

A close-up photograph of a field of golden wheat. The wheat stalks are tall and thin, with some heads of wheat visible. The background is a soft, out-of-focus field of similar wheat, creating a warm, golden atmosphere. The text is overlaid on the center of the image.

# Growing Up With Tares

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

# Growing Up With Tares

- The sower is Christ.
- The good seed is the Gospel.
- The one who sowed tares is the Adversary.
- The wheat are the genuine people of God.
- The tares are those in the church who look, act, and sound like Christians, but who are either deceived about their salvation or trying to deceive others about it.
- The tares expect to go to heaven when they die
- Based on the Lord's parable, we can be certain that in every field of Christians, tares are growing with them

# Growing Up With Tares

- We could be tares
  - 2Cor. 13:5 - “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? -- unless indeed you are disqualified.”
  - 2Peter 1:10 - “Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble”
- How can we know?

# Both Were Planted Together

- Matt. 13:24-25 - “Another parable He put forth to them, saying: The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; 25 but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way.”

# Both Were Planted Together

- The character of the seed
  - The Gospel produces after its own kind
    - Gen. 1:11 - “Then God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth; and it was so.”
  - The tares produce tares. Tares cannot produce Christians; the Gospel does not produce reprobates

# Both Were Planted Together

- 1Peter 1:22-25 - “Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, 23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, 24 because All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, 25 But the word of the LORD endures forever. Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.”

# Both Were Planted Together

- 1John 3:9 - “Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.”
- James 1:18 - “Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.”
- Matt. 7:17-20 - Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Therefore by their fruits you will know them.”

# Both Were Planted Together

- The character of the sower
  - The good seed was sown by the owner of the field; his interest is in the growth of the wheat
  - The tares were sown by his enemy in an effort to ruin the crop and attack the farmer

# Both Were Planted Together

- Satan knows that if he can place the enough of the artificial among the genuine, he can potentially destroy some or most of the crop.
  - Deceives the tares into thinking they are wheat
  - Deceives onlookers into seeing the entire field is a waste
  - Disrupts the harmony of local churches; if there is trouble in a local church, you can count on a sinful person at the center

# Both Progressed Together

- Matt. 13:26-30 - “But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. 27 So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' 28 He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?' 29 But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. 30 'Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.”

# Both Progressed Together

- The activity of wheat: true growth
  - 1Cor. 2:14 - “But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”
  - Rom. 8:5-7 - “For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.”

# Both Progressed Together

- The appearance of wheat: true health
  - John 7:24 - “Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment”
  - 2Cor. 11:13-15 - “For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.”

# Both Progressed Together

- The abundance of wheat: good fruit
  - If you were to open the head wheat, you would find it filled with wheat grains that can be made into wholesome foods.
  - If you opened the head of the tare, you would find it filled with tiny black seeds that are non-nutritious, and if eaten in quantity can make one nauseous and dizzy

# Both Progressed Together

- The outward appearance of the plant can be counterfeited, but the fruit cannot be faked
  - Gal. 5:22-23 - “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”

# Both Progressed Together

- 1Sam. 16:7 - “But the LORD said to Samuel, Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”
- Heb. 4:12-13 - “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”

# Both Were Processed Together

- Matt. 13:30 - “Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.”

# Both Were Processed Together

- How could they tell the difference? It is easy at this stage, because as the wheat matures, the head becomes filled with kernels, and the weight of the grain causes the stalk to bend toward the ground. The seeds in the head of the tare are light. This allows the tare to stand tall. It is then cut off and the wheat can be harvested later.
- “As a genuine believer grows in the Lord, he tends to become more humble before the presence of God, and his head is bowed. The tare will stand in his pride and be cut off while clinging tightly to his false beliefs and foolishness.”

# Both Were Processed Together

- The tares were burned, and the wheat was barned
- There are only two possible destinations for the human soul.
  - 2Thes. 1:8-9 - “In flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power”
  - John 14:1-3 - “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”