psalm 126:5, 6. Here we have instruction as to HOW the seed should be sown. There are very specific instructions. "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed shall doubtless come again with rejoicing bringing his sheaves with him." There are two SHALLS here – notice verse 5: "They that **SOW IN TEARS SHALL REAP IN JOY.**" Tears with the sowing – joy with the reaping. There will be a reward for sowing in tears. I have often said that the Word of God, which is the SEED of the Kingdom, grows better when watered with tears – TEARS OF COMPASSION. And so we need such a burden for lost souls that it will cause the tears of compassion to flow freely. You will notice that the subject of this verse is THEY and THEY means anyone who will – no one is excluded from reaping in joy. Then you will notice that the seed is called PRECIOUS SEED. The word precious means: of great price or value, costly – highly esteemed. Notice some of the things with which it is associated in the Bible:

precious gold

precious ointment

precious as rubies

precious cornerstone

precious faith

precious blood of Christ

What a privilege to have the PRECIOUS SEED sown in a human heart. What a privilege to sow the PRECIOUS SEED! Then the unfailing promise to the weeping sower, "SHALL DOUBTLESS" - without question he shall reap a harvest - "come again, bringing his sheaves with him."

The sheaves [the souls] you win will be personalized. I do not understand exactly how, but there is something about the sheaves that the Lord bless you win – they will be credited to your account.

You shall return bringing YOUR SHEAVES with you - "HIS SHEAVES with him."

When the trumpet of God sounds, and we rise to meet the Lord in the air, and after a while we look around to see who is there, I think the greatest joy that we can have, Brethren, will be to find sheaves that have been checked to our credit. To realize that someone is there because of you, will be the greatest joy you could ever know. "Let him know," we read in the book of James, "that he that converteth a sinner from the error of his ways shall save a soul from death and shall hide a multitude of sins." It is in your power and mine to convert or change a sinner and cause him to turn to God soul that he might be saved. It's in our power by the grace of God. So may God help us to be sincere and earnest about it so that we shall rescue the perishing. The promise is sure – the reward is certain. PRAISE THE LORD!