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)
   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.