

12-21-1952

Churches of Christ Salute You with a Herald of Truth: Sowing and Reaping

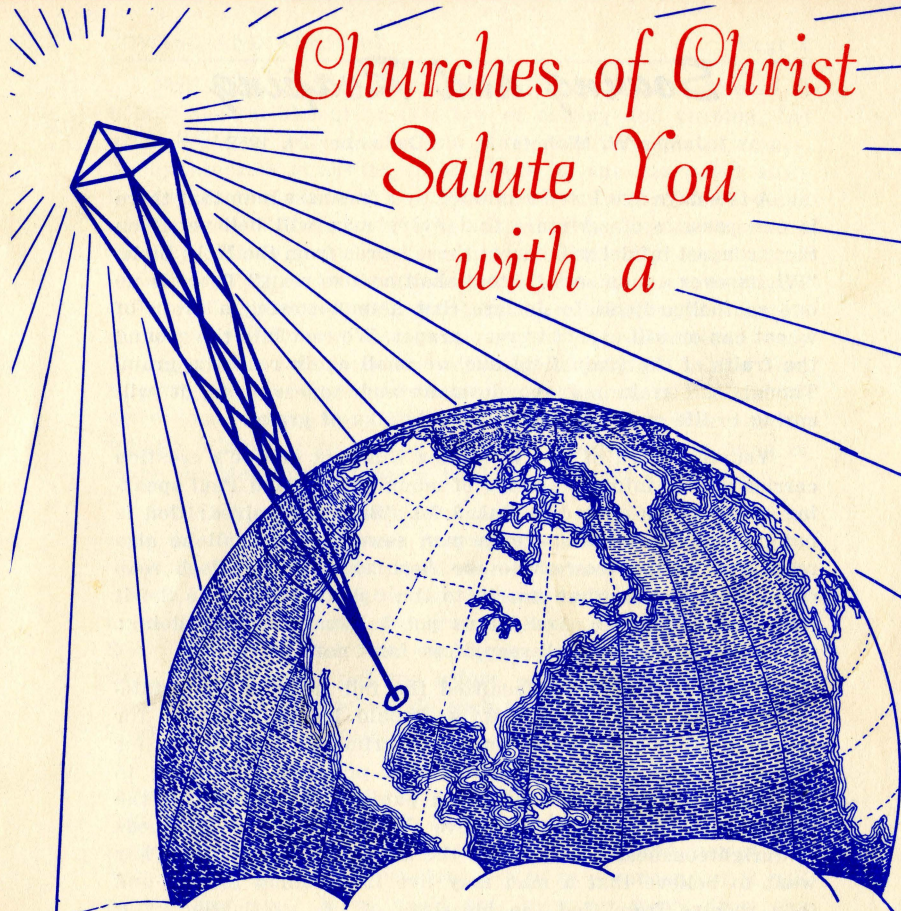
James Nichols

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Churches of Christ
Salute You
with a

Sowing and Reaping

James W. Nichols

December 21, 1952

Herald of Truth

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A few days ago I was reminded by a business man that there is one passage of scripture that every man will believe. Even the strongest infidel will accept these words from the Holy Bible. "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." There is no one so foolhardy as to declare that a man sowing a grain of wheat can or will expect to reap grapes. We cast into the ground the fruits of the grain field and we shall again reap the grain. Though the grain may be dormant and appear dead, it will spring to life and bring forth green stalks of grain.

Yet, the Word of God in stating this fact of God's creation carries it over into the actions of mankind. We find Paul speaking those words quoted in Gal. 6:7-9. "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to the flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap everlasting life. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

I wish that everyone realized the full truth of that statement. If we all would see it, we would have little need for spending billions in the prevention of crime each year. Men for centuries have tried to discredit this principle. They try to discount the reality of everlasting punishment in hell for the unrighteous. They want to believe that a man may sow seeds of unrighteousness and not reap the harvest of corruption. They want to believe that a man may live in rebellion to God and then receive from God the blessings of life everlasting. Yet, these same men and women know that when corn is planted, that corn will be gathered, and the word of God in these verses we have read tells us that the same principal is true in the spiritual realm. Therefore, in spite of the desire of an anxious heart to erase from my mind the possibility of being lost eternally, I cannot honestly do so. Show where the Bible fails and is inconsistent, and I will hurry to relieve my mind of the promise of punishment for wickedness, but since the blows of the unlearned wise men have fallen harmlessly and the men passed on into the land of death, I must believe that it is true. If there were not another passage in the Bible teaching that there is everlasting punishment for the unrighteous man, I would, if honest, have to accept it upon these words of Paul.

