

October 9

Scriptures: Read 2 Corinthians 9

Key Verse: “He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.” (2 Corinthians 9:6)

Overview

Before he became president of the USA, Woodrow Wilson was president of Princeton University. I read recently of an occasion when he spoke to a group of parents:

“I get many letters from you parents about your children. You want to know why we people up here in Princeton can’t make more out of them and do more for them. Let me tell you the reason we can’t. It may shock you just a little, but I am not trying to be rude. The reason is that they are your sons, reared in your homes, blood of your blood, bone of your bone. They have absorbed the ideals of your homes. You have formed and fashioned them. They are your sons. In those malleable, moldable years of their lives you have forever left your imprint upon them.”

The Bible says, “train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.” Doing this isn’t easy, nor does it happen by itself. It takes commitment, sacrifice, and a lot of love. Lay the love on thick, and your children will draw on its depth for the rest of their lives. Love thinly, on the other hand, and they will have shallow reserves for the rest of their lives. It’s all a case of how you sow.

The same principle holds true in every area of life. If you want a lot of tomatoes you plant a lot of tomatoes. If you want God’s best for your life, you give your best for all of your life. You commit, you pay the price, you follow through. After all, the stakes are high. We are living for eternity — and we’re going to walk into a Kingdom someday. There we will become “the planting of the Lord”. How fruitful will that tree be? You can be sure it will bear just as much fruit as we’ve planted while we lived our moment in space and time. Now is the time to be generous. In everything.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, we use Your Word as our prayer and claim the promises You made through Your inspired writer. Help us to sow bountifully so we may reap bountifully. Give us Your grace so we will have sufficiency in all things, having abundance for every good work. Thank You for Your special love to cheerful givers. Amen.