

I'll lose it if you touch me! **M** Jesus said, Don't say four months more and then the harvest. Open your eyes, he said. What we do now is tremendously important in what happens later.

Now there is a third harvest I want to speak about. There is a second one and this second one also relates to the matter I just spoke of. Of the purpose why God leaves us here on earth. He leaves us here so that He may use us to accomplish His work. It is tremendously important what a man does in the service of God during his life. But there is something else that is just as important. In fact in a way it is =can almost be said to be more important.

That is what we find in Galatians 5, and in Gal. 6. I have quoted the verse as the KJV gives it: "Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap." The NIV gives it more briefly. "A man reaps what he sows." To truly understand that verse in Gal. 6 you have to look back into Gal. 5, where he speaks in v. 19 of the acts of the sinful nature. "Sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery, idolatry, hatred, jealousy, selfish ambition," and then in v. 22 he says "the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." This is the other harvest and this is a harvest that is equally important in God's purpose for each of us.

God's purpose is that during these 4 months, and during the years ahead, that we must grow in our relationship to Jesus. We must become more like Him. We must develop in ourselves, or we must allow Him to develop in us those characteristics which will make us such as He would have for fellowship with Him through all the years of eternity ahead. The development of each individual Christian. is a large part of the purpose why God leaves us here. It is a large part of the relevancy of the harvest. What will the harvest be when the time comes when God takes us to himself?

sown

Will you have ~~souls~~ through these years that which God uses to develop in you those characteristic that He desires His people to have?

So we have these two very important harvests, and we have the preliminary harvest that comes at the end of these four months. We come to the period when we have the harvest to see what has been accomplished during these months. In a way this talk would be more appropriate at the end when the harvest comes. then at the beginning. But it is far more important to get it at the beginning, because what we do now, how we conduct ourselves during these next few months, what we accomplish now, will determine what is the harvest then and means a great deal. Or whether it is merely a form.

Now I would like to call your attention to an interesting related passage which is not usually brought into relationship to this particular theme, and yet I think has a very real importance in connection with it. It is a part of a parable, and I am not going to take with you the main thought with which the