**Salendine Nook Baptist Church – Church Together**

**Sunday 22nd August 2021 – We Reap What We Sow**

**Welcome**

Welcome to **Church Together.**

**No matter wherever you are, whatever you do. whoever you are, together we can grow as Church Together.**

Our flexible Sunday worship patterns blend together on - line services, home deliveries and E - mailed copies of Church Together.

Today’s service will be looking at: **Galatians 6 v. 1 - 10**

The theme for today’s service is: **We Reap What We Sow**

Today’s service that is set out in this edition of **Church Together i**s looking at **We Reap What We Sow.**

We hope that you will be able to engage with what has been produced for our **Sunday Service**

and that you would indeed **Capture A Vision Of Living A Life That Is Worthy Of Being A Christian.**

**Moment of Reflection**

We reap what we sow… every choice we make is a seed.

**Call To Worship**

**Psalm 121 v. 1 - 8 NLT**

I look to the mountains -

Does my help come from there?

My help comes from the Lord,

who made the heavens and the earth!

He will not let you stumble and fall;

the one who watches over you will not sleep.

Indeed, he who watches over Israel

never tires and never sleeps.

The Lord himself watches over you!

The Lord stands besides you as your

protective shade.

The sun will not hurt you by day,

nor the moon at night.

The Lord keeps you from all evil

and preserves your life.

The Lord keeps watch over you as you

come and go,

Both now and forever.

**Opening Prayer**

Father God, We praise You today for all that You have done in our lives. You are faithful even when we are faithless. Your love pursues us even when we are unlovable. Your forgiveness covers our sins and frees us from its penalty. We praise You for your love and faithfulness towards us. Your presence in our lives changes everything, empowering us to live each moment of every day, content in knowing You are in control. As we face today, Lord, remind us that no matter what happens, we can praise You! In Your Name we pray.

**Amen**

**Poem**

**Reaping What We Sow**

**Deborah Ann**

If everyone followed,  
the rule that is golden  
then to these words  
they would feel beholden.

If you want to be forgiven,  
you must learn to forgive  
if you want encouragement  
affirmation you must give.

If you feel hurt and wounded,  
in need of a gentle touch  
you will need to be sensitive  
when to pain, others clutch.

If need to be understood,  
you must show others grace  
if you want compassion  
mercy you need to embrace.

If you don’t like gossip,  
then watch what you say  
If you don’t want to be judged,  
then turn your cheek away.

If you’re in need of friends,  
with sympathetic ears  
yours too must be willing  
to be thoughtful to all it hears.

If you want to be treated kindly,  
you must first treat other’s so  
for, I’ve read it in the Bible . . .  
we shall reap what we sow!

**Moment of Reflection**

Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith. **Galatians 6 v. 9 - 10**

**Song Suggestion**

Come Now Is The Time To Worship

**Moment of Reflection**

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. **Galatians 6 v.9**

**Bible Reading**

**Galatians 6 v. 1 – 10 NIV**

**Doing Good to All**

**6**Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. 2Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. 3If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. 4Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, 5for each one should carry their own load. 6Nevertheless, the one who receives instruction in the word should share all good things with their instructor.

7Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 8Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. 9Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. 10Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

**Tithes, Gifts & Offerings**

No matter wherever you are, whatever you do, whoever you are, together we can grow as Church Together here at Salendine Nook.

Now that we find ourselves once again holding services in Church, we are able to give of our finances to the work of the Lord when we are in church.

If you feel that your are able to, then please keep on giving with a cheerful and grateful heart, praising God for all that he has given to you and share in the finances of the church.

**Moment of Reflection**

Dear Heavenly Father,

I know that you can’t be tricked. I know I’m sinful and often sow discord among others. I want to sow the fruits of the spirit. I want to reap righteousness and become closer to you. Help me to not be deceived, but to have wisdom. Help me make choices that make me better. **Amen**

**Song Suggestion**

May The Fragrance Of Jesus

**Church Together Thought**

Whether we like it or not, the authenticity of the Christian faith is judged almost exclusively on the quality of relationships its followers demonstrate, both within the church and in their dealings in the wider world.

At a time of crisis in the life of a Christian, or a local community, the response of a local church will have profound and have long - lasting effects, but quality relationships come at a cost, and Paul’s prescription in **Galatians 6** is both radical and realistic, as it should be!

The vision that Paul shares of a church fellowship committed to the restoration of the sinner, the resourcing of its preachers, and the care of those both within and without its life finds its primary inspiration from **Galatians 5**. In **Galatians 6** there is far more than a mere ad hoc list of pious instructions tacked on to the end of a theological treatise, but rather a summary of practical action that naturally follows what has gone before.

Paul’s insights that are found in Galatians 6 v. 1 – 10, can if we are prepared, transform us into the very people that God intended us to be. So, what does Paul’s vision for the Galatian Church entail and how can this manifest itself for us in our own churches:

**Firstly, Paul informs them to the vision of what they should be like (Galatians 5 v. 13, 16)**

*‘For you have been called to live in freedom – not freedom to satisfy your sinful nature, but freedom to serve one another in love’. . . ‘So, I advise you to live according to your new life in the Holy spirit. Then you won’t be doing what your sinful nature craves’.*

Paul’s theology of grace, involving both the gift of salvation through faith in Christ, and the gift of the Spirit for its confirmation and continuation, is the primary foundation for his pastoral advice. Only grace can begin to lead a person and a church into health and life, and without it there is only a travesty of the real thing (**Galatians 5 v. 4**) that can never be truly effective or satisfying.

