

THE RIGHT KIND OF FAITH (God is Not Mocked)

People often have the craziest ideas about God such as the idea that they can get away with sin. This makes a mockery of God! And yet that will NOT stand. God is NOT mocked!

Galatians 6:7–9 (NKJV)

7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also 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.

9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

Galatians is a letter about the GOSPEL OF GRACE. It champions GRACE! It defends GRACE! Paul, from many angles, shows that salvation is by GRACE, as is sanctification. Believers are in a GRACE relationship with God. This means that we now live by faith in Jesus (Gal. 2:20). It means that we are no longer under the yoke of the Mosaic Law as a rule of life, but rather we are ever being led by the Spirit (Gal. 5:18). This is a freeing reality! We are now free from the bondage of sin and the bondage of the Mosaic Law (cf. Acts 15:10-11).

This is not freedom to do whatever the flesh desires. Rather it is empowerment by the Spirit to do what pleases God (cf. Rom. 8:1-4). Being under grace does not mean we have a license to sin. It does not mean that we are under nothing! Indeed, we are now “yoked” with Christ (cf. Matt. 11:29). We are now under the Law of Christ, which is the Law of His love (Gal. 6:2). This liberty we now have in Christ is to be governed by the principle of LOVE in accordance with the Spirit working through the Word (cf. Gal. 5:6, 13, 22; Eph. 5:18; Col. 3:16). The chief fruit of the Spirit is LOVE (Gal. 5:22). Faith works through love (Gal. 5:6).

After emphasizing GRACE from pillar to post throughout the letter Paul then interjects this reality of “sowing and reaping” in Galatians 6:6-10. It is addressed to believers. It is stated in the context of Christian stewardship, and it is a proverbial statement with far reaching application.

This makes it very clear that a proper understanding of GRACE does not lead to antinomianism (lit. “no law” = a license to sin). The issue at this juncture is not salvation, but rather the issue of temporal consequences and eternal rewards for the believer. (Note, Paul has already made it clear that true believers will not sin perpetually as a lifestyle pattern in Gal. 5:21) The matter of salvation is forever settled for the true believer. At the moment of saving faith, the believer receives a complete and permanent pardon from the penalty of sin (cf. Heb. 10:14).

However, being under grace still has its RESPONSIBILITIES. Paul’s STRONG emphasis on GRACE does not mean that believers can now live any way they want, without consequences. Don’t be deceived! A believer cannot sin with immunity (cf. 1 Cor. 11:30-32; Heb. 12:7-11). There will be consequences. We will reap, according to what we have sown (1 Cor. 3:11-15).

Grace is liberty from the Mosaic Law, but not from the Law of love. Grace is a relationship-based course. But this course, which has great privileges, also has its responsibilities. Believers are stewards of the grace of God (cf. 1 Pet. 4:10). We are responsible to walk by the Spirit.

He is leading in love, but we must follow (cf. Gal. 5:16, 26). The liberty we enjoy in Christ is to be governed by love (cf. Gal. 5:6, 13). If we sow to the flesh, all our activity counts for nothing. If we sow to the Spirit, we will reap eternal dividends (cf. Gal. 6:8-9). Even believers reap what

they sow, both in terms of temporal consequences, as well as eternal rewards. Christians who think that grace gives them a license to sin are suspect from the start (cf. Jude 3-4). This is serious!

To take this position is to seek to make a mockery of God, and God is not mocked (To mock is literally “to turn the nose up at”, i.e., to snub God). **DO NOT BE DECEIVED!** The truism that “whatever a man sows, that he will also reap” is found in Galatians – the book that champions **GRACE**.