

The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Halifax: 4 September 2005

Introduction:

Two weeks ago, I began preaching from the parables in Matthew 13.

- I showed you that a parable is a story using things that are familiar that is used to illustrate something that is not so familiar.
 - The parables in Matthew 13 are used to illustrate the true nature of the kingdom of God.
- If you had asked the Jewish people of Jesus day about the kingdom of God,
 - Most of them would have told you that they expected it to come soon.
 - They would have told you that it was a subject about which they were quite familiar...
 - But the truth was,
 - their understanding of the true nature of Christ's kingdom was very truncated.
- Jesus therefore began to present to the multitudes the true nature of His kingdom through parables.
 - This method had opposite effects on two categories of His hearers:
 - For those who were becoming more and more doubtful of Him,
 - the parables only served to make His teaching all the more obscure...
 - But for His disciples,
 - the parables caused them think deeply about the kingdom...
 - Although they often did not understand what Jesus meant at first,
 - even after Jesus had explained it to them...
 - the stories found lodging in their minds and served to enlighten them as the plan of God's kingdom unfolded before their eyes over time.
 - Though they might have had certain expectations about the kingdom,
 - as soon as things did not turn out the way they thought...
 - they could recall these parables and understand what was happening.
 - For example, when they saw many people rejecting delighting the word of their Master and then shortly forsaking Him...

- They would remember the story of the sower and they would be able to say:
 - “Ah, so that is what Jesus meant when He spoke about the seed that fell on the stony ground.”
- These parables are also very helpful for you...
 - Just as with Jesus’ disciples, they have a way of sticking in your mind and instructing you later on when you are troubled about what has happened in God’s kingdom.

Today, I want to present to you the second parable that Matthew records for us in chapter 13:

- The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares.

The story itself is very simple...

- Jesus tells of a landowner who sowed good seed in his field.
 - However, as the seed began to come up,
 - his servants observed that the field was full of tares—
 - probably the tares are “bearded darnel.”
 - It is a weed that looks a lot like wheat until it ripens, only it is not like wheat at all!
 - It is host to a fungus, which, if eaten by animals or man, is poisonous!
- When the servants saw it, they were quite amazed...
 - It was not as though there were just a few tares here and there...
 - You might expect that in any field...
 - but there was a whole crop of them!
 - It looked as if they had been deliberately sown among the wheat!
- And in fact that was just the case!
 - When the servants inquire of the landowner as to where all these tares have come from, he says very certainly:
 - “An enemy has done this.”
- Being concerned for the field,
 - the servants asked if their master if he wants them to pull up the tares...
 - But the master replies:
 - “No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them.”

- The master knew that there were two ways this might have happened...
 - First, as the roots of the tares were in such close proximity to the wheat, they might disturb the roots of the young plants when they were pulled...
 - Secondly, because the plants were more difficult to distinguish until they were mature, they might mistakenly pull out the wheat, supposing it to be a tare.
- The best procedure was to wait until the harvest when the plants were fully mature.
 - Then the wheat would be ready for harvesting anyway, so it would not matter if its' roots were disturbed...
 - And then the plants could be much more easily distinguished by the experienced reapers who could separate the tares out for burning and store the wheat safely in the barn.

Now this story illustrated something about the kingdom that the Jews did not understand.

- It was their common expectation that when the Messiah came,
 - the kingdom of God spread into the whole earth and leave nothing else standing.
 - In other words, they thought as soon as the kingdom of God appeared,
 - there would be all wheat and no tares.
- In a certain respect, they were right about this:
 - Hear what the Scriptures say:
 - 1) In Psalm 2, we have recorded for us the promise of God the Father to God the Son in anticipation of His coming. The Son says:
 - Psalm 2:7-9 "I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You *are* My Son, Today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give *You* The nations *for* Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth *for* Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.'"
 - This is the promise of universal dominion.
 - 2) And in Psalm 22, this portrayed not as a rule by coercion, but as a willing and happy subjugation:
 - Psalm 22:27-28: All the ends of the world Shall remember and turn to the LORD, And all the families of the nations Shall worship before You. For the kingdom *is* the LORD'S, And He rules over the nations.
 - 3) Isaiah 11:9 describes it as a happy rule of peace and universal understanding:
 - Isa 11:9: They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea.

4) Psalm 86:9 speaks of all the nations coming willingly to worship and glorify God.

