

## SERMON – In God we T.R.U.S.T. – Reaping & Sowing!

Last Sunday I asked the question, “What do we treasure?”

Today I am asking the question, “What are we planting?”

There is a principle in Scripture that says “a man will reap what he sows...”

We can T.R.U.S.T. that this principle of REAPING & SOWING holds true... “R”

There are plenty of examples in Scripture... (King Saul, David, Samson, etc.)

There are plenty of examples in life... (eating, working out, investing, etc.)

We reap the consequences... rewards... outcomes... of what we plant!

It’s Father’s Day... one of my favorite verses in the Bible, as a father, is

**Proverbs 22:6 - “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.”**

This verse is a constant reminder of the importance of planting good seed in the lives of our children... as well as a constant warning of the alternative!

Today may be a real joy for some of us, because our fathers sowed good seed into our lives... or as a father, we have sowed good things into our children... But for others, today may be a constant reminder of our sorrow...

Though this Biblical principle of “reaping & sowing” is trustworthy, it is not the whole story... We are not the only one’s planting/sowing in the garden...

What we reap is also a result of what those around us have/are sowing...

Sometimes the joys, & the sorrows, in our lives have less to do with us and more to do with others, and what they are sowing!

Examples - Job... Samuel’s sons... The prodigal son’s father... Their suffering was not a result of their own failures, but the result of the decisions of others.

This should give us a better understanding, and a balance, in answering the questions... “Why is this happening?” “Why are things the way they are?”

But even this realization, of what others contribute to what we are reaping, is not the whole story... Sometimes what we reap is less about what we have sown, or what others have also sown, and more about what God is sowing...

Examples – Job... The man born blind... Jesus... Sometimes the only answer

for why certain things happen the way they do is because God ordains it!

We need a balanced approach of all 3 Biblical truths... if we are going to understand Scripture accurately & respond to it appropriately!

Placing our T.R.U.S.T. in God is trusting in His sovereignty & His good plan...

- Accepting that His ways are higher than our ways...
- Accepting that sin & brokenness in this world cause real pain/suffering...
- Acknowledging that what we do matters & that we do reap what we sow!

**Galatians 6:7-10 - For whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. <sup>10</sup> So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.**

Fathers... This is your day... I want to encourage you... But I also want to challenge you... “As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.”

Be a man, a father of faith! Your family will reap the blessings of the faith you sow in your family! “Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” T.R.U.S.T. in God, & in His Word/principles!

**Video** - As a father, these are the things I long for, for my family... A home established in truth... Joy that transcends earthly sorrows... A future filled with hope... A comfort flowing from the grace of Christ...

But how do I/we ensure that this is/will be the experience in our homes? Some say you can’t... They are gifts of God... Yes... But...

A father’s devotion to Scripture... establishes truth in a home!

A father’s decision to worship... brings forth a song of hope!

A father’s guiding hand... steers his children from sorrow!

A father’s voice of encouragement... carries them into tomorrow!

A father’s prayer... reveals that God hears and sees us!

A father’s willingness to forgive... reveals the grace of Jesus!

A father’s fortitude... inspires! A home filled with peace... assures!

The generous heart of a father speaks louder than his words!

A father’s laughter... brings joy! A father’s blessing... brings honor!

A father can choose what he sows... what he reaps he can entrust to God!

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