



# The Trinity Tablet

## “The Law of Reaping and Sowing”

by Dr. Henry Cloud and John Townsend from Boundaries (Edited by: Donald Smedley)

In God’s word we find a law called The Law of Sowing and Reaping; or as stated in Galatians, The law of sowing and reaping.

**You reap whatever you sow. If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit.** - Galatians 6:7-8. When God tells us that we will reap what we sow, He is not punishing us; He’s telling us how things really are; or, how The **God Head** had established the universe before the foundation of the world. If you smoke cigarettes, you most likely will develop a smoker’s hack, and you may even get lung cancer. If you overspend, you most likely will get calls from creditors, and you may even go hungry because you have no money for food. On the other hand, if you eat right and exercise regularly, you may suffer from fewer colds and bouts with the flu. If you budget wisely, you will have money for the bill collectors and for the grocery store. Sometimes, however, people don’t reap what they sow, because someone else steps in and reaps the consequences for them. If every time you overspent, your mother sent you money to cover check overdrafts or high credit-card balances, you wouldn’t reap the consequences of your spendthrift ways. Your mother would be protecting you from the natural consequences: the hounding of creditors or going hungry. As the mother in the above example demonstrates, the Law of Sowing and Reaping can be interrupted. And it is often people who have no boundaries who do the interrupting. Just as we can interfere with the law of gravity by catching a glass tumbling off the table, people can interfere with the Law of Cause and Effect by stepping in and rescuing irresponsible people. Rescuing a person from the natural consequences of their behavior enables them to continue in irresponsible behavior. The Law of Sowing and Reaping has not been repealed. It is still operating, but the doer is not suffering the consequences; someone else is. Today we call a person who continually rescues another person a codependent. In effect, codependent, boundary less peoples “cosign the note” of life for the irresponsible person. Then they end up paying the bills

- physically, emotionally, and spiritually - and the spendthrift continues out of control with no consequences. He continues to be loved, pampered, and treated nicely. Establishing boundaries helps codependent people stop interrupting the Law of Sowing and Reaping in their loved one’s life. Boundaries force the person who is doing the sowing to also do the reaping. It doesn’t help just to confront the irresponsible person. A client will often say to me, “But I do confront Jack. I have tried many times to let him know what I think about his behavior and that he needs to change.” In reality, my client is only nagging Jack. Jack will not feel the need to change because his behavior is not causing him any pain. Confronting an irresponsible person is not painful to him; only consequences are. If Jack is wise, confrontation might change his behavior. But people caught in destructive patterns, destructive patterns, destructive patterns are usually not **wise**. They need to suffer consequences before they change their behavior. The Bible tells us it is worthless to confront foolish people: **Do not rebuke a mocker or he will hate you; rebuke a wise man and he will love you.** - Proverbs 9:8

Codependent people bring insults and pain onto themselves when they confront irresponsible people. In reality, they just need to stop interrupting the law of sowing and reaping in someone’s life.

**Your Turn:**

The Bible offers great wisdom for dealing with irresponsible people because we ALL need that wisdom! How have you dealt with relationships in which you could easily slide into codependency? **Do you have strong boundaries with others that honor God and the natural laws He created?** Do you struggle with the Law of Reaping and Sowing? ~

How about using the Bible as your source on guidance, devotions, and seeking a way to live from day to day. Open your life to **Him** who will supply ALL you need. Read Proverbs 3: 3-10.

-Blessings, Pastor Smedley

## Words of Encouragement

### Hallelujah!

After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting: “Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God...” -Revelation 19:1



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**Special points of interest:**

- \* Second Sunday of Advent, December 6th
- \* Church School Christmas Play, December 11th, @ 7PM
- \* Third Sunday of Advent, December 13th
- \* Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 20th
- \* First Day of Winter, December 21st
- \* Christmas Day Service, December 25th, @ 10AM
- \* Watch Night Service, December 31st, @ 9:30PM
- \* Enjoy this month’s issue!

# Missionary Lesson of the Month

Our Christian Responsibility to Impact Society,

Overcoming Despair and Inspiring

Hope Through Teaching the Word

Just as the Star of Bethlehem shined in the East to guide the three wise men, this joyous Christmas season, we are to be God's shining stars of hope spreading his love and his light.

## SCRIPTURES:

Genesis 1:27-28 Genesis 4:9-12

St. John 16:5-15 Philippians 4:13

In the world today there appears to be very little hope and an overabundance of despair. Some people in attempting to relieve the despair, resort to prescriptions and non-prescription drugs, alcohol and various other avenues looking for quick fixes.

We as representatives of Jesus Christ are to "hold up the blood-stained banner and be beacons of light and hope." How do we do this? We do it by sharing and spreading the light, the light is God's word. Our spiritual drug therapy is God. God is free and you don't need a prescription card or a copay. As we learn from Genesis, God, our father created everything then he created us in his image. We are God's special creations, endowed with powers to bring, shed and share the light and hope of God in a despair-filled world.

God has given each one of us different spiritual gifts. Gifts of discernment, prophecy, counseling and the ability to heal. All these gifts are to be used to shut out the despair, destruction and darkness of the world and to shine our God-given lights. As we all, with our spiritual gifts, comprise the entire body of Christ, we are able to crush and defeat darkness and despair.

