

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Farmers

"He that would reap well must sow well." – Anonymous

"He who skimps on the seed will raise a poor harvest." – Anonymous

"The diligent farmer plants trees, of which he himself will never see the fruit." – Cicero

"Praise the ripe field, not the green corn." – Irish Proverb

"Let gleaners glean, though crops be lean." – Anonymous

Jesus made use of the farmer in a valuable lesson on sowing seed (Luke 8:5-8). The apostle Paul noted, "for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap" (Gal. 6:7). "The hardworking farmer must be first to partake of the crops" (2 Tim. 2:6). James wrote, "Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain" (James 5:7).

It is interesting to note the farming comments used in analogies. All of us readily relate to the task of a farmer. He sows the seed, cares for the crop as it grows, and at the appropriate time, reaps in the harvest. The hard lesson for Christians is that if we hope to see fruit, we are going to have to labor to sow the seed and water and tend to it and await God to grant the increase.

Paul wrote, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase" (1 Cor. 3:6). And then Paul followed that up with the interesting comment, "Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his labor. For we are God's fellow workers...." (1 Cor. 3:8-9).

Two key words jump out at us, and that is the words, "labor" and "workers". If you ever talk with a farmer, he will tell you that what he does is hard work. He starts early in the day, labors all day until dark. If he truly wants a harvest he has to work for it. Unfortunately, today, we want the harvest and the increase but don't seem to be willing to put enough work into it.

In fact, that seems to be the general attitude of this generation. They want all the benefits without the work that goes into it. God indeed will grant the increase, but He expects us to do our part.

There is no circumventing of the Great Commission. Jesus made it crystal clear: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations..." (Matt. 28:19). "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).