Still we do not need to wait until that day of judgment to behold the fulfillment of this law of sowing and reaping. Let us look at our own country and study this principle of return. Today America is sowing to the flesh as she has never sown before. Much of the seed sown has not been reaped, but we can see the results of that which has blossomed. America is sowing literally billions each year for a crop of drunkards. Moral decay is being produced in the taverns and bars of our country. So-called society has succeeded, partially, in establishing the custom of drinking. While a few years ago it was considered very improper for a lady to be seen drinking in public it is now seen in every place of drink. Advertisement has done this. When we drive down the highway and see a picture of a nice appearing woman drinking intoxicating drinks, it creates in the mind of many the idea that it takes a drinker to be nice appearing.

I wish it were possible for the decent people of America to erect beside each of those propaganda instruments signs just showing the figures spent each year on crimes caused by drunkenness. The Lord shall not be lenient on these who debauch themselves in the deceiving arms of liquor. Hear the words of God: "Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." Galatians 5:21.

Americans are also sowing to the flesh in greed and can expect to reap corruption. There was a time when the spirit of this country was the spirit of a neighbor. But now we have grown apart in greed. Our desire for wealth and power has driven many crazy. Our covetousness is as a cancer, for it will eat out our souls. If we could only turn our minds from the almighty dollar for one day, we would at least have one day of partial respect. We may think that theft or robbery comes when our homes are entered or we are held up with a gun, but my friends, theft has become popular. It has nearly come to the point that many men of business think they have to lie and deceive to be able to sell their products. Much of the modern advertising is just plain lying. In all of our sowing of greed we can expect to reap a great harvest of corruption.

One thing that has done more to bring our people down into the moral decay and condemnation is the laws of divorce or legal adultery. It may be popular with the lustful individual to establish these laws of legal adultery, but it is still unlawful in the sight of God. When divorces are granted because the husband doesn't like the tastes of his wife and the wife objects to the