God only wants the best for us and is always there for us. Knowing this one true fact should serve to make us forever and humbly secure. God has also placed in us love, patience, kindness, faithfulness and hope. This knowledge gives us joy and the everlasting desire to spread the light. We must remember that as Philippians 4:13 states, "I can do all things through Jesus Christ which strengthens me." God is our friend, our comforter and he is our all and all. One of our task from God is to be lighthouse keepers, protecting, maintaining, sharing and sending his light out into the world. We are to help people everywhere to overcome and overthrow darkness and despair. Our lights are to shine forth with the spreading of the Gospel.



## Senior Ministry Black History Quiz

- 1) Before modern technology, radio was the means by which America was informed of local, national and international events. The first radio broadcast station in American owned by an African American was \_\_\_\_\_. It was bought in 1949 by a university professor, \_\_\_\_\_, who hired his son, \_\_\_\_\_ as station manager. This 1,000 watt broadcast station was located in the Prince Hall Masons Grand Lodge in the city of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2) Born in 1940, the son of sharecroppers. As a student, attending Fisk University, he organized sit-in demonstrations. He was an active participant in the Freedom Rides, helped form and became chair of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). By age 23, he was dubbed one of the "Big Six" leaders of the Civil Rights Movement. He was an architect of and a keynote speaker at the 1963 March on Washington. He is \_\_\_\_\_ U.S. Congressman representing the state of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3) It was in the year 1624 near Jamestown Virginia that a child was born. He was the son of "Antoney and Isabell," two African indentured servants. He was the first person of African ancestry born in America. He was given the name \_\_\_\_\_.

Find the answers to this month's quiz on page 4.



# Pastor's Corner



## “Man’s Mind, God’s Plan”

In the book of Isaiah we find these words, “here a little, and there a little” speaking of the precepts of God and our spiritual relationship with Him.

As we learn of God and His ways, we trust in what The Holy Spirit has given to man, knowing that getting to know Him is a lifetime lesson on this earth; therefore we must daily exercise patience in learning of the wisdom of God. The Proverbial writer put it this way “*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*” Pro. 1:7 {Fear—(phobos) is in this passage of scripture is total submission-awe-reverence of or to The Lord}

The Gospel of The Lord Jesus Christ is the essence of simplicity. The benefits that come to humanity as a result of the pure gospel being believed are too numerous to count and probably will never be fully comprehended in any one man’s lifetime. God does not put a series of demands upon lost humanity whereby, once accomplished, men can be saved. He really only asks one thing of us. That is to believe in His Son who sacrificed His life on Calvary. That simple object of faith is sufficient to redeem us from our lost condition, to cleanse us holistically from our sinful state, and to introduce us to an inheritance that will last for ALL eternity. Therefore our faith in Christ and His finished work on the Cross will accomplish all of this for all who will believe.

To bring the blessings of salvation to humanity one may search the gospels, but if we as humankind seek Him as our personal savior we will find what we are searching for in our

heart and mind. The problem is getting man to believe it the way God designed it. Man’s mind is full of reasoning’s that oppose God’s plan. Man’s actions are more inclined to gravitate toward the “doing” of something rather than the “believing” of something. The gospel is only effectively and honestly embraced by those who truly see that they are lost, hopeless, hapless, and helpless to produce a right relationship between God and themselves.

In the old covenant God gave the law that had two purposes: (1) to reveal to the world the difference between right and wrong and, (2) to prove to man that he was incapable of performing properly at all times. Israel who could not keep all the laws all the time claimed that keeping the law was the means of salvation, and they were deceived into believing that they could keep it; and so are we. Therefore, making the law the object of our faith is eternally disastrous. Hence the shed blood of Christ, with our focus on Him and His finished work on the Cross can help man’s mind line up with God’s plan as we seek to live eternally with Him. Isaiah 28:10 will assist the most for spiritually minded persons. “***For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little.***”

None of us learns these lessons immediately. It takes time to remove the idols, the wrong object of faith that believers establish in their hearts. But we can find a focus to assist us with our desire to live eternally with Jesus the Christ. Proverbs 3:5-10 & Luke 9:23-27.

*God’s Blessings,  
Pastor and Louise “15”*

## ***Women of the Bible: Encounters with Jesus***

This season as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, consider these five unnamed women in the Bible whose lives were forever changed by a personal encounter with Jesus:

The woman with an issue of blood – Jesus said, “Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.”

***See Mark 5:25-34.***

The Syrophenician woman – Jesus said, “For this saying go thy way; the devil is gone out of thy daughter.”

***See Mark 7:25-30.***

The Samaritan woman at the well – Jesus said, “Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.”

***See John 4:7-26.***

The woman taken in adultery – Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more”

***See John 8:3-11.***

The crippled woman healed on the Sabbath – Jesus said, “Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity.”

***See Luke 13:10-17.***



### **Answers to this month's Black History Quiz**

- 1) WERD / Jesse B. Blayton/ Jesse B. Blayton, Jr. / Atlanta, GA.***
- 2) John Lewis / Georgia***
- 3) William Tucker***

  
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