

Empire Church of the Brethren

Sunday Service Sermons

10 September 2023

Harvest time

Text: "Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap." *Gal. 6:7*

You know I believe this; do you?

I thought thinking about harvest time was appropriate since it is harvest time in the valley.

And I am busy with my harvest.

And we are harvesting as a church today.

Seth has become a member of this church and a member of this family of God.

May he sow good things for the kingdom of God and reap a bountiful harvest.

Every person, whether a farmer or not, will reap a harvest in the future.

Paul thought in terms of planting and harvesting in his ministry.

We plant in the realm of our fleshly nature and in the realm of our spiritual nature.

You can find this in *Galatians 6*.

Paul pictured life as an opportunity of reaping a harvest.

We will reap a harvest in the realm of the Spirit if we have been sowing to the Spirit.

Paul is warning believers of life lived only in the dimension of their fleshly nature.

We must never neglect the Spirit for it reaps the most bountiful harvest.

We harvest exactly what we plant.

This is both a law of nature and a law of God.

When you sow wheat, you do not reap oats.

When you plant cotton, you do not reap turnips.

When you plant beans, you do not reap popcorn.

When you plant potatoes, you do not reap pumpkins.

If you have neglected or rejected Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, you are sowing in the realm of your flesh.

If you have received Jesus Christ as Savior, it is still possible that you are neglecting to sow in the Spirit as you could and should.

We reap the harvest where we plant.

If your life is spent sowing to your fleshly nature, you will reap a harvest only in the realm of the flesh.

If you recognize and respond to the spiritual, you can reap a harvest in the realm of the Spirit.

We are made in the image and likeness of God and have the potential for fellowship with him.

We can be in partnership with God.

To the degree that you cultivate this part of your life, you will reap a harvest in the realm of the Spirit.

We harvest more than we plant.

It is interesting to see how many tomatoes grow on a single tomato vine that was produced by a single tomato seed.

It is interesting to see how many grains of wheat are produced by a single grain of wheat.

It is interesting to see how many kernels of corn are on an ear of corn produced by a single kernel of corn.

In the realm of the flesh, you reap more than you sow.

And in the realm of the Spirit, you reap more than you sow.

If you want to reap an abundant harvest, then plant many seeds in the realm of the Spirit.

We harvest later than we plant.

No farmer expects to reap a harvest the same day he plants the seed.
Some seeds produce a crop in a matter of a few weeks.
Other seeds produce a crop that takes months to mature.
We will reap the harvest of the flesh as well as the Spirit during our lifetime.
Many of the fruits come to us here and now.
We can also reap the harvest of the Spirit in the life beyond.
What we are and do lives on and bears fruit after our lips have become silent and our hands have been stilled by death.
God rewards his children for the total impact of their lives; and consequently, it is possible to sow seeds that will produce fruits after our earthly life is over.
Harvest time is coming.
What will the harvest be?
Are you sowing only to your flesh?
If so, you need to turn from the life of no faith and the life of selfishness that leads to destruction.
You need to come to God through faith in Jesus Christ and begin to live as God meant for you to live.
If you have already received Jesus Christ as Savior, you would be wise to cooperate fully with God's Holy Spirit as he seeks to work within you.
A harvest day is coming, and the harvest will be determined by the sowing that is being done in the present.
When we truly become one with God.
When we yield to his control of your lives.
When we turn over the controls to him.
When we truly become his children so he can become our God.
Then we reap the harvest of being his person.
He is then free to shape us into the person he created us to be.
Then we can trust and obey for there is no other way to be happy in life, but to trust and obey.
Give to God so he can give to you!
As much as you give he gives back.
When you give him your all he gives his all and you become one with him.
Now and for evermore.
Amen!