

The Word of the Gospel Bestows the Righteousness of Christ and Brings Forth Faith



Background: We have now come to the part of the church year where we are learning from parables taught by Christ. They usually begin “The kingdom of heaven is like” Last week we heard about the sower and the seed in which he describes a generous God distributing seed all over the earth, but only the seed falling on good ground produced fruit, which is obviously the fruits of faith generated in followers of Christ. This week Christ continues with the wheat farm analogy. In this parable Christ sows the field with “Good seed”,

Tares (darnel (taller plants)) in a wheat field)

but then an enemy (Satan) sows something like darnel which looks like wheat until it is time to head and then they find a grown plant which if you pull it out of the ground, you will also pull out good wheat plants. But it can't be harvested, because darnel is toxic and can kill you if eaten at a moderate level. So Christ instructs the harvesters “Let the evil plants live with the righteous, but at harvest separate those evil plants and set them on fire. So it is with life. Many people behave almost like Christians, but their hearts have been stolen by Satan so that while many of their actions might look like good works, those works are not done in response to God's love and mercy or serving the Lord and living the sanctified life. Note, they may be community boards or even in your church as Christ pointed out that some of the most devout temple leaders were horribly misleading their parishioners. So at this time we want to be aware that while we all sin daily, people who are willfully disobeying the law of God without remorse need to be corrected, so they will not be harvested at the end of time and thrown into hell. We pray that the Holy Spirit guide all of us to be healthy or good wheat plants. For it is God's will that all be saved and come to the knowledge of His Truth.

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The Lessons: Isaiah 44:6–8, Romans 8:18–27, & Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

The good Seed, which is “*the Son of Man*,” Jesus Himself (Matt. 13:37), brings forth a harvest of faith and bears good fruits in “*the sons of the kingdom*” (Matt. 13:38). Whatever is sown apart from His Word is of the devil, who plants the weeds of unbelief and sin, even among the people of God. Thankfully, the Lord is patient and He does not uproot the weeds, lest the plants also be destroyed. He lets “*both grow together until the harvest*” (Matt. 13:30), while He continues to preach repentance and forgiveness of sins. Thus, He preserves His Church in righteousness, because He alone is “*the King of Israel and his Redeemer*” (Is. 44:6). Since all things are in His gracious care and keeping, “*fear not, nor be afraid*” (Is. 44:8). For “*the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God*” (Rom. 8:19), and in this hope we also wait with patience. Though we do not yet see it, “*the Spirit helps us in our weakness*” (Rom. 8:26) and, in truth, “*the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us*” (Rom. 8:18).