

Law of the Harvest

patience

Who?

When?

What?



Key Verses

Gal 6:7,8 – 7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. **A man reaps what he sows.**
8 Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. (NIV)

2 Cor 5:10 – For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. (NIV)

Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. (NIV)

Rev 22:12 “Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. (NIV)

Context

- (John 9:1,2) – *As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” 3 “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.” (NIV)*

Context

- (Luke 13:1-5) – Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices.
2 Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? 3 I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. 4 Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? 5 I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.” (NIV)

Context

- (Job 2:3) There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him **to ruin him without any reason.”** (NIV)

Misconceptions of The Law of the Harvest

Now, generally, Mankind believes similarly to the disciples in John 9, the crowd in Luke 13, and Job and his friends. Generally stated as : *you get in this life what you deserve*; that there is a direct correlation between your intelligence, behavior, industry, skill and your degree of success and or failure. That you reap what you sow in the temporal. This is a lie.

Misconceptions of The Law of the Harvest

Similarly, believers typically expect that the godly will inherit the earth, meaning if I live by GOD's law I will have a successful life. You will be rewarded in this life for doing good. That temporal success and failure is directly related to how you live.

The Law Stated

- Gal 6:7,8 – 7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. **A man reaps what he sows.** 8 Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. (NIV)

Conclusion: Every man reaps what he sows. GOD will hold each man accountable for what he has done in this life. The accounting takes place post death. GOD will recompense each man on the day of Judgement.

Case Study #1 - Man blind from birth

John 9:2 - His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

- What did the blind man **Sow**?
 - Nothing; He nor his parents were guilty of causing his blindness (John 9:3)
- What did the Disciples and Jews **believe as true**?
 - **The sins of the parents or the son is the cause for this man being born blind? (John 9:2)**
- What does GOD say?
 - *3 "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. (Jn 9:3 NIV)*
 - GOD made this man blind from birth because Jesus would display GOD's power through restoring his sight.
 - Jesus corrects the incorrect thinking of the Law of the Harvest.

Case Study #2 – 18 who died

Luke 13:4 - Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? 5 I tell you, no!

- What did the 18 who died **Sow**?
 - Nothing different from those who didn't die(Luke 13:5)
- What did the crowds **believe as true**?
 - These people who died were more guilty and deserved to die.(Luke 13:4)
- What does GOD say?
 - *(Luke 13:4-5) – Now, ...4 Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? 5 I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.” (NIV)*
 - GOD says that these men were no more guilty.
 - “The Law of the Harvest” applied in temporal is misapplied.
 - Tragedy is no indicator of negative sowing

Case Study #3 - Life of Job

Job 4:8 - As I have observed, those who plow evil and those who sow trouble reap it.

- What did Job **sow**? (Job 1:1-11)
 - Blameless, upright, fears GOD, shuns evil
- What did Job & his friends **believe as true**? (Job 1:5; Job 4:7,8)
 - **GOD will ensure that mankind reaps temporally what he sows temporally.**
- What does GOD say? (Job 1:13-20;2:7)
 - 2:3 Then the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a pure and upright man, one who fears God and turns away from evil. And he still holds firmly to his integrity, so that you stirred me up to **destroy him without reason.**” Job 2:3.
 - Job experiences disaster for nothing he sowed. God destroys Job
 - Job’s life is destroyed not for any cause that we can fault Job.
 - GOD destroys Job’s life for HIS own counsel and reason

Who?

Man sows and man reaps. Mankind cannot escape this law. The law of the Harvest applies to both the believer and the nonbeliever. (Rev 22:12).

When ?

Everyone sows, it's not optional, the clock starts ticking at birth. While an individual may experience this law's effect in the temporal, experiencing this law will take place in eternity. Reaping is in the eternal, GOD will ensure this. (2Cor 5:10)

What?

You sow based on your deeds, good or evil. You reap what you sowed. Everyone will stand before GOD and will be evaluated according to what he has done with the opportunities GOD has provided. There are eternal consequences for temporal behavior. (Jer 32:19).

My Thoughts & Questions

Does the Law of the Harvest address what the believer should expect in this life? (i.e. Why does GOD treat his friends like his enemies and his enemies like his friends?)

(2Tim 3:12; Heb 12:3)

My Thoughts & Questions

Does the Law of the Harvest say anything about what success looks like?
(Matt 5:10,11; 1Cor 3:14; Luke 9:23-26)

My Thoughts & Questions

Does this law have anything to say about my work, career, time, wealth, possessions and talents?

(Gal 6:9,10; 2 Tim 3:10-12; Luke 16:9)

Observations for Mankind

Mankind's temporal circumstances are generally:

- not based on how godly or how wicked you are, were, or will be. (John 9:3; Job 1,2; Is 45:4,5)
- no indication of whether GOD approves of you. (Is 45:1-12; John 9:3; 1Cor 1:26-30)
- independent of his spiritual health. (John 9:3; Job 1,2; 2Cor 12:7-10)

In general, every man sows and every man produces, GOD will test your produce, whether it is good or bad. (2Cor 5:10; Rev 20:12)

Observations for Believers

Typically, believers think that those who are :

- Spiritually mature are temporally prosperous/blessed by GOD; (James 2:2,5-7)
- In prominent positions (e.g. Lawyers, Doctors, Politicians, Judges, Businessmen, Leaders) are reaping what they sowed.
- Fired from a job deserved it; they are reaping what they sowed.
- Temporally successful are the godly speakers at conferences.

This thinking is counter what GOD's word teaches.

