

## **Section Two: The Kingdom of God on Earth (Present)**

### **Category C: Bema – Kingdom Intelligence Report #1**

Topic: The Accountability

One essential aspect of God's moral universe is that of accountability. More than once, this concept is expressed in the Word of God as reaping what you sow. It is a principle that fulfills a dual purpose. It can serve as a warning to those who think they can engage in sinful behavior and get away with it. But it can also be a motivation for positive behavior in that it promises a beneficial consequence for those who do that which is good and right. An expression of the reap/sow dynamic as a warning to the nation of Israel is found in Hosea 8:7a –

**“For they sow the wind and they reap the whirlwind. . .”**

In the New Testament corollary, Paul provides both admonishment and encouragement to the Galatian Christians. He warns about the self-deception of thinking that God would not hold them responsible for their behavior. But his exhortation consists of knowing that service for Christ will never be in vain. That wise counsel is expressed in Galatians 6:7-9 –

**“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.”**

While this reap/sow dynamic can certainly be part of the Christian's experience in this life, here and now; the emphasis is on the hereafter. Our ultimate time of accountability to God will literally be in heaven. It will occur after the Rapture, in the presence of our Lord and Savior, in an encounter known as The Judgement Seat of Christ. Paul uses this future evaluation for an important present tense application, regarding judgmental attitudes, in Romans 14:10-12 –

**“But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. For it is written, ‘AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME, AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL GIVE PRAISE TO GOD.’ So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.”**

Simply put, we do not possess the authority to exercise such judgment, in regard to those disputable matters, for the here and now. That prerogative belongs exclusively to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ; in guiding and directing every one of us as His followers, by virtue of His death and resurrection on our behalf, confirmed by Paul in Romans 14:9 –

**“For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.”**