

THE HARVEST

By

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God works at all times toward the accomplishment of His purposes, none of which will fail, and all of which are by Jesus Christ. Of these, the greatest one revealed to us is His eternal purpose in the Gospel that “now unto the principalities and the powers in the heavenly places might be made known through the church the manifold wisdom of God according to the eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Eph. 3:10–11).

History is not a mere tracing of happenstance, nor will man simply drift on forever. God’s purpose will ultimately be fulfilled, and every person will finally reach a distinct destiny at God’s great harvest.

The seed is God’s truth, and it has been sown ever since He first gave instructions to Adam and Eve. It is sown everywhere, often rejected out of hand, sometimes given lip service even though unheeded, may times received with enthusiasm but later rejected when its real impact is realized. Sometimes it takes root and grown to produce the kind of fruit God is looking for in the day of harvest.

We live in the impatient age. No one wants to wait until harvest time. We are accustomed to fast food, speedy service, immediate results, and nothing seems to be worth waiting for.

Young people want to enjoy everything they see their parents enjoying but they don’t want to wait 30 years and spend that much time in sacrifice and sowing in order to reap the kind of harvest they visualize they deserve. Believers often fall for the quick fix, seeking some means by which they may attain full Christian maturity and godliness without having to go through the intermediate steps of learning, suffering, and growing.

It is the law of the harvest that “whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap. For he that sows unto his own flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption” (Gal. 6:7–8). The application is seen everywhere: minds crippled, bodies impaired, children neglected and abused, nations reeling in chaos, crime and hopelessness!

“But he that sows unto the spirit shall of the spirit reap eternal life.” To reap a good harvest you must sow, water and cultivate. Jesus said we must work, strive, learn, grow, sacrifice and obey. The reward will be great.

God’s harvest doesn’t come until the last day. It is then that He will gather the wheat into the garner. It is not until then that the righteous shall shine as the stars when they are transformed into the very likeness of Jesus Christ with bodies that are powerful, glorious, eternal, and spiritual (I Cor. 15:43–44). It is after the harvest that we shall all know who the sons of God are, “for the earnest expectation of the creation waits for the revealing of the sons of God” (Rom. 8:18). Already we know this; the harvest is worth waiting for.

With the harvest comes house cleaning. “And He will thoroughly cleanse His threshing floor; and He will gather His wheat into the garner, but the chaff He will burn up with unquenchable fire” (Matt. 3:12). While the chaff serves its purpose during the production of the wheat, once the grain is harvested the chaff is to be destroyed. Not

recycled — but eliminated. The chaff are all those who have refused to repent and believe the Gospel of Christ (Mark 1:15). Hence they stand in rebellion against God, serve no continuing purpose according to God’s revelation, and therefore are to be put to death. Not tortured forever, but dead forever. The Apostle Peter addressed those of his day — and of ours — who insist there will be no such thing as a harvest day. He described them as “walking after their own lusts” and saying, “where is the promise of His coming? For, from the day that the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation” (II Peter 3:3–4). This is the fundamental creed of the evolutionists, that “things continue” not having any definite beginning and with no end in sight. With such a view, there is no purpose for the creation, for the world, nor for life. But they forget, says Peter, that the world was once destroyed by water. And by the same word of God, it will be destroyed again by fire, “the earth being reserved against the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men...in which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall be dissolved with fervent heat, and the earth and the works that are therein shall be burned up” (II Peter 3:7, 10).

In the meantime there is sowing to be done. Only we must be sure that it is God’s seed, the word of God, the truth which makes men free. We are to sow everywhere. Let it fall on all kinds of ground, not sparingly: there is no shortage of seed.

When the harvest comes the results will be decisive and final: the wheat into the garner and the chaff into the fire. Ours is to work toward a good harvest.

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