- Ps 86:9: All nations whom You have made Shall come and worship before You, O Lord, And shall glorify Your name.
- There are many more such passages that I could quote, but you can see where the Jews rightly got the idea that Christ's kingdom would dominate the whole earth!
- If anything, this is the doctrine about which they were clear and about which so much of the church is deficient today.
- But the Jews' understanding of this universal dominion was also deficient in two respects:
 - First, that they thought this would happen immediately—as soon as the Messiah came...
 - The parables of the leaven and the mustard seed were given to correct this first error... We will plan to look at these next week...
 - Secondly, (and related to this) that Christ would immediately destroy all who opposed Him in this world (not allowing them to remain until the final day of judgement).
 - This is the error that the parable of the wheat and tares addresses.

I. And indeed, the presence of rebels among the professed followers of Christ is a circumstance which has troubled many earnest Christians!

A. If you have been a Christian for more than two weeks, it is probably something that has greatly troubled you!

1. You are going along in the Christian life, happily enjoying your fellowship with all the other members of the church...
 - And suddenly you realise that there are those there who do not seem to love the Lord Jesus.
 - How can this be?
 - How can it be that someone who knows Him and professes Him should reject Him?
 - It is very troubling to you...
 - Perhaps it is someone who have been in the church for a long time, but you find this person to critical and cold toward the Lord.
 - You hardly know what to think—
 - you don't want to be judgemental,

- and in fact the very individual about which you are concerned frequently talks about how judgemental everybody in the church is...
 - but how can it be that this person does not seem to love the Lord?
2. And then there comes a teacher—a pastor—
- but as you are around him, you begin to realise that he doesn't seem to believe some of the basic teachings of the Bible...
 - He seems to be intelligent enough and educated enough...
 - but he seems to question the reliability of the Bible...
 - And he seems to unsure about man's need of a Saviour from the wrath of God...
 - How can this man be a pastor in the church of Jesus Christ?
- B. The fact that there are tares in the church is a very troubling thing to everyone who loves Jesus.
1. The church has been troubled with tares from the very earliest days.
- a. The gospel was faithfully carried forth into the world by the apostles,
- but no sooner had it gone out than there was need to deal with false teachers and false sons...
 - not outside the church—but in the church.
- b. Just look at Paul's letter to the Corinthians!
- There were carnal factions of those who were of a party spirit...
 - There were those who tolerated an incestuous man in their midst...
 - There were those who were selfishly suing each other and going to court before the ungodly...
 - There were those who were engaged in sexual immorality
 - There were those who were involved in idol worship
 - There were those who were drunk and greedy at the Lord's Table
 - There were those who pursued spiritual gifts according to the pagan way
 - and there were those who rejected the resurrection!
- c. Things were such that most of the epistles—the letters of the apostles—are dealing with false doctrine or false practice in the church.
- They speak of false brethren who have crept in secretly...

- There were Judiasers who insisted on circumcision and keeping the law of Moses.
- There were those in love with Greek philosophy who denied that Jesus Christ had come in the flesh...
- The condition was such that John could say,
 - “Many deceivers have gone out into the world.”
 - And these deceivers were ones who claimed to follow Christ.

TRANS> Like the servants in the parable, the people of God were caused to say:

- “Did you not sow good seed in your field?
 - What are the tares doing here?
 - Where did they come from?”
2. And surely such problems did not go away after the apostles were gone...
- a. In the first four centuries there were:
 - the Modalists who taught that there were not three person in the Godhead, but only one who appeared in three modes.
 - the Arians who taught that Christ is not divine...
 - the Monophysitists who taught that Christ did not have two natures...
 - the Appolonarians who taught that Christ had no human spirit...
 - the Nestorians who taught that he was two separate persons...
 - the Donatists who taught that perfect sanctity was required to make the sacraments valid...
 - the Manichaeans who were dualists and taught that the spirit was released from matter through ascetic practices...
 - the Montanists who held to the continuation of prophetic gifts and also required strict ascetic discipline.
 - b. These heresies brought much trouble and confusion into the church and about the church...
 - And all this was in addition to problems with those who denied Christ in times of persecution...
 - And those who gave way to their lusts and brought scandal upon the church by their immorality.
3. And of course if we continue to trace church history, we find the tares remain into the middle ages...
- There is the rise of the papacy...

