

## Harvest One Sows Another Reaps

Reading: [1 Corinthians 3:5-8](#)

### Introduction

- Two weeks ago: You reap what you sow refers to basic principles
- Last week, sometimes famines happen
- Jesus made another statement about harvest we need to know.

[John 4:34-38](#) Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! And **he who reaps receives wages**, and gathers fruit for eternal life, **that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together**. For in this the saying is true: **'One sows and another reaps.'** I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors."

- God set His plan in motion before the world began
- Jesus came to be the fulfillment of that plan: Paul said this...

[Galatians 4:4-5](#) But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

- Jesus came to reap what God had sown.
- Jesus came to complete what God had started

### 1. One Sows Another Reaps

- Jesus said it was true and illustrated it twice
  - God started a work and He came to finish it [John 4:34](#)
  - The disciples were being sent to finish the work that Jesus started

[John 4:38](#) **I sent you** to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors."

- Like Jesus was sent to finish God's, His disciples were sent to finish His
  - God sowed the promise; Jesus reaped the church
  - The Apostles sowed the gospel; we will reap heaven

[Matthew 28:18-20](#) And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age." Amen.

- businesses sow products and shareholders reap dividends
- Teachers sow training and students reap productive lives
- Christians sow the word and the world reaps salvation

### 2. The Sower And The Reaper Rejoice

[1 Thessalonians 2:19](#) For what *is* our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? *Is it* not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?

- Some of us understand what it means to build a family
  - We get married, hopefully, we have kids
  - We live through joys and sorrows, but hopefully more joys
  - Then hopefully comes grandkids. The Wise man wrote:

[Proverbs 17:6](#) Children's children *are* the crown of old men, And the glory of children *is* their father.

- The same thing applies to Christianity. Do we have kids and grands?

[2 Timothy 2:2](#) And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

- Don't you know Paul was proud of Timothy, his son in the faith
  - The Thessalonians were his children in the faith, his joy and crown
  - We are the spiritual parents of those we bring to Christ
  - We are thankful for all who have a part in it
  - Those who so the seed, those who reap the harvest.
  - I was honored to baptize 3 young men over the past month or two
  - I have no idea who was involved in making that happen
- It is true that the sower and the reaper rejoice together.

### 3. God is the Power of the Sower and the Reaper

- I must confess, I have had proud moments and arrogant moments
  - I thought I was really something in the past. I was leading Bible studies. And people obeyed the gospel! I was on fire.
  - Then humility came. I had a couple of studies that didn't work out the way that I thought they should. I was shocked. I was depressed
- Listen to Paul:

[1 Cor. 3:5-7](#) Who then is Paul, and who *is* Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? I planted, Apollos watered, but **God** gave the increase. So then **neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God** who gives the increase.

- Nothing wrong with keeping track of restorations and baptisms, but...
- Don't forget who's word it is, who's power it is, who's gift is given
- Both the sower and the reaper are blessed, but **God** is the blesser.
- The harvest is the blessing. Thank God He makes it happen

### Conclusion:

- Our objective is to sow seed.
- We hope that people who hear the word will respond to it
- We know that God doesn't want anyone to be lost
- We also know that it is each individual's choice to respond to it.
- We will rejoice if they do.