



WHEAT AND TARES

"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" (the consummation of the age) - Matthew 13:37-39.

This parable contains basic principles which govern the interpretation of the other parables. Read verses twenty-four to thirty. Observe seven positive facts:

TWO DISTINCT GROUPS OF PEOPLE of opposite characters are figured - children of God, and children of the wicked one. In the Greek, the word for "children" is "sons" in both cases.

GOD IS THE FATHER OF THE FIRST GROUP. Satan is the father of the second. Jesus said to the rebellious Jews, "Ye are of your father the devil" - John 8:44. Ephesians 2:2, 3 makes a distinction between "the children of disobedience" and "the children of wrath." We are all children of wrath by nature. The wrath of God abides on us. There is no salvation for the children of disobedience. They have crossed the deadline. "In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil." Cain was the first son of the devil - "was of that wicked one, and slew his brother" - I John 3:10, 12.

WHEAT IS WHEAT and never turns to tares. Tares are tares and never become wheat. Ask any farmer. So God's children never become "children of the devil." All men are "children of wrath" by nature, being members of the old creation which is condemned; (judgment)" - John 5:24. The Cross of Christ stands forever between the wheat and the tares, the righteous and the unrighteous.

THE FIELD IS THE WORLD. Both wheat and tares are planted and grow in the world. They are together in the world, but not in Christ. They do not have fellowship with one another. They do not worship together in reality. "Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous" - Psalm 1:5. Hence, to root them up means to take them out of the world but not out of their respective companies. No one can root believers out of God's Kingdom or care. "They shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand" - John 10:28.

THE SON OF MAN SOWS THE WHEAT AND LOOKS AFTER IT. He was first in the field. Jesus said, pointing to Himself, "Upon this Rock I will build My Church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" - Matthew 16:18. Satan sows the tares and cultivates them. He does not deal in wheat, though the tares (darnel) resemble the wheat in the first stages.

THE DESTINIES OF THE WHEAT AND TARES are separate and distinct. "The furnace of fire" is the destiny of the tares. The wheat will never be cast therein. "My barn," God's garner, granary, or storehouse (Matt. 3:12; 13:30; Luke 3:17) is the destiny of the wheat, His children. No tares will ever be found there.

THE REAPERS ARE THE ANGELS. They will do no plucking up, until the harvest at "the consummation of the age." They will make no mistakes. They will know the



difference between wheat and tares, between God' s children and Satan' s followers, between real possessors and mere professors. The angels will gather the tares and cast them into the furnace. "Then shall the righteous (the wheat) shine forth as the sun in the Kingdom of their Father" - Matthew 13:43.