

ACTIONS

YOU'RE GONNA REAP WHAT YOU SOW

This common expression is taken from Galatians 6:7 which says "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap." This expression is most often used in the pejorative as a warning to those engaged in a particularly egregious conduct, that they had better "change their ways" or be ready to accept the consequences of their actions. It is interesting to note, that the verses which follow also allow for the most positive application of this concept to be made; whereby "doing good" has its own rewards.

In light of the preceding news, it might be good to see what lessons we can learn about "how" to live that are presented in the Bible. Be assured there are many more than we can discuss here, but let's look at a few of my favorites.

Actions –

So one might well ask, what is God's character when it comes to doing business? Consider this passage from Luke 6:38, "...give and it will be given to you good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over will they pour into your lap. For the yardstick you use in measuring, it in turn will be measured to you." God's way is far from man's way, or at least the way's that are conjured up by names like Enron, Sony, Madoff, et al.

Actions -of man – in general

In Proverbs 20:10, it says that differing weights and differing measures are detested by the Lord. Our culture is quick to practice deception. The packaging of product is an easy example; consider the 12 ounces of ground coffee that are placed in the same size can that for years held 16 ounces / one pound! The coffee companies might say, the “extra rich flavor” makes up the difference. And who hasn’t observed the shrinking candy bar phenomenon (or is it the package that gets larger?).

Actions – God’s ways

The good news is that we know God’s character in all of this (if we indeed know Him). To be fair, I must point out that not all individuals practice their craft in a deceitful manner, but seemingly try to emulate God’s hand of providence in a small way. Perhaps the baker’s dozen is one example of this, but the practice may just be evidence of good advertising and nothing more. The point is this: we can’t always be sure of man’s motive, but we can be sure of God’s intentions, viz., to give the best and to give it all. This is what He did with His Son. In fact, I would say that most all of what God does seems purposed for our own good, not His. I can’t see in the Bible where he is concerned for Himself that much. Mark 10:45 says this about Jesus: “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

Actions – Personal accountability

One might think that I am saying “change your ways and all will be well”. Certainly, living right is crucial, but remember

there is more to be done before we start this work. We need to have settled our account with God. Essentially there is a price to pay for the wrongs we have committed.

Therefore – repent and call on the name of the Lord to be saved and redeemed. Then get to know God and what he requires so you can live in the Spirit by walking with Jesus. A good adjunct, found in Micah 6:8 tells us what is required “To act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with your God.”

From the words that I have written so far, you might think that I have this all figured out and lead a perfect life every day. I want to dispel that notion right now and solemnly inform you that there is much for every Christian to learn every day. There is also the matter of the “good fight” that we wage against the evil one, who strives to trip us up in our walk. The way for each of us is similar, yet different as we continue on in life. God also works throughout our life to bring us to perfection, starting a good work in us and bringing it to “fruiting”. Jesus told His disciples that in this world they would experience trouble, but to rejoice because He had overcome the world.

As a young man, when I was plagued by some unknown malady that the doctor couldn’t understand, my Dad told me “You are going to be surprised at what you live through before you die!” Not really the words I wanted to hear at the time, but I know now he was right.

So there are troubles in both the physical and spiritual worlds. But knowing that it is the Spirit that gives life, this area should be our first focus of our attention and effort as

shown in “Seek ye first, the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you”. For “What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?” Matthew 16:26

APPLICATION POINTS

- ❑ Put God first – seek His counsel on all things, you cannot exhaust His wisdom. Learn to love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength.
- ❑ Prayer – pray for others and for yourself, even that He would increase your own faith for it is a gift from God. Pray always, as you can, not as you can't.
- ❑ Church –first of all, find a church where Jesus is recognized as Lord and Savior and then attend regularly for it will do you good; as Jesus said “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.” Mk 2:27
- ❑ Walk the walk – Previously I spoke about the straight furrow and not looking back. We must keep our eyes and thoughts on Him at all times. Dwelling on past sin is like looking out the rear window when you drive....don't do it!

SONG

Hey, Don't Lie To Me