- The rise of the worship of the saints and the Virgin Mary...
- An increase in superstition and an increasing ignorance of scripture...
- An increase in idolatry, adding all sorts of ceremonies not authorised by Christ to the worship of God...
- Dreadful examples of immorality, greed, and murder among the leaders in the church.
- The rise of sacerdotalism so that sacraments and ceremonies are trusted in rather than Jesus Christ for salvation

4. And now, we continue to be troubled by the tares in the church...

- There are the modernists and the liberals in the church who reject miracles and the divinity of Jesus Christ.
- There is much idolatrous worship in which God is worshipped in ways other than those He has commanded.
- There is an emphasis on self-help and therapy rather than faith in Christ...
- There is the rejection of the sovereignty of God.
- There is feminism and the elevation of human authority over divine authority.
- There is a growing lack of reverence for God...
- There is a dreadful lack of church discipline.

C. If you love Jesus, it surely distresses you to see all these things among the people who name the name of Christ!

1. You want to see Christ worshipped with a pure worship and severed with holy lives, but instead you see corruption and division all around!
 - You love the Lord Jesus and you see the world mocking Him because of all this corruption...
 - You see the glorious message of the gospel almost buried under all the heresy, and you lament!
2. It would be one thing if God had preserved a pure church somewhere,
 - a place you could point to and say “there is the church.”
 - but everywhere you turn, there seems to be corruption!
 - a. As our Confession states it:
 - “Even the purest churches under heaven are subject to both mixture and error;”
 - Sadly, you find this to be true.

- b. Over and over, you are disappointed by a church that is not what it should be...
 - and even your own life is a continual disappointment as you wrestle with sin and confusion.
 - If only God would call out a church that was truly perfect from the midst of all this corruption!
- 3. You rejoice that through the ages, God has raised up godly men to speak to the abuses in the church—just as he raised up the prophets in Israel...
 - But how it grieves you that even with their efforts, there is still always a mixture of truth and error.
 - Not that there are not some churches that are purer than others...
 - But that there is no place where there is not a mixture.
 - It seems that the tares are always there!

TRANS> Why is the church like this?

II. The Parable of the Tares teaches you that the tares are there because Jesus does not wish to root out them out until the end of the age!

- A. He is the one who plants the good seed...
 - As He says in verse 37,
 - “He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man.”
 - 1. We have run into this title, “the Son of Man” before on the lips of Jesus.
 - It is the title that is used of the Messiah in the book of Daniel, and points to both his humanity and His deity.
 - He tells us here that He is the one who has planted the seed in the world...
 - 2. But notice what the good seed is...
 - a. It is not, as in the Parable of the Sower,
 - the Word of God sown in the hearts of men.
 - b. This time it is the men themselves who are planted.
 - Jesus is showing that He plants people in His kingdom.
 - The Parable of the Sower emphasised human responsibility—
 - that is, our response to the word of God...

- But the Parable of the Wheat and the Tares emphasises divine sovereignty.
 - That is, what God does to establish His church.
 - Here we have Jesus **planting** not the word, but disciples in the world.
 - These are His elect whom He makes through the New Birth and places in the world according to His will.
 - He is the One who raises them from the dead when they are totally helpless and plants them in the world as His people.
 - As Ephesians 2 puts it:
 - “you He has made alive who were dead in trespasses and sins.”
 - It is not merely the word, but men who are planted in His field!
3. It is clear that in this place, the sons of the kingdom are not those who merely *profess* Christ,
- They are the ones who have living faith, possess eternal life, bring forth fruit for God, and who persevere to the end.
 - They are planted by divine power in this dark and sinful world to bring forth fruit for God...
 - They are the Lord’s planting and they cannot fail...
 - They will bring forth fruit in season.
 - They are the true sons of the kingdom.

B. And because Satan cannot touch these chosen sons of the kingdom that Christ has planted,

- He employs another strategy to cause havoc in the church...
 - He chooses to place his own sons in the midst of them...
1. He is the enemy who tries to ruin Jesus’ field by placing his own disciples there.
- a. These are not the ones outside the visible church who are openly rebellious against the true God...
 - These are they which profess Jesus Christ and are baptised in His name.
 - They are there to corrupt the church in an effort to bring reproach to the name of God.
 - b. They are called “the sons of the wicked one” because they are his offspring—just as all the sons of Adam except they become converted...
 - As Jesus said to the Jews who rejected Him,

