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Looking for a Bountiful Harvest: Sowing and Reaping for the Gospel's Sake A Commentary by Jason Curry



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The beautiful flowers that are in bloom throughout the city of Nashville remind me of the flowers that encompassed our backyard. The beautiful array of flowers in our yard was a result of the outstanding gardening skills of my grandfather (John Curry) who used to be a farmer for part of his life. During the Great Migration, he traveled from Lancaster, South Carolina to Buffalo, New York: in search of work in booming industry of the northern, steel mills. His farming skills were only second to his ability to relate life, and God to farming. In Second Corinthians 9:6, Paul says: "He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully." Ironically, my first biblical, lesson about the importance and rewards of "sowing and reaping" came from a farmer as opposed to my Sunday School teacher. For more than thirty years, he taught me life-long lessons

about pacing myself, living below my means, saving money, being kind to others and trusting in God. The life that he lived echoed the sentiment of Paul in his letter to the churches in Galicia: "And let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season, we shall reap if we faint not (Galatians 6:9)."

The life of the Christian consists of sowing and reaping. The disciple named John said: "And herein is that saying true, one soweth, and another reapeth (John 4:37)." Some Christians place a tremendous emphasis on "sowing." For example, they continue to love God, their neighbors, themselves and their enemies irrespective of the consequences that their actions may bring. For these Christians, the means (love) justify the ends. Other Christians place a tremendous emphasis on "reaping." God has placed within them the need to identify (count) and increase the number of guests, members and ministries in

the church. Just as Peter found meaning in watching thousands join the church on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:41), these Christians primarily find joy in the tangible outcomes or "fruits" (Matthew 7:16-20) of reaping. Once we have examined ourselves (Second Corinthians 13:5), and allowed the Lord to help us determine if we are primarily sowers or reapers, we must be humble enough to realize that any success that we may enjoy along this Christian journey is ultimately rooted in God. In reference to the successful process of sowing and reaping for the Gospel's sake, Paul said: "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase (First Corinthians 3:6)."

As we begin to see the bountiful harvest that is a result of sowing and reaping, let us always remember to give God the glory for the great things that he has done (John 9:24).