—YOU MAY HEAR THE HERALD OF TRUTH OVER THESE STATIONS

Alabama, Anniston	WHMA	1450	1:00 p.m.
Auburn	WAUD	1230	1:00 p.m.
Birmingham	WGSN	610	3:00 a.m.
Florence	WJOI	1340	9:30 a.m.
Gadsden	WGAD	1350	1:00 p.m.
Huntsville	WHBS	1490	1:00 p.m.
Marion	WJAM	1310	9:30 a.m.
Mobile	WABB	1480	6:30 a.m.
Montgomery	WAPX	1800	1:00 p.m.
Selma	WGWC	1340	1:30 p.m.
Tuscaloosa	WJRD	1150	9:00 p.m.
Arizona, Clifton	KCLF	1400	1:00 p.m.
Phoenix	KOY	550	7:00 a.m.
Tucson	KONA	580	3:00 p.m.
Arkansas, Eldorado	KDMS	1290	1:00 p.m.
Ft. Smith	KFSB	950	1:00 p.m.
Hot Springs	KTHS	1090	1:00 p.m.
Little Rock	KGHI	1250	1:00 p.m.
Springdale	KBRS	1340	6:00 p.m.
Calif., Bakersfield	KPMC	1560	10:00 a.m.
Blythe	KYOR	1450	3:30 p.m.
Brawley	KROP	1300	3:30 p.m.
Eureka	KIEM	1480	8:00 a.m.
Fresno	KARM	1430	3:30 p.m.
Indio	KREO	1400	3:30 p.m.
Los Angeles	KECA	790	3:30 p.m.
Modesto	KTRB	850	3:00 p.m.
San Francisco	KGO	810	3:30 p.m.
San Luis Obispo	KATY	1340	3:30 p.m.
Colorado, Craig	KRAI	1230	5:30 p.m.
Denver	KVOD	630	2:00 p.m.
Conn., Bridgeport	WNAB	1450	2:00 p.m.
Hartford	WHTT	1230	2:30 p.m.
Delaware, Wilmington	WILM	1450	2:00 p.m.
Florida, Gainesville	WGGG	1230	1:00 p.m.
Jacksonville	WPDQ	600	8:30 a.m.
Miami	WQAM	560	1:00 p.m.
Panama City	WPGT	1400	1:00 p.m.
Pensacola	WEAR	1230	11:00 p.m.
Tallahassee	WTNT	1450	5:00 p.m.
Tampa, St. Pete	WSUN	620	1:00 p.m.
Georgia, Atlanta	WGST	920	1:00 p.m.
Augusta	WGAC	580	2:00 p.m.
Brunswick	WGIG	1440	1:00 p.m.
Cairo	WGRA	1300	3:00 p.m.
Columbus	WGBA	1460	7:30 a.m.
Macon	WNEX	1400	1:00 p.m.
Rome	WLAQ	670	1:00 p.m.
Savannah	WDAR	1400	1:00 p.m.
Valdosta	WGAF	910	1:00 p.m.
Idaho, Boise	KGEM	1140	3:00 p.m.
Pocatello	KEIO	1440	9:30 a.m.
Illinois, Chicago	WENR-WLS	890	2:30 p.m.
Quincy	WGEM	1440	8:00 a.m.
Indiana, Anderson	WHBU	1240	1:30 p.m.
Bloomington	WTTT	1370	1:00 p.m.
Evansville	WJPS	1330	1:30 p.m.
Ft. Wayne	WGL	1250	1:00 p.m.
Iowa, Cedar Rapids	WMT	600	7:30 a.m.
Des Moines	KSO	1460	1:00 p.m.
Sioux City	KSCJ	1360	10:30 p.m.
Waterloo	KXEL	1540	5:30 p.m.
Kansas, Coffeyville	KGGF	690	2:00 p.m.
Topeka	WREN	1250	1:00 p.m.
Wichita	KWBB	1410	3:30 p.m.
Ken., Bowling Green	WKCT	930	1:00 p.m.
Harlan	WHLN	1230	3:00 p.m.
Louisville	WKLO	1080	1:00 p.m.
Mayfield	WKTU	1050	4:15 p.m.
Newport	WNOP	740	2:00 p.m.
Louisiana, Baton Rouge	WLCS	910	1:00 p.m.
Monroe	KMLB	1440	2:00 p.m.
New Orleans	WDSU	1230	1:00 p.m.
Shreveport	KRMD	1340	1:00 p.m.

