

Galatians 6: 7-10

**'Sowing and reaping'**

Have you ever planted seeds and forgotten to label them or stored seeds without a name on the jar?

Can you identify these seeds which Rev Judy is bringing round? What would you expect or reap if you sowed these?

A – Sunflowers

B – Pumpkins

C – French beans

D – Beetroot

In our reading from Galatians 6v7 we are told “Don't be deceived, God cannot be mocked a man reaps what he sows”

From an early age we understand the farming practice of sowing seeds and getting a harvest. We maybe sow cress seeds at nursery school or our parents encourage us to grow something that germinates easily like radishes (I've never really understood that one as not many children eat them!)

We know as Christians that we are saved by God's Grace alone, we cannot earn our place in Heaven but Paul reminds the early church and indeed us that it is not an excuse to live lazy or selfish lives.

The book of Proverbs is full of examples of sowing and reaping, some of which are more easy to identify with than others. The ones I love are:

**Proverbs 10v 10** reminds us that **'he who winks maliciously causes grief and a chattering fool comes to ruin.'** If we gossip or stir up trouble we will lose friendships and much more, people will regard us as unkind and in turn will receive unkindness back.

**Proverbs 15 v 17** **'Better a meal of vegetables where there is love than a fattened calf with hatred.'** True contentment comes from a meal shared with Love, baked beans on toast eaten with smiles is better than a meal of steak and chips served with bitterness and resentment.

Lastly, from **Proverbs 16v 31** **'Grey hair is a crown of splendour, it is attained by a righteous life.'** In the media today being old or thought of as even over 40 is dreaded, people are investing more and more money in trying to hold back the years. However if you sow **PTO**

a righteous life you will more likely be content and see your older years as a time of blessing and glory.

Paul's words and the verses in Proverbs are not threats though, they are words from a loving father, in the same way that our parents may have explained to us that we will reap what we sow, they may have advised us to work hard at school so that our working lives would be easier than theirs had been. God has created a world where a farmer sows corn and reaps corn and where we sow our actions and reap consequences. If we sow our beetroot seeds we will get beetroot, if we sow love or friendship we will receive love and friendship. St Paul wrote his epistle to the church not non-believers, he was reminding us also that we sow seeds every day not just the Sabbath, we will reap from what we sow Monday to Saturday as much or more so that what we do on a Sunday.

We are also reminded in the ten commandments that what we sow we reap. We are told we should not make ourselves an idol for God is a jealous God – punishing children for the iniquity of the parents. Honour your father and mother so that you may be long in the land the Lord has given you. These are two examples.

Sowing nothing is also not a way out either, we have a responsibility to look for places we can sow good seed, we can't just opt out and let weeds take over our plot. If we think back to the **Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25:14–30** we know that God expects us to work for the kingdom. Just burying the talents did not go down well with the master.

So let us take from the reading today and other bits of scripture we have looked at, and using the words of Friday's prayer for the day, pray: ***“Lord you have taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth, send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of Love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues.”*** Amen