

COMMENTARY

October 2024

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We Harvest What We Plant

Greeting! It is a Great Time to be a follower of Jesus Christ!

For a moment, allow yourself to think of all the problems going on in the world right now and especially in our own Country, in our State. There is evil and sin around us, becoming more obvious and more entrenched. Scary!

Then think about how scary those things would be without Jesus!

That is why I greeted you today in that way, this is indeed a Great Time to be following Jesus.

If we aren't filling ourselves with God's Word, then we will be defeated before we even leave the house. That is something we have focused on coming out of the summer: reading God's word daily and often. At Harvest, these next four months are the busiest season of the year. People come out of the summer and are looking to get back into small groups. Filling ourselves with His heart is what gives power to Holy Spirit in our lives. If you are local we would love to invite you to join in with us as you can - check our website HCMVT.com for times and dates.

In my letters to you each month, I will often share a thought and then look to Scripture for answers. This month however I would like to share with you a large portion of Scripture. It hit my spirit so hard that I must share it

with you and allow it to speak for itself. We Harvest What We Plant.

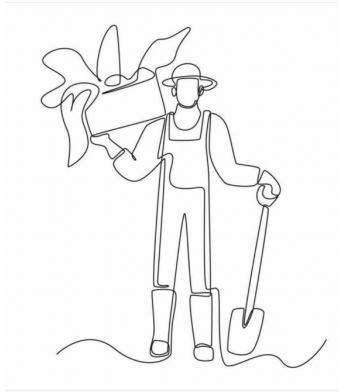
The Apostle Paul writes to those in Galatia who were divided over some leaders who were requiring religious observance, missing the heart of the Gospel that Jesus taught.

1 Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. 2 Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ. 3 If you think you are too important to help someone, you are only fooling yourself. You are not that important.

4 Pay careful attention to your own work, for then you will get the satisfaction of a job well done, and you won't need to compare yourself to anyone else. 5 For we are each responsible for our own conduct.

6 Those who are taught the word of God should provide for their teachers, sharing all good things with them.

7 Don't be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant. 8 Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the



Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Paul

The standing fields [ready to harvest] were the legions who hadn't filled their God-vacuum with the One who was born to fill it;

the standing fields were those who waited for someone to reach out and speak the truth, and tell them how they might be saved.

Jan Karon

When we postpone the harvest, the fruit rots, but when we postpone our problems, they keep on growing.

Paulo Coelho

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.

Galatians 6:7-8

Nature herself does not distinguish between what seed it receives. It grows whatever seed is planted; this is the way life works. Be mindful of the seeds you plant today, as they will become the crop you harvest.

Mary Morrissey

You will always harvest what you plant.

Spirit. 9 So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessings if we don't give up. 10 Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith. Galatians 6:1-10 (NLT)

Reading through the first three verses reminds me what our role as a church body member looks like - "If another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path."

Gently and humbly, what does that look like? Jesus gives us so many examples through His own ministry of what compassion looks like. Our goal is to have the eyes and heart of Jesus in how we interact with each other, looking to restore each other rather than tear down.

Think of where you go to church: is there someone there that God wants you to repair a relationship with? In Matthew 7:5 Jesus tells us to concern ourselves with the log in our own eye rather than the speck in our neighbor's.

Looking at the rest of this Scripture in Galatians, we can see the heart of it as, "We will harvest what we plant."

As a Pastor I have an inside look at many people's lives. They share with me what they won't even share with a spouse, and what I see is that everyone I know (and I mean everyone) falls short of the Glory of God. Not one of us has it right all the time. If we all fall short (which we do), then we must all endeavor to be walking in the same grace and mercy we expect each morning from God Himself.

The everlasting life found in Scripture talks about when we live to

please the Holy Spirit. This isn't only for somewhere beyond this now-time and this earth that Paul is talking about. He's talking about how that Everlasting life can be had each day, now, when living in the Spirit.

Paul is telling us, "Don't get tired of doing good for each other." He is specifically talking about how the people in the Church interact with one another. How can we serve God in what He's called us to, if we are having our own things going on? Simply, we can't. In WW II, can you imagine what would have happened if the Allies weren't "allied" but were divided and were refusing to help each other fight off the Nazis? We'd all be speaking German today.

God is calling us to remove the barriers of unity in houses of worship and the unity of houses of worship within our towns. God will hold us accountable for the things He's given us to do that we ignore. Love needs to be our focus: we get to know this love by spending time in the Word, submitting our lives over to Him, and praising Jesus every time we have the opportunity.

Thank you for reading my heart today,

Aaron

Knowledge
is the harvest of
attention
Charles Olson

And the seed whose fruit is
righteousness is sown in peace
by those who make peace.

James 3:18

The harvest of the Lord's field is seldom
ripened by sunshine only.
It must go through its days
of wind, rain and storm.

J. C. Ryle

I will waste not even a precious second
today in anger or hate
or jealousy or selfishness.
I know that the seeds I sow
I will harvest,
because every action, good or bad,
is always followed by an equal reaction.
I will plant only good seeds this day.

Og Mandino

For they sow the wind
And they reap the whirlwind.

Hosea 8:7

If you're not on the right path,
get off it.

Chris Brogan

Do not merely listen to the Word, and
so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

James 1:22

The law of the harvest is inexorable
(impossible to stop or prevent).
As we sow, so shall we reap.

Hugh B. Brown

For God so loved the world that He
gave His one and only Son, that
whoever believes in Him shall not perish
but have eternal life.

For God did not send His Son
into the world to condemn the world,
but to save the world through Him.

Jesus