Maine, Bangor	WABI	910	1:00 p.m.
Portland	WPOR	1450	9:00 a.m.
Maryland, Baltimore	WFER	1300	3:00 p.m.
Cumberland	WDYK	1230	3:00 a.m.
Mass., Gardner	WHOB	1490	1:00 p.m.
Lawrence	WLAW	680	1:00 p.m.
Springfield	WSPR	1270	2:00 p.m.
Worcester	WAAB	1440	2:00 p.m.
Michigan, Battle Creek	WELL	1400	1:00 p.m.
Bay City	WBCM	1440	1:00 p.m.
Detroit	WXYZ	1270	1:00 p.m.
Flint	WFDF	910	10:00 p.m.
Lansing	WLS	1320	1:00 p.m.
Ludington	WKLA	1450	1:00 p.m.
Muskegon	WKBZ	850	2:00 p.m.
Minn., Minn.-St. Paul	WTCN	1280	7:30 a.m.
Mankato	KTOE	1420	2:00 p.m.
Miss., Centerville	WGCL	1580	8:00 a.m.
Aberdeen	WMPA	1240	1:00 p.m.
Columbus	WCBI	1340	6:00 p.m.
Greenwood	WABG	960	1:00 p.m.
Jackson	WSLI	930	2:00 p.m.
Kosciusko	WKOZ	1340	1:00 p.m.
Laurel	WLAU	1490	1:00 p.m.
McComb	WSKB	1250	1:00 p.m.
Missouri, Kansas City	KCMO	810	12:30 p.m.
Rolla	KTRR	1490	8:45 a.m.
St. Louis	KXOK	630	2:00 p.m.
Springfield	KWTO	560	1:00 p.m.
Montana, Butte	KOPR	580	9:15 a.m.
Great Falls	KMON	560	7:30 a.m.
Nebraska, Lincoln	KFOR	1240	10:30 a.m.
Omaha	KOIL	1290	5:30 p.m.
Sidney	KSID	1540	9:30 a.m.
N. Hamp., Claremont	WTSV	1230	1:00 p.m.
Lebanon	WTSI	1400	1:00 p.m.
Manchester	WMUR	610	3:00 p.m.
N. Mexico, Albuquerque	KOAT	1450	3:00 p.m.
Carlsbad	KPBM	740	check sta.
Clovis	KCLV	1240	1:00 p.m.
Los Alamos	KRSN	1490	3:00 p.m.
Santa Fe	KTRC	1400	3:00 p.m.
New York, Albany	WXXW	850	2:00 p.m.
New York	WJZ	770	12:30 p.m.
Olean	WHDL	1450	1:00 p.m.
Rochester	WARC	950	3:00 p.m.
Saranac Lake	WEAV	960	2:00 p.m.
Syracuse	WAGE	620	12:00 n.
N. Carolina, Asheville	WLOS	1350	1:00 p.m.
Charlotte	WAYS	610	1:00 p.m.
Durham	WTIK	1310	2:00 p.m.
Elizabeth City	WGAI	560	12:00 n.
Fayetteville(Sat.)	WFLB	1490	1:00 p.m.
Salisbury	WSAT	1280	1:00 p.m.
Wilmington	WGNI	1340	8:30 a.m.
Winston-Salem	WAIR	1240	1:00 p.m.
N. Dakota, Fargo	KFGO	790	1:00 p.m.
S. Dakota, Huron	KIJV	630	9:00 a.m.
Ohio, Cleveland	WJW	850	1:00 p.m.
Columbus	WHKC	610	1:00 p.m.
Lima	WIMA	1150	9:00 a.m.
Youngstown	WBW	1240	8:30 a.m.
Oklahoma, Ada	KADA	1230	1:00 p.m.
Enid	KCRC	1390	1:00 p.m.
McAlester	KTMC	1400	1:00 p.m.
Muskogee	KBIX	1490	2:00 p.m.
Oklahoma City	KTOK	1000	9:30 a.m.
Tulsa	KRMG	740	2:00 p.m.
Oregon, Eugene	KASH	1600	1:00 p.m.
Klamath Falls	KFLW	1450	4:30 p.m.
Medford	KMED	1440	7:30 a.m.
Portland	KEX	1190	3:30 p.m.
The Dalles	KODL	1230	1:00 p.m.