- “You are of your father the Devil and the lusts of your father you will do.”
 - They do not have renewed hearts, nor do they truly believe in Jesus for the remission of sins.
 - They are there to spread lies, division, and destruction from within the church.
 - And how effective their work has been!
 - They are the tares, deliberately planted by Satan!
2. Satan has deliberately placed these, as Jesus says in verse 25, “among the wheat.”
- and that is why they are there in His kingdom...
 - a. Now it is true that Jesus says simply that the field is the world.
 - Because of this, there are some teachers who suppose that Jesus is not referring to the visible church, but to the world at large...
 - that He is simply pointing out that there will always be a mix of believers and unbelievers in the world as a whole...
 - b. But it seems that Jesus is referring to the visible church for several reasons:
 - First, because, as I have pointed out, Satan is said to sow his seed “among the wheat.”
 - He is deliberately mixing them together...
 - Secondly, because it is tares that he sows—tares which look very much like wheat until the end...
 - Persons who do not profess Christ do not look like wheat at all...
 - Thirdly, because when the reapers to come to gather the tares, Jesus says that they will gather the tares “out of His kingdom” in v. 41.
 - This indicates that they are “in His kingdom” in some sense.
 - And the kingdom is not the same thing as the world...
 - The kingdom is the place in the world where Christ’s rule is acknowledged and outwardly submitted to...
 - The promises we read earlier seem to indicate that before the Lord returns, the whole world will profess Him...
 - In other words, that the whole world will be either wheat or tares...

- But until that happens, the wheat and tares refer only to those in the world who profess him now...

TRANS> And so in this parable, Jesus is teaching that right up until the end,

- the visible kingdom of those who profess Him in this world will be a mixture of believer and unbeliever.
 - It is not until the last day that the false sons will be removed.

C. How troubled we should be to find these tares in the church if Jesus had not told us that these would be present among us until the end!

1. Jesus has told you that this will be the true nature of the church.

a. And so you do not need to be troubled when you find tares in the church.

- Nothing has gone wrong as far as the plan of God.
 - Do not let the tares cause you to stumble.
 - Jesus has told you plainly beforehand that they will be there.

b. The Bible tells us some solid reasons why these tares should be left.

1) First, as is suggested by the parable, it is that the wheat may not be destroyed by the removal of the tares.

- There are two ways this might happen...
 - First, because the tares (before harvest time) look very similar to the wheat, and there is a strong possibility of pulling up the wrong plant...
 - This is the reason given in 2 Peter 3 where the Lord explains that he is waiting to bring the final judgement until all His elect have been brought to repentance...
 - He is not willing than any should perish.
 - Secondly, because in pulling up the tares, some of the wheat might be disturbed... if the roots are tangled together.
 - for example, if you think of Judas—he went about and taught many people about Jesus before he apostatised...
 - If he had been pulled up before the time, some of those who were influenced by him might have been pulled up with him.

TRANS> This is the reason given in the parable why the Lord wishes to leave the tares,

- but we are also warranted to find other reasons from what we learn from scripture elsewhere...

- 2) What are some of the other reasons the tares are left in the field?
 - a) They are left to test the wheat, that it will not take on the character of the tares or be caused to stumble...
 - They test the wheat by persecutions and enticements, which humble the true sons of the kingdom and cause them to have a greater dependence on God and rest in His promises, and produce in them a deeper faith and love.
 - They are the Philistines that God left in the time of the Judges to test Israel and see if they loved Him.
 - b) Secondly, they are left in order that they might reach maturity so that God will vindicated when he judges them...
 - Remember that God told Abraham that He could not yet give Him the land because the iniquity of the Amorites was not yet full.
 - God waited for their iniquity to reach full maturity.
 - Then He is clear when His judgements fall.

TRANS> So you see that God has good reasons to leave the tares in the field until the appointed time.

2. But this does not at all mean that we should not try to root them out in accordance with Jesus' command to us to root them out.
 - a. The Apostle Paul roundly rebukes the Corinthians for their pride in allowing the incestuous man to remain in their fellowship in 1 Cor 5!
 - In fact, he commands them to "put away from yourselves the wicked person,"
 - and in verse 11, he describes the wicked person as "the sexual immoral, the covetous, the idolater, the reviler, the drunkard, and the extortioner."
 - The elders of each church are responsible, as much as they are able, to remove such persons from the church.
 - b. In Matthew 18, Jesus shows that when the church does this, they are acting in a very heavenly way...
 - In Matthew 18:18, He says:
 - "Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven."
 - I have translated this to bring out the tenses in the original language...

