

BE NOT DECEIVED

Gal 6:7.9

INTRODUCTION:

- A. It is easy to deceive ourselves
 - 1. The scriptures warn against being deceived V 7
 - a. Be not deceived 1Cor 15:33
 - b. He deceiveth himself Gal 6:3
 - c. Let no man deceive himself 1Cor 3:18
 - d. Deceiving you own selves Jas 1:22
 - e. We deceive ourselves 1Jhn 1:8
 - 2. Personal experiences teach this lesson
 - a. We find ways to avoid facing unpleasant truths
 - b. We find ways to justify inappropriate acts
 - c. We rationalize away personal guilt
- B. It is cruel folly to deceive ourselves
 - 1. We will have to face facts sooner or later 2Cor 5:10
 - 2. The fantasy will be exploded sooner or later Heb 9:27
 - 3. God shall bring every work into judgment Eccl 12:14
- C. Note the three ideas that Paul deals with in this text.

DISCUSSION:

I. GOD CANNOT BE MOCKED V 7 (mock = to turn up the nose at or treat with contempt)

- A. God is not mocked in that his law cannot be ignored without punishment
 - 1. Render to every man according to deeds
Rom 2:6-9
 - 2. Adam and Eve tried Gen 2:15 - 3:24
 - 3. Ananias and Sapphira tried Acts 5:1-11
- B. God cannot be deceived
 - 1. Discerns thoughts and intents of heart
Heb 4:12,13
 - 2. Achan concealed sin from others, but not God
Josh 7
 - 3. Jonah tried to run from God
 - 4. There is nowhere we can go to hide Psa 139:7-13

II. GOD'S LAW OF HARVEST CANNOT BE BROKEN V 8

- A. God instituted the law of harvest Gen 8:22
 - 1. Man has never been able to change this
 - 2. Whatever we sow we will reap V 7 (Rom 8:13)
- B. We can sow to the flesh or Spirit V 8
 - 1. If we sow to the flesh we reap corruption
 - 2. If we sow to Spirit we reap life everlasting
2Tim 4:6-8
- C. One cannot neglect God's law without consequences
Heb 2:2,3
 - 1. Law for life Jhn 10:10

- a. Spiritual life in Christ Eph 1:3
- b. Must follow law to get into Christ Jhn 14:6
- c. There is no other way Matt 7:21; Jer 10:23
- 2. Law for continued growth 1Pet 2:2; 2Pet 3:18
 - a. Eat regularly to live
 - b. We grow by feeding on God's word
 - c. Receive strength through the memorial that Christ instituted Acts 20:7
 - d. Many other things could be cited -- these should be sufficient for the point under consideration -- we cannot neglect God's law without suffering consequences
- D. One cannot forsake the works of the Spirit and expect to reap life everlasting Rom 8:13
- E. Some say let the young people sow their wild oats - If they sow wild oats, they will reap wild oats

III. ALL FRUITS OF BEHAVIOR ARE NOT IMMEDIATE V 9

- A. We look primarily beyond the present for reward
Mk 10:29,30
 - 1. Receive hundred fold in this life - but in the world to come eternal life
 - 2. If in this life only we have hope, most miserable
1Cor 15:19
- B. Must not mistake God's present tolerance for a full harvest 2Pet 3:9,10
 - 1. One may escape the wrath of parents, law and society, but not God
 - 2. Worldly may think they have "gotten by with sin" if they receive no immediate harm and sins are overlooked by brethren -- not so
 - 3. The "mild" transgressor may fancy himself as Being smart for being able to "play both sides" -- he is just fooling or deceiving himself Heb 4:13; Eccl 12:14

CONCLUSION:

- A. We must face the fact that God cannot be mocked, we cannot deceive God.
- B. God's law of harvest cannot and will not be broken - what we sow we will reap
- C. All the punishment or reward for our deeds are not immediate - the punishment we receive here is not all, neither is the rewards we receive here all that there is
- D. Many are deceiving themselves into believing the reverse of these are true -- we need to wake up to these facts, quit deceiving ourselves and apply ourselves to God's service today.