Penn., Johnstown	WCRO	1230	7:00 p.m.
Philadelphia	WFIL	560	2:00 p.m.
Pittsburg	WCAE	1250	3:00 p.m.
Wilkes-Barre	WILK	980	5:00 p.m.
R. Island, Providence	WPJB	1420	1:00 p.m.
S. Carolina, Florence	WJMX	970	10:30 a.m.
S. Dakota, Aberdeen	KSDN	930	10:30 a.m.
Tenn., Chattanooga	WDEF	1370	1:00 p.m.
Jackson	WTJS	1390	1:00 p.m.
Johnson City	WJHL	910	10:30 p.m.
Knoxville	WBIR	1240	1:30 p.m.
Memphis	WMPB	650	9:30 p.m.
Morristown	WCRK	1450	check sta.
Nashville	WSIX	980	4:00 p.m.
Texas, Abilene	KRBC	1470	1:00 p.m.
Amarillo	KFDA	1440	1:00 p.m.
Austin	KNOW	1490	2:00 p.m.
Beaumont	KFDM	560	1:00 p.m.
Big Spring	KBST	1490	1:00 p.m.
Brownfield	KTFY	1300	4:30 p.m.
Brownsville	KVAL	1490	1:00 p.m.
Brownwood	KBWD	1380	6:30 p.m.
Corpus Christi	KEYS	1440	9:00 a.m.
El Paso	KEPO	690	3:00 p.m.
Ft. Worth	WBAP	570	1:00 p.m.
Graham	KSWA	1330	4:30 p.m.
Houston	KXYZ	1320	8:00 a.m.
Longview	KFRO	1370	1:00 p.m.
Lubbock	KFYO	1340	4:00 p.m.
Midland	KORS	550	1:30 p.m.
New Braunfels	KGNB	1420	8:00 a.m.
Paris	KPLT	1490	9:00 p.m.
San Angelo	KGKL	960	1:00 p.m.
San Antonio	KMAC	630	9:00 p.m.
Texarkana	KCMC	1230	1:00 p.m.
Wichita Falls	KFDX	990	2:00 p.m.
Utah, Provo	KCSU	1490	3:00 p.m.
Salt Lake City	KUTA	570	7:30 a.m.
Vermont, Brattleboro	WTSB	1450	1:00 p.m.
Burlington	WJOY	1230	1:00 p.m.
Montpelier-Barre	WSKI	1240	1:00 p.m.
Virginia, Charlottesville	WINA	1280	9:15 a.m.
Fredericksburg	WFVA	1230	check sta.
Marion	WMEV	1010	2:00 p.m.
Norfolk	WGH	1310	6:30 p.m.
Richmond	WRNL	910	1:30 p.m.
Washington, Aberdeen	KBKW	1450	9:00 p.m.
Omak	KOMW	680	9:15 a.m.
Pasco	KPKW	1340	3:30 p.m.
Seattle	KJR	950	3:30 p.m.
Spokane	KGA	1510	3:30 p.m.
Washington, D. C.	WMAL	630	1:00 p.m.
W. Virginia, Beckley	WVNR	620	1:30 p.m.
Huntington	WHTN	800	8:00 a.m.
Parkersburg, Sat.	WCOM	1230	5:30 p.m.
Wheeling	WKWK	1400	1:00 p.m.
Wisconsin, Green Bay	WDUZ	1400	5:30 p.m.
LaCrosse	WKTY	580	4:00 p.m.
Madison	WIBA	1320	8:00 a.m.
Milwaukee	WCAN	1250	2:00 p.m.
Neenah	WNAM	1280	8:00 a.m.
Wyoming, Casper	KSPR	1470	9:15 p.m.
Cheyenne	KFCB	710	12:00 p.m.
Cody	KODI	1400	12:00 p.m.
Laramie	KOWB	1340	12:00 p.m.
Rawlins	KRAL	1240	12:00 p.m.
Riverton	KWRL	1450	12:00 p.m.
Torrington	KGOS	1490	12:00 p.m.
Worland	KWOR	1490	12:00 p.m.
Alaska, Juneau (Sat.)	KJNO	630	1:00 p.m.
Canada, Trail, B.C.	CJAT	610	9:30 a.m.
Toronto, Ont.	CKEY	580	9:15 a.m.

All times are Sunday unless otherwise indicated.

husband dropping off to sleep in a chair, it indicates that our level of morality is dropping fast. When a man or woman divorces his mate for any other cause than adultery and marries another, they are adulterers. I know that such teaching is not popular, but popular or not it is the word of Christ. Hear him as He speaks in Matthew 5:32, "But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery." Then hear the words of the Apostle Paul, "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness." Galatians 5:19. And he goes on to say that such cannot enter the Kingdom of God. The youth of America need to be taught that once we are married that only death or fornication can break the marriage vow, but how can they learn it from drunken and adulterous parents? Christ said, "A man shall leave his father and mother and shall cleave to his wife: and the twain shall be one flesh. Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined, let no man put asunder." Matt. 19:5-6.

We can see some of the crops of this sowing. We may travel through the halls and rooms of our hospitals and our jails and there see the harvest of the flesh. Yet, we may rest assured that the great harvest is yet to come in the day of judgment. Some men think that because they have fallen into condemnation here that they have escaped the consequences of their sowing. "There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" when we are sent out to harvest our crops of fleshly lusts.