- The idea here is that when the church removes the wicked man (or restores the penitent man),
 - it is doing what is authorised and sanctioned by Christ in heaven!
 - It is being a true to what God wants!
 - God is holy, and He excludes that which is not holy from His fellowship.
 - We best reflect Him when we remove those He commands us to remove—
 - those who will not repent of their sins and receive the cleansing of Christ.
3. But this being so, what does Christ mean in the parable when He tells His servants to leave the tares alone and wait for the reapers to remove them at the end?
- a. First of all, you need to recognise that He does not tell us who these servants are.
- 1) It may be that like the reapers, these are also angels...
- And that Jesus is telling them not to go forth as his death angels slaying everyone who seems to them to be a tare...
 - for there are some who may, like the apostle Paul, appear to be a tare for a time, but who in fact are God's chosen instruments!
 - Jesus is explaining that He will not send His holy angels to remove the tares until the appointed time.
 - However, it should be understood that even the angels are at times commanded to remove persons from the earth...
 - As they were surely the agents involved when Ananias and Sapphira were struck dead for lying against the Holy Spirit.

TRANS> And so it may be the case that the servants who are told to refrain are those holy angels who are zealous for the purity of the church but must wait until the last day to do their work.

- b. But if it is not the angels, then it is perhaps the elders of the church that are referred to here...
- And the lesson would then be that they are not to be overzealous in trying to remove every little offense or every one of whom they are suspicious.
 - There have been some in the history of the church that have removed persons even though they repented—
 - as if the goal of church discipline were only purification and had not interest in restoring the offender...

- There have also been those who became so zealous that they began to hurl excommunications at all their associates until they could have fellowship with no one.
 - Rather than waiting to remove persons until it was clear, they removed them upon suspicions and rumours.
- But it is certainly clear that even if the servants in this parable are the elders of the church,
 - we are certainly not at liberty to trump all the passages in the scriptures that urge us to remove the wicked man from among us.
 - It is very unwise to take an incidental point in a parable and use it in opposition to clear teaching...
 - And this needs to be said especially in our day since the prevailing tendency is not to be over zealous in discipline,
 - but to avoid it entirely!

TRANS> The most important thing to learn here is that no matter what we do, the church will not be perfectly purified until the last day when all men are judged.

- Again, this passage has more to do with what the Lord does in His sovereignty than what we are called to do.
- Just as Jesus told us that we will always have the poor among us—
- So He tells us here that we will always have the tares among us because it is not His will that they should all be removed until the final harvest.

III. But let everyone here see that God will most certainly judge the tares!

A. One of the most dangerous tendencies of the human heart is to assume that because God has not judged, He will not judge!

1. It is not at all that God has forgotten about them or that He doesn't care about them!
 - a. Jesus makes it perfectly clear that He has definite plans for their destruction at the end of the age.
 - In verse 40, He says:
 - “Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age.”
 - b. When Jesus speaks of “**this age**,”
 - He refers to the time between now and His return on the Day of Judgement...
 - That is the day when everything will change for the wicked.

- c. As it is now, the wicked drink from the same rock and eat the same bread as the righteous...
 - The professing tare eats from the Lord's Table, hears the same scripture read, and is baptised with the same baptism.
 - The same sun shines on them and the same rain waters them...
 - But this does not mean God's is pleased with them...
 - He is not pleased with the tares who never repent of their sin and believe on the Lord Jesus for salvation...
 - No, the Lord is angry with the wicked every day.
2. And so He says that He will surely send forth His angels to gather them out from His kingdom.
- a. Though they enjoy the same privileges of the visible church today, on the day of judgement a separation will be made.
 - On that day, all the secrets will be revealed.
 - All of their lies and all of their wickedness will be exposed for what it really is.
 - They will be clearly distinguished from the righteous.
 - They will be identified in such a way that they will be dreadfully exposed and ashamed in all their vile corruption before God.
 - b. Here they are referred to those that offend and those who practice lawlessness.
 - 1) They offend because they commit offenses against God's commandments.
 - They have offended Him by having other gods before Him,
 - by worshipping Him idolatrously,
 - by filling taking His name in vain (coming before Him without reverence and faith),
 - breaking the Sabbath,
 - dishonouring authorities,
 - murdering and hating their neighbour,
 - stealing,
 - lies
 - and covetousness.
 - God will charge them with all their sins of omission and commission.
 - They will be fully exposed in all their vanity.
 - 2) They are likewise said to be guilty of lawlessness...

