

THE SOUTHEAST SOWER

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GOD IS NOT MOCKED

Vernon Teagarden

In the physical world God has set forth an universal law of sowing and reaping. If one sows an apple seed, for example, it will produce an apple tree. There are no exceptions to this law. In like manner, the same is true in the spiritual world. God has set forth an universal law of sowing and reaping. Paul said it this way in Galatians 5:7, 8— “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to the flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.” As in the physical realm, so it is in the spiritual realm, there are no exceptions to the law of sowing and reaping.

Paul said, “be not deceived” about this. If we should think we can sow one thing and reap another we would be thinking we had the power to mock God, regarding His law of sowing and reaping. The word “mock” means “to turn up the nose in scorn; hence to mock, or deride, or insult” (Barnes). It is an attempt to defy God by trying to override His plans and arrangements. In essence, walking contrary to His will, thinking we will get away with it!

Men do many things by means of their perseverance and determination; and they are apt to think they can do anything they chose, never taking into consideration— is God pleased? Men, even some Christians, think that they can go on trampling underfoot God’s law for as long as they choose and still come out well. Paul knew men are prone to deceive themselves into such thinking therefore verse 7.

On the heels of verse 7 we have verse 8, and having made this statement, a broad universal statement, growing out of the same great fact, we have God’s fixed, unalterable law! The man who thinks otherwise is deceived and imagines that he can mock God! But, what is meant by “he that sows to the flesh” and “he that sows to the Spirit?”

What does a man do when he is literally sowing seed? Of course Paul had in mind the kind of sowing done

in his day, known as “broadcasting.” A man puts his had into a bag of seed and scatters the seed to the right, to the left, and in front of him. As he moves on he keeps scattering the seed at every step, leaving behind him a broad path of scattered seed. This aptly describes our lives. Every word that drops from our mouths, falls around about us, makes an impression and is left behind. Likewise, every deed, every act of our lives is that seed that we are scattering along our pathway from the cradle to the grave.

“Sowing to the flesh” means more than just the giving of money, time and energy to the mere feeding and clothing of the physical man. “Flesh” is used in a figurative sense as often the case in Scripture, and it represents the baser part of our nature, i.e., our passions and appetites. To sow to the flesh means to devote our time, energies, words, money, etc., that we are scattering along our path, to the gratification of earthly and sensual desires. In short, it’s to live a life of sin. There is a reaping coming for the one who does so— “CORRUPTION!”

“Corruption” - is probably the most hideous thing on earth to a human being—the body of a man when it has gone to corruption is not a pleasant thing to think about. Here Paul uses the word in a figurative sense and applies it to the condition of the soul of a man that (lives a life of sin) or “sows to the flesh.”

If the body of a man that has gone to corruption is a thing to be abhorred, what must be a putrefied, corrupted soul? He that sows to the flesh reaps as his

Southeast Church of Christ

35 Walnut Ct

Mogadore, OH

330-628-7432

Service Times:

Sunday: 10 am, 10:50am; 6:00pm

Wednesday: 7:30 pm

harvest a corrupted soul! Headed for destruction! But why don't men believe this when it is in God's word??

Because they have "deceived" themselves into thinking that they can "mock" God! We think we can go on all the days of our lives sowing to the flesh and in the end escape eternal corruption. The harden sinner thinks about these things momentarily and perhaps even asks, "what will become of me?" He says in his heart, "Well, I have been in many a tight circumstance before, and I have gotten through—I may get into a tight place yet with God, but I think there is some way for me to get through. I am going to trust my chances!" And so he goes on! He thinks because he has gotten around men, he can do the same with God and escape God's wrath! However, Pau says, "be not deceived" - you can't do it, God will not be mocked! (cf. Heb. 10:31) You sow to the flesh and think that is some way you shall escape eternal destruction you are deceiving yourself!

However, it does not have to be this way for you. Thankfully, God has made provisions through the gospel whereby a man who has been sowing to the flesh may escape reaping corruption. His plan is simple. Hear the gospel, believe it, embrace it in obedience, stop doing the wrong, start doing those good works as defined by it. Start sowing to the Spirit, turn about, and begin devoting your time, money, energies, your all to the cultivation of your spiritual nature, so that eternal life may be the harvest you shall reap. Follow after the things of the Spirit of God through the word He has revealed, do the Father's will, obey His Son and eternal life, not eternal destruction can be yours!

TAKE HEED LEST YOU FALL

Vernon Teagarden

This is exactly what Paul told the Corinthians in 1 Corinthians 10:12). One of the tenants of Calvinism is the idea of "perseverance of the saints" or "once saved always saved." This means, according to them, that the child of God cannot live in such a way as to be eternally lost. But such is simply not taught in the Scriptures. Paul's statement found in the above passage would make absolutely no sense if it were not possible for the Christian to fall. And further, one cannot fall from where one has never been. The Bible teaches...

1. A child of God can fall
2. Our text (1 Cor. 10:12)
3. It was possible for Paul to be rejected (1 Cor. 9:27)
4. A child of God can lose their faith (quit believing) (Hebb. 3:12)
5. Christian can fall from grace (Gal. 5:4)
6. A branch (Christian) can be severed from the vine (Jn. 15:2-6)
7. A servant of the Lord can be lost (Matt. 26:14-30)
8. Can be "spewed" out of the Lord or fellowship with Him lost (Rev. 3:16)

It is possible for the Christian to so live as to be eternally lost. The way to ensure that this does not happen is to: watch (be on guard, make sufficient preparation, etc.) (Matt. 26:41). Resist the devil (Jas. 4:7). Pray (Jas. 4:8). Follow the example of Jesus in overcoming temptation (Matt. 4:11; Rom. 10:17; 2 Tim. 2:15). Add certain things to our faith (2 Pet. 1:5-10).

Without delving too deeply into the subject, I think it is obvious to us that the child of God can fall from grace. However, it is equally obvious that this can be avoided!