Yet a man may be good morally and yet sow seeds to corruption by his rejection of the Gospel of Christ. Christ said in John 3:18, "He that believeth on him is not judged: he that believeth not hath been judged already, because he hath not believed on the name of the only begotten Son of God." And again in the 36th verse, "He that believeth on the Son hath eternal life; but he that obeyeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him." Just because a man leads a good moral life, does not mean that he stands justified in the sight of God. If he has not obeyed the gospel, he is not a child of God nor in the house of God, and Peter gives us warning in no uncertain terms in I Peter 4:17-18, "For the time is come for judgment to begin at the house of God: and if it begins first at us, what shall be the end of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous is scarcely saved, where shall the ungodly and sinner appear?" The morally good man who stands without having

obeyed the gospel before the throne of judgment will be condemned just the same as the murderer, the drunkard or the adulterer. Their part shall be in the lake that burneth with fire and brimstone.

But let us turn from this ugly sowing and reaping and behold the beautiful promises that come through our sowing to the Spirit. While the seed of flesh will bring corruption, the seed of the Spirit will bring everlasting life.

I wish that words could really express the true glory of that everlasting home. If we could only realize the great hope that is to be found in heaven, we would have little desire to work the works of the flesh. Oh! to walk on those streets of gold and to eat of the fruit of the tree of everlasting life! We could walk endlessly among a people who had no sorrows nor cares. There would be no tears or heartaches, but all will be peace and joy and love. We could walk and talk with Abraham, Moses, David, John, Peter, Paul and all the saints of ages past and the millions yet to be born. But above all we could see and fully know our Saviour, Jesus Christ. We can hear God unfold the mysteries of the ages and we can all lift our voices in everlasting praise.

We'll walk with our elder brother, Jesus, and bask in the eternal sunlight of God's love. All of this and more too comes through our sowing the works of the Spirit. Remember that whether we sow the Spirit or the flesh that we shall surely reap a like harvest. We can never escape that law of return.

When we consider the fruits of the Spirit from which all of these blessings will spring, how can we, under any circumstances, be willing to sow the seeds of the flesh. Paul says in the Galatian letter 6:22-23, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance; against such there is no law." The fruits of the flesh, however, are against all the laws of decency and morality. The great philosophers advocate that we follow, for even our own material good, these principles which Paul calls the fruit of the Spirit. While the laws of our land have been established regardless of our religious beliefs for the good of the land and its peoples, we find they prohibit those acts which Paul lists as the fruit of the flesh. Now if men, some of whom claim no religious belief at all, insist that if we sow to these fleshly desires we shall reap corruption from the flesh, how much greater will be the corruption and destruction that we shall reap in that last day of judgment. There is no law against peace and love and joy and longsuffering, but the laws of the land are established that these principles might be upheld and developed.

For that reason, if there were no other reason, we should seek, as law-abiding citizens, to sow according to these good works.

Hosea exhorts, "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. Ye have plowed wickedness, ye have reaped iniquity; ye have eaten the fruit of lies; because thou didst trust in thy way, in the multitude of thy mighty men." Hosea 10:12-13.

Until the world wakes up to the principle "that whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap," we shall reap through their ignorance and willful sinning, grief and sorrow and destruction. As long as parents will cast aside the errors of their children by saying, "all must sow their wild oats," the peoples of the earth shall suffer from that sowing. Perhaps Hosea understood a little bit more than others what it meant to sow and to reap for he said in the 8th Chapter and the 7th verse, "For they have sown the wind and they shall reap the whirlwind." America has sown the winds of greed and adultery and drunkenness and we have only begun to reap the whirlwind of judgment. The Lord calls for you to obey him today by believing in him, repenting of every sin, confessing the name of Christ before your fellow man and then completing the act of adoption by being buried with your Lord in baptism that ye might stand justified as a child of God. Paul said in Gal. 3:26-27, "For ye are all sons of God, through faith, in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ did put on Christ."

My friends, won't you realize that it is futile to sow the seeds of sin and expect to reap the grains of blessings. It is only reasonable and logical, even as our material understanding is concerned, to desire those things of the spirit, and yet going beyond this we have the promise of everlasting life in Christ Jesus. Won't you, through obedience today, empty your life of those works of the flesh and fill it with those fruits of the spirit and unto you shall God add all the blessings of life everlasting. Won't you just walk with the Lord: trust Him and obey Him? Our prayer is that you will today.