

It is harvest time in central Illinois. It is a time to be thankful for the bountiful blessings of bringing in another crop. Jesus spoke of the harvest being plentiful (Mt. 9:37). He spoke of the harvest always being ready (Jn. 4:35). And He spoke of the harvest as needing workers (Mt. 9:38). We are preparing for a spiritual harvest that is to come. God, through Christ, will separate the wheat from the chaff (Mt. 3:12). The chaff will burn with unquenchable fire, while the wheat is stored safely in His barn.

The spiritual application is that the saints will enjoy being together in heaven. They will have the full protection and provision of the Father there. But the unfaithful will be destroyed in a place of unending fire (the eternal hell). The humbling question is--where do you fit in?

First, Jesus said the harvest is plentiful. There are literally millions and millions of souls out there, needing to hear the Word as to be saved. We must prepare for the great harvest by preaching and teaching the gospel.

Second, Jesus said the harvest is ready. Now is the propitious time to win lost souls. We need not wait, but as we have opportunity we must be ready to reap that which we have not planted and sow that which others will reap (Jn. 4:37-38).

And third, Jesus said the harvest needs workers. The Master has left us with the job of carrying out the Great Commission (Mt. 28:19-20). Angels can't do it, and the government won't do it. It is the church that needs to be busy in the harvest, plucking souls from the fire (Jude v23)!

As you watch the combines bring in the crop, notice its violence in how the chaff is separated from the wheat. One day Jesus will likewise put asunder those who know not Him.

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