

Psalm 18: Equipping the End-Time “David Generation” (part 4)

I. INTRODUCTION/REVIEW

19... He delivered me because He delighted in me. (Ps 18:19)

35...Your right hand has held me up, Your gentleness has made me great. (Ps 18:35)

A. Three primary applications of Psalm 18—to David, the end-time Church, and to Jesus at His return. The Spirit will raise up leaders with a heart like David (Jer. 3:15). David is a model for the end-time Church (Isa.55:3-5).

B. ***Four Spiritual Laws*** - David highlighted 4 spiritual laws in the kingdom (18:25-26). Each are in context to how we treat people. God treats us in ways similar to how we treat others.

25With the merciful You will show Yourself merciful; with a blameless man You will show Yourself blameless; 26with the pure You will show Yourself pure; and with the devious You will show Yourself shrewd. (Ps. 18:25-26)

C. ***With the merciful (18:25):*** We must give mercy to others in our attitude, words, and deeds. God often treats a person in the way that they treat others (Lk. 6:38). Showing mercy implies and requires that we see more about who God is and how He sees us and others in His eternal plan.

D. ***With a blameless man (18:25):*** In 18:25, David defined what being blameless in this context means. David refused to pay back those who mistreated and betrayed him. He refused to manipulate or scheme in pursuing a position of power or privilege or to gain advantages over others. The Lord promises to lead such a person in ways to help them enter in the fullness of His will for their lives.

E. ***With the pure man (18:26):*** The pure are those who respond to others with pure motives that seek their best interests as Jesus defined it (Mt. 5:44-48).

F. ***With the devious (18:26):*** The Lord will show Himself shrewd. He will allow devious people to get ensnared and trapped by their own doings—the hurtful things they did and said about others. God will allow them to draw false conclusions about what they are doing without showing them the harm it will result in. He allows this even with some of His children to wake them up spiritually.

- G. God outmaneuvers the deceitful. He turns the schemes of the wicked back on themselves.

12 He frustrates the devices of the crafty, so that their hands cannot carry out their plans. 13 He catches the wise in their own craftiness, and the counsel of the cunning comes quickly upon them. (Job 5:12-13)

II. THE FOUR SPIRITUAL LAWS: YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW (GALATIANS 6)

7.....for whatever a man sows, that he will reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. (Gal 6:7-8)

- A. Paul teaches that our choices have real spiritual consequences. Just like planting seeds in a field determines the harvest, the way we live determines what we eventually experience. Our daily choices are like seeds. If you plant according to the flesh, the harvest is destruction. Eternal life and spiritual growth are the fruit of planting according to the spirit.
- B. **Sows to his flesh (6:8)**: In the book of Galatians, “the flesh” refers to our sinful human nature. The flesh is the part of us inclined toward rebellion against God. Sowing to the flesh means continually feeding and cultivating sinful desires through our choices. Those who live according to the flesh set their mind on the things of the flesh, including living by their bodily appetites, five senses, and circumstances. It affects the way they approach God, their struggle against sin, and their circumstances. They base their life on whatever they feel in their body, five senses, or emotions. They give up and give in to sin and discouragement.
- C. Paul defines works of the flesh in Galatians 5

19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outburst of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissension, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like.... Those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. (Gal 5:19-21)

1. In the sermon on the mount Jesus addresses six areas of sowing to the flesh. He is addressing the religious elite. He flips each area on its head by saying “you have heard it said to those of old.... But I say...” In doing so Jesus renders His verdict of “guilty”. He is telling those who thought they were without fault that they were guilty of adultery, murder, disregarding the sanctity of marriage, lying... etc
2. We can sow to the flesh in both overt and covert ways. Sowing in an overt way is participating in the works of the flesh in an obvious, visible, and recognizable manner. Sowing in a covert way is the hidden form of sowing to the flesh. Sometimes this hidden way is so disguised that the person sowing to the flesh is unaware; we can even deceive ourselves and hide our motives under the guise of doing something noble.

3. ***Those who practice such things (5:21):*** There is a difference between stumbling with sin and having a way of sin. The greek word for practice is *prassontes* meaning: *to do repeatedly, to carry on as a pattern of life, to habitually practice*. It refers not to a single failure, but to ongoing, deliberate conduct that characterizes someone’s life.
- D. ***Reap Corruption (6:8):*** Seeds planted according to the flesh reap a harvest of corruption including spiritual decay, broken relationships, loss of fellowship with God, and ultimately destruction if one persists in such practices.
- E. ***Sowing to the Spirit (6:8):*** Living in submission to the Holy Spirit, cultivating habits and actions that align with God’s Word. We grow in our awareness of the Spirit the more we speak with Him. Our friendship with Him increases as we talk to Him. A simple prayer: “Holy Spirit, let me see what You see and feel what You feel about... (put many different subjects here).” We start by drawing on the truths of the Word by confessing the Word.
- F. Paul defines the fruit of the Spirit in Gal 5:
- 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control.... 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another. (Gal 5:22,25-26)***
1. ***If we live in the Spirit, us also walk in the Spirit:*** Spiritual maturity occurs as our primary approach for life shifts to our spirit instead of our physical appetites, five senses, and emotions. We do this by living with awareness of the nature of our born-again spirit made righteous, by dialoguing with the indwelling Spirit, and by living with confidence that we are enjoyed by God, by living by the truths of the Word concerning who we are in our spirit.
2. ***Let us not become conceited (5:26):*** Within the flow and context of the passage becoming conceited is direct contrast with the previous exhortation of “*let us walk in the Spirit.*” To be conceited means to have an inflated view of oneself, craving recognition or admiration. It is self-exalting pride that seeks glory from others.
- G. ***Reap Everlasting Life (6:8):*** The final outcome of a life direct by the Spirit. Paul is not teaching that we earn eternal life by good works. Earlier in Galatians he strongly affirms that salvation is by grace through faith (Gal 2:16). Rather, the idea is those who belong to Christ walk by the Spirit. A Spirit led life produces fruit and the final harvest of that Spirit led life is eternal life with God.

- H. In Romans, Paul contrasts two relationships to living that each believer must choose between. He refers to those who live according to the flesh and those who live according to the Spirit.

1 Those who...do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit...4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. (Rom. 8:1-6)

III. THE CONTEXT OF REAPING AND SOWING: RESTORING A BROTHER AND SELF DECEPTION

1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.... 3 For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. 4 But let each one examine his own work... and not in another. 5 For each one shall bear his own load... 7 Do not be deceived God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. (Gal 6:1-5,7)

- A. **If a man is overtaken in any trespass:** right in the middle of the passage that defines walking according to the flesh, walking according to the spirit, and reaping what we sow... we have a practical application...
1. **Restore such a one:** The Greek word καταρτίζω (*katartizō*) means: to repair, to put back into proper condition, to mend something broken. The word was used for: setting a broken bone and mending fishing nets in Matthew 4:21. So Paul's picture is not punishment or rejection, but carefully bringing someone back into spiritual health.
 2. **In a Spirit of Gentleness:** The mending that needs to be done must be kind, patient, and compassionate, not harsh or condemning.
 3. **Considering Yourself:** There must be a honest self awareness of ones own weakness and propensity to sin. The best shepherds and leaders are the ones that are limping and leaning aware that they too are the ones in need of the grace and mercy of God.
- B. **He deceives Himself:** Those who consider themselves or examine themselves and conclude “*himself to be something...*” they are in self deception.

IV. LET US NOT GROW WEARY

9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith. (Gal 6:9-10)