**Secondly, Paul helps them to focus on achieving the vision in their lives (Galatians 6 v. 1 – 6)**

*‘Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. Share each other’s burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ. If you think you are too important to help someone, you are only fooling yourself. You are not that important.*

*Pay careful attention to your own work, for then you will get the satisfaction of a job well done, and you won’t need to compare yourself to anyone else. For we are each responsible for our own conduct. Those who are taught the word of God should provide for their teachers, sharing all good things with them.*

The whole thrust of Paul’s hope for a mature, self - regulating church able to function without his actual presence, is contained in **Galatians 6 v. 2**. Paul told the Galatians to share their troubles with one another. He knew that this would bring healing to hurting people and provide opportunities for the believers to help one another. Since Paul knew some would be to proud to admit their problems, he jotted a special note to encourage everyone’s participation. We all need to admit our problems. As we do this, the burden of our sins will be lightened. With mutual encouragement and accountability, we will be able to share our burdens, lighten the burden of others, and move on to a productive future.

The **‘principle’** or **‘law’** of Christ, literally the understanding of all that Jesus was and is, underpins everything from sober self - assessment and the proactive care of believers to the mutual relationships Jesus had with his own disciples. This is a biblical basis for the **‘what would Jesus do?’** approach to all of life.

**Finally, Paul seeks to encourage them in the vision (Galatians 6 v. 7 – 10)**

*Don’t be misled - you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant. Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit.* *So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up.**Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone - especially to those in the family of faith.*

We will always reap what we have sown. In other words, sins have painful consequences. We might be able to fool ourselves for a while into thinking that certain activities and relationships are all right. But when the consequences catch up with us, there will be no denying the facts. We need to take this warning seriously and take steps to change now. We don’t have to wait to bear the consequences of sin before we act. Using God’s Word as a measuring stick, we can reflect honestly on our lives and make the necessary adjustments, redirecting our course, before it’s too late.

Paul knows that what he is proposing may sound great in theory but will be really challenging in practice. Because of this he appeals to an enlightened form of self - interest (**Galatians 6 v. 7, 8**), the need for pastoral care to be a lifestyle, not a spasmodic series of one - off events (**Galatians 6 v. 9**), and a consistency in taking opportunities that present themselves rather than formulating a plan to save the world and feeling perpetually guilty for not fulfilling it!

Our detailed application of this passage will be determined by where our church is in its corporate life. For some there will be a restatement and encouragement of truth already being implemented. For others though, it may be a gentle (**see v. 1!**) introduction to some quite threatening material never seriously considered before.

**Prayers of Intercession**

We come before you this day, O Lord, and thank you for teaching us how to pray simply and sincerely to you. We thank you for hearing us when we cry out to you in moments of despair and anguish, and we also thank you for the ability to praise you and glorify your Holy name. **Pause & Pray**

We praise you for good health and daily food, for the shelter and care of our homes, the love and loyalty of our family and friends. We thank you for the teaching and example of Jesus Christ, who is both our Lord and Saviour. For forgiveness and salvation, for his presence with us always and for the service into which he has called us. Help us today, we pray, to thank you not only with our lips, in praise and prayer, but also in our lives full of hope and love; for you and for each other. **Pause & Pray**

Loving Lord, we would thank you for all the bright things of life; for the creation that is around us and the joy that that brings to us. Help us to see them and the beauty of your creation, to remember them and to count our blessings, that our lives would flow in ceaseless praise of you. **Pause & Pray**

Heavenly Father, we pray for those who govern over us, for our Prime Minister and his Cabinet. We lift before you our Royal Family, and all the complexity of their lives at this present time. We pray for the ongoing Vaccination Program that is happening throughout the world in its’ attempt to slow the progress of the Coronavirus Pandemic. **Pause & Pray**

Loving Lord Jesus, we pray for our families and friends. We thank you that Jesus knows our every situation. Help us today we pray to face the different situations we face with dignity and love, and give us peace in our hearts and minds. **Pause & Pray**

We continue to pray for those who are unwell, both at home and in hospital, or hospice. We think of the elderly, the housebound and those in care homes. We pray for all those who care for their needs, both professionally and in the family. So again, as we share a moment of silence together today, we bring before you those known only to ourselves and name them before you, Lord Jesus. **Pause & Pray**

And finally, Lord we pray for ourselves. Help us Lord to follow your example in all that we do and say as we journey with you. We place ourselves, this Church and all your people into your loving care. **Pause & Pray**

Please accept these our prayers, in Jesus name.

**Amen**

**Song Suggestion**

Jesus Is King And I Will Extol Him

**Blessing**

Now may the Spirit of God who brooded over the waters

and brought order out of chaos, find a home in our hearts

and settle our minds, both now as we leave this place,

and into tomorrow, and may we live lives that are worthy

of the glory of God, our Saviour.

**Amen**