

**Galatians 6:7-10 (ESV)** <sup>7</sup> *Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. <sup>10</sup> So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.*

**Galatians 6:7-10 (TLB)** <sup>7</sup> *Don't be misled; remember that you can't ignore God and get away with it: a man will always reap just the kind of crop he sows! <sup>8</sup> If he sows to please his own wrong desires, he will be planting seeds of evil and he will surely reap a harvest of spiritual decay and death; but if he plants the good things of the Spirit, he will reap the everlasting life that the Holy Spirit gives him. <sup>9</sup> And let us not get tired of doing what is right, for after a while we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't get discouraged and give up. <sup>10</sup> That's why whenever we can we should always be kind to everyone, and especially to our Christian brothers and sisters.*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ. Amen.

<sup>7</sup> *Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap (ESV)* <sup>7</sup> *Don't be misled; remember that you can't ignore God and get away with it: a man will always reap just the kind of crop he sows (TLB)!*

God's word predicts what life on this planet will be like right before Jesus comes again.

**Matthew 24:37-39 (NLT2)** <sup>37</sup> *"When the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah's day.*

<sup>38</sup> *In those days before the flood, the people were enjoying banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat. <sup>39</sup> People didn't realize what was going to happen until the flood came and swept them all away. That is the way it will be when the Son of Man comes.*

When a person gives no thought of God or maybe just a little thought of God in one's life there is a terrible price to pay. At the time of Noah, everyone on earth was busy doing their own thing with no thought of God. All of their time and effort was put into pleasing themselves, living only for themselves and by doing so neglecting God to the max. The Bible says, you cannot ignore God and get away with it. The Bible says God will not be mocked. Mocking God by ignoring God and God's ways resulted in a terrible flood that swept all the people away except the one family who put God first, Noah and his family. The truth be told, the people had plenty of warning. Noah preached for 120 years telling the people about God and whatever God had him

say. When you live in rebellion against God, you close your own ears to the truth and become deaf to exactly what you need to hear and receive from God.

As I was writing this sermon, I became aware of an area in my own life where I have been deaf, not hearing what God has been saying for quite some time. I called a Christian friend and confessed my deafness to God's truth, God's instruction. It was my first step of repentance in that particular area.

Jesus spoke these words and these words send a shiver or shivers down my spine. **Luke 18:-8b (NASB)** However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"

Friends, what you know about God determines your quality of life and giving your life to God determines where you will spend eternity. We are put on this earth to live for God. We are put on this earth to love God and put God first in our lives. One person has said, "Put God first in your life and everything else in your life will fall into its rightful place." We cannot ignore God; we cannot mock God and get away with it.

Friday of this week I received a phone call from a person who is in complete despair. The tears were flowing, and I kept my mouth shut and let the person pour out her intense sadness. This person lives in a southern state and for whatever reason felt free to call me. After listening I told her that she needs to get a Christian counselor that is local and that she can meet weekly with. More than ever, she needs to acknowledge God in every area of her life including the losses she has experienced. I told her that God has purpose for her, and her life is here to live for God's purposes. "God has everything that you need." "God has not given up on you." "You have everything to live for." I said a few more things and yes, we prayed.

We live in a time where we all need God more than ever. This is no time to turn a deaf ear and be deceived by Satan's lies. God's way is always the right way. Turning away from God is never worth it. We cannot let our own emotions drag us into a bottomless pit. "You are loved with an everlasting love." Underneath are the everlasting Arms." God is right there to hold you

up, fill you up, and give to you what your soul is most hungry for, God Himself. Our foundation is Jesus and Jesus is solid ground. He is our Rock. He is our Fortress. He is our deliverer. "On Christ the solid rock we stand, all other ground is sinking sand."

*<sup>8</sup> 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 (ESV). <sup>8</sup> If he sows to please his own wrong desires, he will be planting seeds of evil and he will surely reap a harvest of spiritual decay and death; but if he plants the good things of the Spirit, he will reap the everlasting life that the Holy Spirit gives him (NLT).*

In early May I headed out to the farm to help plant what needed to be planted. I was thrilled to be there. The bad news was the weather did not cooperate and there was little for me to do. I was able to plant a field of barley for my nephews. When you plant seeds of barely, barely actually grows where you plant the seeds. Where you do not plant seeds of barley useless weeds grow up that are noxious, toxic, harmful, and serve no good purpose at all.

