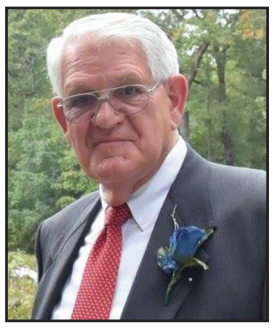
Life Lessons

Planting Time

By Doug Harrell
Mitchell County



As I sit here getting ready to write this Life Lessons for the coming month of May I look out my window and see the trees on the hill in front of our home beginning to turn green. The leaves are bursting out, spring flowers are beginning to bloom, the yard is freshly mowed and the banks have just been gone over with the weed eater. The earth is coming alive after a long winter's nap and seasons are changing in front of my eyes.

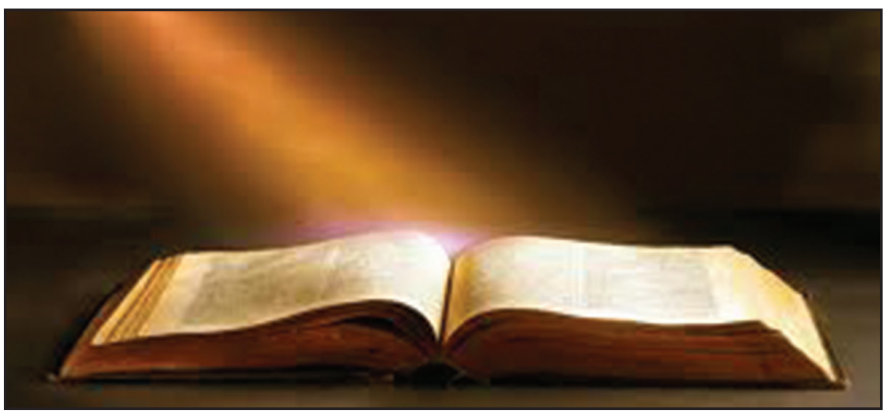
On the farm May has always been planting month, the gardens are being prepared, the ground is being prepared for planting and there is excitement in the air for the coming season. Our lives are the same way, we go through different seasons and some things change, while others stay the same! The principle of sowing seeds never changes, when we sow bountifully, odds are that we will also reap bountiful crops. On the other hand, if we are sparing with our sowing, our harvest will be light. Another thing that never changes is that we will reap what we sow. The seed will return perfect replicas of what is planted. If we plant sweet corn, we will harvest sweet corn. If we plant field corn, we will harvest field corn. While both crops may be corn, the flavor and texture of the two crops are very different. While the hogs will like either one to eat, the people, you and I, will much prefer the sweet corn.

Our lives are much like the seed we plant, only we don't just plant in the springtime, for us individually, planting time is year-round! Also, the harvesting is year-round and if we are planting seeds of love, faith, and kindness we will reap those very things in return. On the other hand, if we are sowing seeds of discord, hate, fear, and dishonesty, we will also reap these in return. Another thing that we should always look at and remember is the parable of the seed in the Bible. If we sow seed in the good ground the crop will be more plentiful and will return 100-fold of what we sowed. The best and most fertile soil in our lives is around our kitchen table. What kind of seed are you sowing there? When you are with those closest to you, what are you putting in the ground? Are you watering the new seed, are you hoeing the weeds out daily with a loving touch, are you caring for your garden so that the harvest might be great?

Not only is it important to do this around the kitchen table, but be conscious of what you are sowing wherever you may be walking in life. You may be making a deposit or planting a seed in their minds that will have a life-changing impact on them. Always be looking for a way to have a positive impact on every person you are blessed to come in contact with. To some, you may be the only bright spot in their life that day. Make sure that you are planting those seeds of hope, faith, and love. Most of all, plant the seed of salvation through the blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. That seed can spring into life eternal for some soul that you may touch!

"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully." 2 Corinthians 9:6 KJV

Doug Harrell is a life-long resident of Mitchell County, Owner of Harrell Hill Farms, Inc, a member of Bear Creek Baptist Church.



What We Believe

Here are some of the essential elements of our faith at the Blue Ridge Christian News:

God

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has existed eternally in three persons and chooses to manifest Himself in these three ways: as God the Father, as God the Son, and as God the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God.
(Genesis 1:1, 26-27; 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2; and 2 Corinthians 13:14)

Jesus

Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, who is fully God and fully human in His incarnation. He lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all humanity by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to heaven and will return again to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
(Matthew 1:22-23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5; 14:10-30; Hebrews 4:14-15; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Romans 1:3-4; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Timothy 6:14-15; Titus 2:13)

The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the very Spirit of God, fully divine, manifested in the life of every believer from the moment of salvation. He is equal with the Father and the Son as God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. The Christian seeks to live under His daily control.
(2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13; 14:16-17; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:12; 3:16; Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 5:18)

The Bible

The Bible is the divinely inspired, authoritative, infallible, living and active Word of God to all men. It was written by human authors under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the ultimate source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. In it we find a guideline for right relationship with God and God's creation, and a blueprint for personal, emotional, and spiritual growth.
(2 Timothy 1:13; 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:2-21; Psalm 119:105, 160; 12:6; Proverbs 30:5)

Humanity

Humanity is designed and made by God in His image. We have been created as cognitive, moral, ethical, and physical beings and have been equipped by God for both relationship with Him and with one another. Both male and female are gifted by the Creator with characteristics which equip them for the purpose for which they have been created: relationship, dominion, and responsibility. Although God designed us to have fellowship with Him, we became alienated from God through disobedience. As a result, all human beings are born with a sinful nature and choose to sin against God. We are incapable of regaining a right relationship with God through our own efforts.
(Genesis 1:26-28; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6; 59:1-2; Romans 3:23; 5:22; Colossians 1:21; 2 Corinthians 5:17)

Eternity & Eternal Security

Our soul, the essence of our being, was created by God to exist forever. That forever is spent in one of two places: eternally present and in union with God because of His forgiveness and salvation or eternally separated from God because of sin and unbelief. At the moment that our physical body dies, those who are saved are immediately taken to heaven. Those who have rejected God's gift of salvation will spend eternity separated from God in hell. Because God gives man eternal life through Jesus Christ, the believer is secure in that salvation for eternity. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. It is the grace and eternal power of God that gives this security.
(John 3:16; 5:11-13, 10:29; 1 John 2:25; Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:15; 2 Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 7:25; 10:10-14; 1 Peter 1:3-5)

Salvation

Salvation is God's gift of redemption and reconciliation to Himself and is offered freely to all who accept, by faith alone, Jesus Christ as God's only son and receive Him as Lord and Savior. We can never make up for our sin with self-improvement or good works. It is only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness that you can be saved from sin's penalty. Eternal life begins the moment you receive Jesus Christ into your life by faith.
(Romans 5:1; 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 1:12; 14:6; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26)

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