

BIBLE STUDY DEPARTMENT

THEME 2008: ...*THAT THOU MAYEST PROSPER...*

**TOPIC: *PREPARING TO SOW*
2008**

27TH JULY,

Memory verse -
Sow to yourselves
in righteousness,
reap in mercy;
break up your
fallow ground: for it
is time to seek the
lord, till he come
and reign
righteousness upon
you.

Hosea 10:12

That we are the ground in which we sow is evident in the last couple of lessons we had. In this light, what we sow and what and how we reap is a function of ourselves. In our study today, we essentially focus on a self preparation.

When the bible says break up your fallow ground (Hos. 10:12), it refers to a preparation and a turning of the heart to receive instructions in righteousness. In terms of sowing and reaping, it is an admonition to prepare for a good harvest (consider Hos. 10:13).

Notes

From our memory verse, we see that the best way to get prepared is to mix our ground, ourselves with righteousness or, take on the breastplate of righteousness (Eph. 6:14). To reap in mercy is not a reference to our harvest time but to the period of receiving seedlings (Hos. 10:12 NLT). We appreciate this when we cast our minds back to the study on 'seed for the sower' in which we understood that for the sower to sow, he must receive seedlings. It is those seedlings that we reap in mercy in Hos. 10:12.

Without exploring the concept of righteousness, it is sufficient to know that the state of our heart is important to how enduring our seeds and harvest can be (Isa. 10:7; Mat. 7: 21-23). Our sowing might be vain if it is not a product of love (I Cor. 13:13).