Observations on Career

- Businessmen incorrectly think there is a direct correlation between your industry and your standard of living / success in your career (business, position, income, etc.) (Ex 9:16; Is 45:1-12; Deut 8:17,18)
- Christian Businessmen incorrectly think that GOD will bless temporally those who give to GOD (1 Cor 4:7; Luke 17:10)
- If you find your motivation for business in temporal results, you will jettison the eternal for the temporal and suffer eternal loss (1Cor 3:5-15; 2Cor 4:18)
- If you believe that the Law of the Harvest applies in the temporal you will compromise Jesus' demand for HIS followers to carry their cross daily and lose their life for Him. (Luke 9:23-26)

Corollaries to the “Law of the Harvest”

- Corollary : Time is Linear : there are no "do overs" in this life.
 - (Luke 9:23-26) Every minute of every day, You get one, and only one, shot at taking up the cross GOD gives you. Do not waste the time GOD gives you on this earth.
 - (Heb 9:27) You get one life, death triggers GOD’s judgement;
- Corollary : Man cannot obligate GOD :
 - (Rom 11:35,36) You cannot leverage or coerce GOD
 - (Luke 9:23;17:10) You must serve Jesus on HIS terms not yours
 - (John 15:5) You can do nothing apart from Jesus
- Corollary : There is no guarantee of justice in this life : GOD’s justice is guaranteed.
 - (Luke 16:19-31) Parable of Lazarus and the Rich man
 - (Luke 18:8; Rev 20:10-15) GOD is just, but do not expect his justice this side of the grave

Corollaries to the “Law of the Harvest” (cont’d)

- Corollary : temporal wealth is to be used to sow for eternal wealth :
 - (Luke 12:20,21) don’t waste your possessions and wealth on yourself
 - (Luke 16:8,9) GOD expects you to use your wealth to win eternal friends.
- Corollary: There is no correlation between temporal success and eternal reward :
 - (Luke 12:20,21) how you steward the opportunities GOD brings into your life is directly related to your eternal reward.
 - (Rom 9:17; Is 45:1-5) GOD can put you in a position of power and affluence and send your soul to hell.
- Corollary: God determines the opportunities you have to sow:
 - (Eph 5:15,16; Col 4:5,6) Make the most of the opportunities GOD brings
 - (Is 45:5-12; Is 46:9-11) – GOD is sovereign, be alert to the opportunities GOD presents in your life.

Sowing Wisely

(How to Abide in Him – John 15:5)

- *Sow GOD's word into your mind and heart* : Investing in GOD's word ensures that you sow properly.
 - (2Tim 3:16,17) Investing time in God's word is the way to sow in the eternal.
 - (Heb 4:12) God's word is the ultimate tool to examine your life.
- *Sow into Men, mankind is eternal* : eternity is spent in either heaven with GOD or hell.
 - (Rev 20:6,15; 21:8) Heaven is eternity experiencing life, and peace. Hell is the second death, never ending torment.
 - (Luke 16:9) Invest the temporal money and possessions to gain friends who will welcome you in heaven.
- *Sow obedience, it's rewarded in eternity* : Invest in obedience to GOD
 - (Gal 6:9,10) Invest in steadfast obedience, you will reap
 - (1Cor 15:58) Be steadfast and unmovable in your commitment to Jesus.
- *Disinvest in anything that hinders obeying GOD* : avoid catastrophic loss
 - (Heb 12:1,2) Lay aside anything the hinders; sin hinders
 - (1Cor 3:12-15) Every believer's work will be evaluated by GOD; only those things that survive the fire will be rewarded in eternity; you will suffer eternal loss for everything burned up. Make every effort to minimize the loss column.

You will reap
what you sow

Law Of The Harvest - Key Scripture References

Reference	Tag	Reference	Tab
John 9:1,2	Blind from birth	Gal 6:7,8	The Law
Luke 13:1,2	Cause and effect	1Cor 3:12-15	Believers judged
Is 45:1-12	GOD elevates	Ps 73	wicked prosper
Job 2:3	Righteous temporally suffer	Rev 20:12	reap in eternity
Rom 12:19	GOD will judge	2 Cor 12:7-10	Paul's thorn
2Tim 3:11,12	Godly will be persecuted	Heb 11:35-39	Faithful suffer
Heb 12:3; 6-8	Promised in eternity	Rev 6:9-11	Patience for justice
Rev 7:9-17	Wrath poured out on believers	1Cor 1:26-30	Not many wise
John 15:16	Appointed to bear lasting fruit	Heb 10:32-36	godly suffer
Job 1:5	Preventing reaping bad	Job 4:7,8	Not understanding reaping what you sow
James 2:2,5-7	Not many are wise, influential, or noble	2 Cor 4:18	Seen vs Unseen
Gal 6:9,10	Do good; you will reap in due season	2Cor 11:23-29	Paul's life is an example of living as a slave of Christ
Ps 127:1	Unless the Lord builds.....Dependence on GOD	John 15:5	Without me ye can do nothing
Luke 17:10	Obedience does not obligate GOD	Rom 11:35,36	You cannot leverage or coerce GOD
1Sam 16:7	Man looks on the outward appearance, the Lord looks on the heart	Heb 4:12; Jer 17:9;	Thoughts and intents of the heart
Matt 5:11,12	Great reward in Heaven	Rev 22:12	Give to each person according to what they have done
2Cor 5:10	All must appear before the judgment seat of Christ	Rev 14:13	Deeds follow you;