Sowing seeds is planting seeds. Reaping a crop is harvesting the crop that you grow. Yes, in real life we reap what we sow. We can plant seeds that are of God, God's seeds so to speak, and reap an abundant harvest of good. Or we can choose to plant seeds of sin, plant seeds that feed our old sinful nature that opposes God and reap a harvest of destruction.

We are born again, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, to plant God's seeds. Let me list some of the seeds of the Spirit, seeds provided by God for us to plant. In Galatians 5 we read - **Galatians 5:22-23 (NASB)** <sup>22</sup>*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,* <sup>23</sup>*gentleness, self-control.* The fruit of the Spirit are all traits found completely in Jesus and they are traits that the Holy Spirit produces in our lives as we give to God His rightful place in our lives. The other day I was in huge hurry driving through a parking lot. I saw a pedestrian wanting to walk across the path that I was driving. So, I put the pedal to the medal and drove so fast she had no choice but to stop and not get run over by a

pastor who is in a terrible hurry. Did I tell you she was holding the hands of her two children. Stop. I just told a lie. When I saw the mother and her two children I slammed on my brakes, rolled down my window, and told her to take her time and told her she was a good mother for taking such good care of her children. Now I am a person with little or no patience. I must confess that what I did came automatically without any thought at all. It was an immediate response. One of the fruit of the Spirit is kindness. When I stopped, I planted a seed of God's kindness and the look on her face was one of much appreciation. Christian acts of kindness go a long way these days, especially as people are only thinking of themselves and sowing seeds to their fleshly sinful nature. I did not preach a sermon or pray with the family but did a simple act of kindness. We are created in Christ Jesus to do good works. By displaying the Fruit of the Spirit, we are planting seeds that will reap a harvest of God's choosing.

When we were in Alamosa on the mission trip, I walked into an IHOP to order food for our covid people. On my right was a table with a Mom, a Dad, and five young children. Five children, that's a lot of kids for one family. I had a choice. Do I just stick to myself or do I put one of my spiritual gifts to use and plant some seeds for God. Without thinking, without pondering, I found myself walking right up to the table and asked them if I could pray for the entire family. They said yes, immediately. God planted some of His seeds on that family when I put to use a spiritual gift God has given to me to use and not just sit on it and be selfish and keep that gift to myself. A person with the spiritual gift of giving may have paid for the family's meal. Those with the gift of giving have abundant resources to do so. A person with the gift of helps or service may have waited for the family to leave and held the door open for them so they could all leave together with all of their stuff. A person with the gift of encouragement may have commented to the family how well behaved the children are. All are ways of planting seeds from God for good growth to take place. A Christian sees the need and puts his or her God-given spiritual gifts to use to meet the need.

*<sup>9</sup> And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up (ESV). <sup>9</sup> And let us not get tired of doing what is right, for after a while we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't get discouraged and give up (NLT).* In this church we are promoting big time putting to use the spiritual gifts that God has given to you. And when we do the harvest is plentiful and good. If we do not plant seeds, all that grows is worthless weeds and there is nothing good to harvest.

If you have not taken the spiritual gift test, please do. God has given you those gifts to put to use. One day you will be held accountable to God for how you put those gifts, those talents to use. Sowing God's seeds is what life is all about. And it is God's Presence within us that motivates us to sow seeds of the spirit and to quit sowing seeds from our sinful natures.

I was recently sick with covid, and it knocked me down and out for several days. All I could do was sleep. My wife exercised an extreme amount of love, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, and more during my sickness. I was secluded to one room. Having a granddaughter changes everything and it is more important than ever for Janet to stay healthy and not let me get her sick. So, what did Janet do? She brought all of my meals to the closed door, even getting up earlier than normal to go to Dunkin Donuts for me and bring me back my breakfast before she headed off to work. I was completely spoiled. The love of Christ, the patience of Christ, the kindness of Christ, the goodness of Christ was on full display as well as the gift of hospitality.

Friends, we are put on this earth to know God, to love God, to live for God every single day as long as we have breath. By planting seeds of the Spirit, God has something to work with that helps people to see God. And those who do this the most will be rewarded in heaven abundantly. Yes, God's seeds include giving out the Gospel message. Sowing seeds of the Spirit includes more than just words, but good works produced in and through us by God's Holy Spirit. God has much planting for all of us to do. Amen and Amen.