

The Gospel According to Matthew pt 44

(Wheat and Tares)

Lord teach us, the parable of the wheat and the tares (Mat 13:24-30; Mat 13:36-43).

“Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn” (Mat 13:24-30)

“Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field. He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear” (Mat 13:36-43).

I would like to first consider what is so obvious that it is astonishing how slow we are to learn it. — There is no such thing as a perfect or pure church in this world. Every local church, every assembly of professed believers is a mixed multitude of true believers and people who merely profess, but do not possess faith in Christ. In the professing church of Christ, the children of the wicked one are mingled with the children of the kingdom. They spring up together, they grow together. This has been the experience of God's saints in all ages.

Also, in this parable, our Lord teaches us that it is not the business of God's servants to separate the wheat from the tares. The called, the loved of God, "The Church" is built by the Holy Spirit, Christ revealed is the function of the Holy Spirit, He builds the Church of God upon one foundation! The Solid Rock, The Corner Stone! **"upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."** (Mat 16:18) What Rock is that? **"Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."** (Mat 16:16) *"On Christ the solid rock I stand, anything else is but sinking sand"*

Folks we have but one commission; and it's not to build the church **"And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand."** (Mat 10:7); Or **"what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops."** (Mat 10:27) our responsibility is one thing! Preach Christ Jesus The Lord, the Son of the Living God, who by Grace, gave Himself a sacrifice to save His people from their sins! Preach the Gospel!

"But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee." (Gen 6:18)

"Therefore, behold, I will this once cause them to know, I will cause them to know mine hand and my might; and they shall know that my name is The LORD." (Jer 16:21)

"Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause thee to hear my words." (Jer 18:2)

"And they shall be my people, and I will be their God:" (Jer 32:38)

“Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake, which ye have profaned among the heathen, whither ye went. And I will sanctify my great name, which was profaned among the heathen, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, saith the Lord GOD, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes. For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.” (Eze 36:22-27)

Folks when men in their natural state came to the Lord and asked; **“What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?”** (Joh 6:28) the Lord answered in verse 29; **“This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.”**

Only God can do the works of Grace, He builds His church alone! We do not have the ability to separate the wheat from the tares. We are not authorized to do it. And we must never try. We can only judge things by their outward appearance. We have no ability to look on the hearts of men. That means that no human being has the ability to know who is saved and who is lost. If we try to separate the wheat from the tares, we will pull up the wheat and keep the tares every time.

For that reason, I am thankful we cannot discern one from the other. But both are perfectly known to God. **“Lord thou knowest all things.”** The tares can no more become good seed, than good seed can become tares. They are a totally different race. Though they are **“to grow together until the harvest,”** (v 30) and though the Church of God in this world will never be free from tares, yet **“the Lord knoweth them that are his.”**(2Ti 2:19)

And blessed are those who, by the sweet and effectual operations of His grace, giving them life and faith in Christ, are made to know whose they are, and to whom they belong. What mercy it is to be numbered by electing love among the seed of Christ, heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ;

“Yet now hear, O Jacob my servant; and Israel, whom I have chosen: Thus saith the LORD that made thee, and formed thee from the womb, which will help thee; Fear not, O Jacob, my servant; and thou, Jesurun, whom I have chosen. For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring: And they shall spring up as among the grass, as willows by the water courses. One shall say, I am the LORD'S; and another shall call himself by the name of Jacob; and another shall subscribe with his hand unto the LORD, and surname himself by the name of Israel.” (Isa 44:1-5);

“As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever.” (Isa 59:21);

“And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ;” (Rom 8:17);

“Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ. And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect. For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise. Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator. Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one. Is the law then against the promises of God?

God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.” (Gal 3:16-29);

“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God,” (1Jn 3:1-2).

Returning to our text, In the harvest time, at the end of the world, the Lord God will separate the wheat from the tares; **“As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.” (Mat 13:40-43).**

Hear these words **“And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped. And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire;**

and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs” (Rev 14:15-20).

None but God can tell tares from wheat until the harvest time. Then, at harvest time, all shall be made to know, because the tares will stand tall and the wheat will bow their heads; **“When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?**

Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.” (Mat 25:31-46).

C. H. Spurgeon, commenting on Mat 3:40-42, wrote...*“What a description! The outgathering of ‘**all things that offend,**’ and of all persons who cause others to stumble, and who work evil, will be a consummation devoutly to be wished. Not only the outwardly wicked, but the false pretenders, the mock wheat, shall be removed... The fate of these ungodly ones will be fire, the most terrible of punishments, but this will not annihilate them, for they shall exhibit the surest tokens of a living woe ‘**wailing and, gnashing of teeth.**’ Sooner or later, this is what must come of evil men. Though in this world they flourish in the same field with believers, and can hardly be discerned from them, they shall be removed from such honorable association, and be cast, with the rubbish of the universe, into that great ‘**furnace of fire**’ whose smoke goeth up for ever and ever. This the Son of man will do with authority, the angels are simply the executioners of the wrath of the Lamb.”*

Our text states; **“Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father.”** (v43) — The righteous are those sinners saved by the grace of God who have the righteousness of Christ imputed to them in free justification and imparted to them in regeneration.

Ralph Erskine wrote, *“If you would have righteousness, you must have it in and from Christ. He has to give you both an imputed righteousness for justifying you, and an imparted righteousness for sanctifying you.”*

Brother Don Fortner wrote; *“By faith in Christ we receive internally what Christ has done for us externally. Because we were justified by Christ’s imputed righteousness at the cross, we are sanctified by his imparted righteousness in the new birth.”*

“I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness” (Isa 61:10).

Read Isaiah 41:8-14

Though, in this world, the righteous are slandered and reproached as evil, though they are opposed, afflicted, and persecuted, in that day they **“shall shine forth,”**

John Gill wrote, *“in the robe of Christ’s righteousness, in perfect holiness of nature, in all felicity and prosperity of soul, and in the shining dazzling robes of glory, incorruption, and immortality, on their bodies. They **“shall shine forth as the sun,”** having no spot in them or upon them, without any clouds of darkness. They will be as Christ himself, **“the Sun of righteousness,”** with whom and in whose glory they shall appear, faultless, without spot or wrinkle, **“before the presence of his glory!”**”*

They **“shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father.”** When Christ our Mediator has **“delivered up the kingdom to the Father, even the Father,”** when He has put all things under His feet, **“that God may be all in all,”** the righteous shall shine forth as everlasting monuments and trophies of grace; **“That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus”** (Eph 2:7) to the praise, honor, and glory of the triune God (Eph 1:6; Eph 1:12; Eph 1:14).

“Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.” — Our Redeemer calls us to pay attention to and reflect upon what He has taught us in this instructive parable. Blessed are they who, having ears to hear, hear and understand by His grace the things here declared by the Son of God.