

COUNTDOWN TO OPEN DAY WW1 TOUR *continued*

audience who live within an 8 kilometre radius of our church – potentially tens of thousands of people. We covet your prayers as once again we try to interact with those souls that surround us. May the Lord be pleased in His grace to draw them in and bring them onto *The Path To Peace* through the substitutionary sacrifice of His Blessed and Eternal Son. Invitation cards are being printed; the plan is to **distribute these this Friday morning as we advertise the Tours and the Children’s Club in Nettlefield School**. You may wish to take some of these cards (available Wednesday night) and pass them on to friends and family. This would be much appreciated. May the Lord richly bless every effort in His name in these increasingly challenging days.

“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: 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.” (Isaiah 55:10-11).



MEETINGS TODAY

- Morning Worship – 11.30am:
*19th Message in the Galatians Series:
“The Law of the Harvest: We Reap
Whatever We Sow.”*
- Evening Service – 7.00pm:
“A Faith Fit To Be Followed!”

INSPIRATION IN A SENTENCE

“Your life is short, your duties many, your assistance great, and your reward sure; therefore faint not, hold on and hold up, in ways of well-doing, and heaven shall make amends for all.”
[Thomas Brooks]



OPEN DAY + WW1 TOUR

**SATURDAY
28 JULY
2018**

10AM-2PM

**MARTYRS
MEMORIAL
CHURCH**

**TOURS ON
THE HOUR**

'THE PATH TO PEACE'

You are invited to take our new WW1 Tour at Martyrs to commemorate the signing of the Armistice
Five interactive stages | Designed for all the family

COUNTDOWN TO FIRST OPEN DAY FOR WW1 TOUR

In an effort to bring our Reformation Tours to the widest possible local audience, we **experimented with various media**. Would *an invitation card* posted through the letterbox encourage people to visit? In several cases it certainly did. Or would *advertising in one of the region’s free newspapers* provide a better yield? Apparently it didn’t. Throughout the length of the project almost daily updates were given by means of *an online blog site*, the contents of which were then posted on Facebook: this method definitely attracted attention, particularly among the young people.

Now that we have launched on ‘Round Two’ of our attempt at community connection and evangelistic outreach, **the question has resurfaced**: how best to engage our local community in South and East Belfast? Yesterday we sponsored an advert on Facebook and Instagram, running for seven consecutive days at a rate of £8 per day, reaching out to an



THE LAW OF THE HARVEST

Text: **Galatians 6:7-10.**

That our universe is controlled by unalterable laws is a fact supported both by science and Scripture. Scripture of course goes further than science can: it teaches us the reason why our universe is so orderly and dependable is not due to chance or accident, but because of the creative genius of God (**Job 26:7; Psalm 33:6, cf. Genesis 1**).

By reference to a basic law of botany – we reap what we sow – Paul shows how this law applies in the physical, moral and spiritual realms; e.g. if the sinning brother refuses the hand of help (**6:1-6**) and determines he will stay broken under his burden, the apostle warns of the consequences – **6:7-10**.

[1] THE PRINCIPLE EXPRESSED; 6:7.

(a) THE REASON WHY IT IS EXPRESSED: Primary meaning of “*deceived*” is to be led astray (cf. “*bewitched*,” **3:1**); while “*mocked*” comes from a term that means to turn up one’s nose – therefore to scorn or sneer. The actions of these deceptive teachers in Galatia in causing Christians to scorn or sneer at God’s standards made it imperative for Paul to carefully and consistently apply the corrective of God’s Word.

(b) THE REALITY OF WHAT IS EXPRESSED:

(i) We reap precisely and only what we sow (cf. **Job 4:8, Proverbs 1:31, Hosea 8:7; 10:12**). Just as a person’s character is usually the product of seeds planted in his or her early life (**Proverbs 22:6**), so the sowing of sin carries consequences (**Numbers 32:23, Psalm 90:8, Romans 2:9-10**).

(ii) We often reap far more than what we sow. The size of the seed does not determine the size of the harvest (cf. acorn < oak tree). Also: if we keep on sowing to the Spirit, we will reap the harvest of godly character and a life in harmony with the Lord.

[2] THE PRINCIPLE EXPLAINED; 6:8.

The picture is of a country estate with two large fields: one gate is marked “Flesh”; the other is labelled “Spirit.” Every day, through

everything we do, we are either sowing to the flesh or sowing to the Spirit. There is no third alternative.

(a) THE DOMAIN OF DEPRAVITY: In the field of the Flesh all kinds of selfish, fleshly desires can be nurtured. (i) This Field Stretches Out: everything from blatant immorality through to cold indifference to the things of the Lord (**Galatians 5:19-21**); (ii) This Field Runs Downhill: “*corruption*” in **6:8** is degeneration; going from better to worse. While no sin in a believer’s life can separate him from eternal life in Christ, any sin in his life corrupts his reflection on and enjoyment of that eternal life (**Psalm 51:12, 1 Corin. 11:30**).

(b) THE DOMAIN OF DELIGHT: The Christian who is focused on the things of God rather than the fleshly things of the world will produce the fruit of the Spirit (**Galatians 5:22-23**).

[3] THE PRINCIPLE EXEMPLIFIED; 6:9.

Reaping a harvest requires patience and persistence / “*longsuffering*” (**5:22**). This is one of the most elusive parts of the fruit of the Spirit. To grow “*weary*” carries the idea of becoming exhausted and giving up – and is *the exact opposite* of **1 Corinthians 15:58** – “*stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding*” – and runs so counter to the advice given in **Hebrews 12:1-3**. Puritan preacher John Brown gives us a necessary word of caution: “*Many Christians are like children; they would sow and reap the same day.*” However, when God’s child is genuinely and persistently faithful in “*well doing*,” he has the Lord’s assurance that, “*in due season we shall reap.*” We should not give up (**2 John 8, Acts 20:24, 2 Timothy 4:7-8**).

[4] THE PRINCIPLE EXERCISED; 6:10.

(a) THE PERIOD FOR THIS ACTIVITY: “*As we have therefore opportunity*” ... reference to a believer’s entire lifetime; our unique but limited opportunity to serve others for Christ.

(b) THE PRIORITY IN THIS ACTIVITY: The “good” for which we aim is the same word as “goodness” in **Galatians 5:22** (and of Mary in **Luke 10:42**); spiritual excellence is in view.

(c) THE PLACE FOR THIS ACTIVITY: This “goodness” must be unqualified and unrestricted, shown to unbelievers (cf. **1 Peter 2:15**) and to the converted (**1 John 3:14; 4:20-21**).

What have you been sowing? Are you happy with the harvest?