

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Revelation 14:14-20**.
- B. This is the harvest time of year, and many of the area's farmers have are bringing in the crop.
- C. The NT also speaks of a harvest. Let's see what that is about!

I. **FIRST, WE ARE TO BE WORKERS IN THE HARVEST (Mt. 9:36-38).**

Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd. **37** Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. **38** Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

- A. The harvest will not come in by itself, it must be picked.
- B. We must be busy about getting that which God has provided (Jn. 4:35-36).
"Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes, and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest. **36** "Already he who reaps is receiving wages, and is gathering fruit for life eternal; that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together."
- C. People are the harvest. God needs workers to go out and reap the fields.
- D. We would think it to be quite a waste if there was a field of corn that was ready for harvest but no farmers willing to go and get it. Yet, there are souls ready to obey the gospel and very few Xians who are willing to go to them.
- E. When we plant the word of God, God will take care of it and make it grow. It then becomes our job to just plant and reap; but how many of us know how to use a sickle?

II. **SECOND, WE ARE TO SEPARATE THE HARVEST (Mt. 13:24-30).**

Jesus presented another parable to them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. **25** But while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went away. **26** But when the wheat sprouted and bore grain, then the tares became evident also. **27** The slaves of the landowner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' **28** And he said to them, 'An enemy has done this!' The slaves said to him, 'Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?' **29** But he said, 'No; for while you are gathering up the tares, you may uproot the wheat with them. **30** Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn."'"

- A. Satan is sowing his seed while Xians are sowing the good seed. Xians are busy sowing truth and Satan is busy sowing lies.
- B. In due time it will become evident that one type of seed is good and the other is bad.
- C. We cannot accept everything we hear and see that is done in the name of Xianity. We must be careful of how we deal with those who teach and practice error as to not hurt any who practice the truth.
- D. In the final day, at the judgment God will take care of those who have done wrong. The tares shall be gathered together to be burned.

III. **THIRD, REMEMBER IT'S GOD'S HARVEST.**

- A. Paul said in 1Cor. 3:6-7 that we are to plant and water and that God will grow the increase. The harvest then is not our own, but belongs to God.
- B. Our job is not to be sure there is an increase (God will do that), but to be sure there is planting and watering going on, to help make more Xians.
- C. Some have confused the fruit bearing of **Jn. 15:1-8** and evangelism. John 15 is not about evangelism, it's about doing good works. John says that Xians are the branches and the vine is X. Branches don't bring forth other branches, they bring forth fruit.
- D. John 15 stresses that we are to remain in the vine and when we do we shall bring forth good works or fruit. If we do not bear fruit (no good works) then we are cut off and burned.

- E. God's harvest is Xians. That's what Paul says in 1Cor. 3:6, and the good fruit of a Xian are good works (Titus 2:14).
who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

IV. **FOURTH, THE FINAL HARVEST IS YET TO COME (Rev. 14:14-20).**

Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and sitting on the cloud *was* one like a son of man, having a golden crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand. **15** And another angel came out of the temple, crying out with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, "Put in your sickle and reap, for the hour to reap has come, because the harvest of the earth is ripe." **16** Then He who sat on the cloud swung His sickle over the earth, and the earth was reaped.

17 And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, and he also had a sharp sickle. **18** Then another angel, the one who has power over fire, came out from the altar; and he called with a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, "Put in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, because her grapes are ripe." **19** So the angel swung his sickle to the earth and gathered *the clusters from* the vine of the earth, and threw them into the great wine press of the wrath of God. **20** And the wine press was trodden outside the city, and blood came out from the wine press, up to the horses' bridles, for a distance of two hundred miles.

- A. Revelation 14 actually speaks of two harvests. The first one pictures Jesus with His golden crown and a sickle in His hand. He is coming back to get the faithful. The final harvest of all souls is at hand (see Rev. 14:14-16).
- B. The second harvest is one that you don't want any part of. For in this harvest those who were not faithful to God meet their end. It is in the wine press of God (Rev 14:17-20).
- C. This harvest is coming and everyone will be classified in either the first or second reaping of the earth.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. While there is time left we need to be busy working in the harvest of God.
- B. We must not to sow bad seed, nor to worry about what the bad seed does to the good seed.
- C. We must remember that God grants the increase that we need to be reaping. His harvest of souls is there we must be ready to do the work of gathering it in.
- D. Let us also take warning of the great final harvest to come.
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.