

How Many Deceive Themselves

Gal. 6:7-9

Introduction:

- A. Paul warns against being deceived (v. 7).
 - 1. Sometimes deceived by others.
 - 2. Often deceive ourselves (v. 3)
- B. It is easy to deceive ourselves.
 - 1. To avoid unpleasant truth.
 - 2. To justify actions - rationalize guilt.
- C. It is foolish to deceive ourselves.
 - 1. It does not change the facts.
 - 2. Truth must be faced sooner or later.
- D. Paul warns against three common illusions:

Discussion:

II. The Illusion That *God Can Be Mocked* (v. 7)

- A. God will not be deceived (cf. Heb. 4:13)
 - 1. Achan tried to hide his sin — God not mocked (Josh. 7)
 - 2. Ananias and Sapphira lied — God not mocked (Acts 5).
 - 3. Can deceive self, neighbor, family, brethren but not God.
- B. God will not be ignored.
 - 1. Adam and Eve ignored God's warning — God not mocked (Gen. 2:15-17; 3:6, 24).
 - 2. Jonah ran ignored God and ran — God not mocked.

III. The Illusion That *God's Harvest Law Can Be Broken* (v. 8; cf. Gen. 1:11).

- A. Sow to spirit and reap accordingly — now and hereafter. (Cf. Mk. 10:29, 30; 1 Tim. 4:8).
- B. Sow to the flesh reap accordingly — now and hereafter.
 - 1. All will reap eternal consequences — if they do not repent. (Gal. 5:17-19; 1 Cor. 6:9,10).
 - 2. Many reap temporal consequences — disease, heartache, broken homes, etc., even if repent.

IV. The Illusion That *God's Harvest Is Immediate* (v. 9).

- A. Must not get discouraged and/or quit if results is not immediate.
- B. Must look beyond present for our reward (cf. Rom. 8:18; Matt. 6:3,4).
- C. Must not mistake present circumstance for full harvest.
 - 1. Must not mistake longsuffering for tolerance (2 Pet. 3:9,10).
 - 2. Must not mistake escaping censure from parents, church, law, or society as harvest.

Conclusion:

- A. Face the fact that God will not be mocked — quit making a mockery of Christianity.
- B. Face the fact that we will reap what we sow — sooner or later, maybe sooner and later.