

Times of Sowing and Reaping

Living Waters Today

ISSUE 1 January — February 2019



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Biblical Advice

God inspired King Solomon to write for our admonition - Ecclesiastes 3:1 *To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:*

3:2 *A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;*

What is your goal? What are you sowing for? Good health? Establishing a new savings club for yourself or others? Get Started on Something.

Insight

John 12:23 *And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified. Verse 24, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. Verse 25, He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.*

The Will to make a Difference for the Future.

We're in the time of the year when many make decisions to change their way of life for the good of themselves or others. It's a season to plant and hope for a better life – to reap in a later season the benefits of their planting.

Are you among those who will take such a course of action? What are you hoping for? What do you hope to accomplish? Where do you want to go in life? What do you want to do for the Lord Jesus Christ or what do you believe He is leading you to do?

These are compelling questions that deserve our consideration.

There are some things and events that we cannot change – they just happen, and we must learn to adjust and continue to progress. So, take charge of the things within your reach and control. Get started on something new, or revive the old – ***be revived yourself—make a difference.***

You were born for a purpose and what you sow you will reap later!

[all scriptures KJV], [continued on page 2]



Do Right. Eat Right. Save Money.

These are action statements that will generate results in our lives if we stick to them. If we do right, we receive a blessing from the Lord both now and in the future. Let us understand, we do not just “do right” to get, but to show our love for the Lord God our Creator. He has promised us that we will **rule** with Him on the earth if we live a life of **faith**, obedience, and trust in Him.

Take a look at some of these promises:

Matthew 5:5 [the meek inherits the earth], **Revelation 1:6, 5:10 and 20:1-6** [Kings and Priests with the Lord], and **Matthew 9:26-30** [Faith] and **Mark 10:27-31** [Eternal life with the Lord].

These are great promises that He has made to all who prepare their hearts to follow Him. He has prepared a place for His brothers and sisters in the faith in His **Heavenly Kingdom which will be here on this earth**. He made a difference for us, and this teaches us that He wants us to make a difference for others as well, in this life and the world to come.

Notice what the Lord Jesus says: **John 14:1** Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. **Verse 2**, In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a

place for you. **Verse 3**, And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.

You may have heard the expression, “do not waste time”. That’s right, time is precious and never can be re-gained – so do not waste it or allow others to waste your time – be purposeful.

Our lives are like seasons where you must sow and plant so that in later years we reap a harvest from doing right, eating right and using our resources wisely. God has chosen to place His Spirit in those who repent of sins - the breaking of His holy laws. He sows in us so that we have the chance to receive eternal life.

1 Corinthians 3:16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? **Verse 17**, If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

We will be held accountable for our time of living in these bodies of flesh. God is expanding His family and wants you to be in it.

Further reading: **Luke 16:19-31, Matthew 8:11-12 and 21:42-44, Luke 19:12-27, John 3:16 and 10:10, 1 Corinthians 5:10-11, Isaiah 2:1-4, Daniel 7:26-27 and Revelation 19-22**

Make a difference for the Lord - be an inspiration for others too.

Preparing the Ground

When you survey the landscape of your fields, what do you see? Perhaps weeds, grass, shrubs, rocks and the like. The point is that its going to take some work to prepare the ground to receive the seeds and fertilization—there must be good germination for this new start.

Notice what the Lord God says about preparing a place for His pleasant plant—His vineyard.

Isaiah 5:1 Now will I sing to my well-beloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. My well-beloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill:

Isaiah 5:2 And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes.

When we begin to make a change in our lives, there must be clear identification of things that will hinder the process, and then remove them—removing the stones, grass and weeds that can choke or impede the growth. When the ground is clear, and we can do the planting.

Our lives must have good things [seeds] sown in it in order to produce health, financial well-being, longevity, etc. We must abandon the bad habits, or sinful things that will retard our growth or cause death. Think carefully about this.

[continued on page 3]



Spiritual Growth Matters

Jesus gave a parable once about an unproductive tree on a plot of land.

Luke 13:6 He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. **Verse 7**, Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? **Verse 8**, And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: **Verse 9**, And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.

From the very beginning of creation, our first parents were told to be fruitful and multiply. They had a mandate to grow, develop and make a difference in the creation that God had given to them.

Genesis 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. **Verse 27**, So God created

man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. **Verse 28**, And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

What have you been given to do? What talents or gifts do you have lying dormant within you? Ask the Creator God to help you activate them so that you're productive for Him, and to do a better service for humanity.

Insight—what its all about

2 Peter 1:3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

2 Peter 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

2 Peter 1:5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

2 Peter 1:6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

2 Peter 1:7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

2Pe 1:8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 1:9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

[Continued, Preparing the Ground]

Colossians 3:1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. **Verse 2**, Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. **Verse 3**, For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. **Verse 4**, When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. **Verse 5**, Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

Remember that you're not alone.

We can have our minds and hearts, cleaned up, our sinful ways forgiven, and be empowered by the Spirit of the Lord to overcome and be very fruitful for His honor and glory. Read **John 6** and **Romans 6**.

Joshua 1:7 Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.

Encourage yourself: Read **Joshua 1:1-9** and **Matthew 28:29-20**



Time To Reap A Harvest

Now there will be a time to enjoy the fruit of your labor. After we have worked and waited, and fought hard against the odds, we should be able to look back over our efforts and measure the success of those efforts.

Have we made any spiritual progress, provided for our families, enhanced our health, improved our financial position, served better in our communities, helped others, passed on key learnings or wisdom, and made a difference for good? You can see the hand of Almighty God in your work and in you as you continue in this process. The Lord's words are powerful and will work mightily in us as we humble ourselves and walk in purity and faith, and in the strength of His words.

Isaiah 55:6 Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: **Verse 7**, Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. **Verse 8**, For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. **Verse 9**, For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. **Verse 10** For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: **Verse 11**, So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

The Lord Jesus Christ's words will judge us, and hold us accountable for what He knows He gave us to use. Be purposeful and determined, and hope for the best.

Further reading: John 4:34-38; 14:10-15; Matthew 25:14-46; 2 Corinthians 5:9-11

Continued, Preparing the ground

Isaiah 40:1 Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.

Isaiah 40:2 Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins.

Isaiah 40:3 The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Isaiah 40:4 Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:

Isaiah 40:5 And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see *it* together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken *it*.

You can be the fields of the Lord; and His new creation in us is the pleasant plant—His chosen seed. You will flourish by His help. Remember, there can be other unwanted seeds strewn or blown on your newly prepared ground. Be encouraged and diligent in caring for your hard work.

Yield to the Lord Jesus Christ always, and ask for wisdom and understanding in all your work for Him.

Hosea 10:12 Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.

Further reading: Matthew 13:24-31, 37-43.



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