- And indeed so, because they presumed that they could approach God without a Saviour...
 - They acted as if there were no law that demanded righteousness.
 - They acted as if nothing needed to be done to make them right with God that they could not do themselves!
 - They disregarded God's law that demanded the blood of Jesus Christ to atone for their sin.

TRANS> They will be separated out for judgement.

3. And what will that judgement consist?

a. Verse 42 uses the most severe language:

- It says that the angels:
 - "will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth"

b. One commentary says here:

- What terrific strength of language—
 - the "casting" or "flinging" expressive of indignation, abhorrence, contempt:
 - "the furnace of fire" denoting the fierceness of the torment:
 - the "wailing" signifying the anguish this causes; while the "gnashing of teeth" is a graphic way of expressing the despair in which its remedilessness issues.

c. Matthew Henry speaks of their condition of one of "comfortless sorrow" that will torment them forever and ever...

d. Trench says:

- that whatever the precise meaning of these words, "this at all events is certain, that they point to some doom so intolerable that the Son of God came down from heaven and tasted all the bitterness of death that he might deliver us from ever knowing the secrets of anguish, which, unless God be mocking men with empty threats, are shut up in these terrible words."

e. John MacArthur says:

- "There will be no pleasure of any kind in or degree in Hell, no friendships, no camaraderie, no fellowship, no comfort."

TRANS> Let no sinner who refuses to embrace God's salvation in Jesus Christ suppose that he or she will escape this punishment...

- If the very Son of God had to suffer on the cross to atone for the sins of the best saint,
 - how can you escape it if you will not come to Him?
 - You belong to the Devil and you will be cast into the Lake of Fire that God has prepared for the Devil and his angels.
 - Do not harden your heart...
 - Just because God has left you alone today does not mean He has not reserved a Day in which He will judge.

B. But look at the great contrast for those who are planted by the Lord!

1. When the tares are removed, we are told:
 - v. 43: “Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father!”
2. What a glorious hope belongs you, dear child of God!
 - a. As long as you are in this world, there is a kind of a veil over you that keeps you from shining in all the glory that Christ has given to you...
 - You are hid with Christ in God until the day when all is revealed!
 - The glory of the church is beclouded by all the tares...
 - and by the remaining corruption—the chaff—that is found in every believer.
 - b. But that veil and all those clouds will be removed so that you will shine like the glory of the Son!
 - 1) The new life that Jesus Christ has given you will burst forth from its hiding place and you will live as a lovely reflection of the Holy One forever and ever!
 - You will radiate with the glory of God for all eternity!
 - You will have a perfect view of God,
 - a perfect love for him that is no longer besotted by sin and confusion.
 - a perfect love for your neighbour that will always do what is beautiful and pleasing and excellent.
 - 2) I want you to notice the word “then” in this verse!
 - “Then—as soon as the tares are taken away—you will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of your father.”
 - There is not purgatory mentioned here!
 - As soon as the day of judgement comes—“then”—You will shine!
 - 3) And notice who will shine....

- It is the righteous...
 - I hope you understand that there is only one way to become righteous...
 - You can climb mountains on your knees and weep rivers of tears and give your body to be burned...
 - but you will never be righteous until you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - The righteousness that God requires is the righteousness that Christ came down from heaven to provide for His church...
 - And that He did provide by His obedience as a man and by His death on the cross for our sake.
 - It is only those who have this righteousness that are blessed.
- 4) And lastly, I want you to notice one more excellent encouragement in this promise...
- The place where we will shine like the sun—
 - in the kingdom of our Father!
 - We will dwell in the household of God...
 - And God as Father to us will be all that a Father ought to be!
 - He will instruct us and guide us in the way we should go...into beautiful living.
 - He will love and provide for us so that we will always be happy and satisfied...
 - With God as our Father we will not only lack nothing,
 - but we will also have everything.

This is what is awaiting you who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ!

- Do not despair if now for a little while the kingdom of God obscured by the tares...
 - and by your own remaining corruption...
 - Your Lord has a plan—
 - and He is using all things to work for you a marvellous and glorious future that no one can ever hinder.
 - He is the all wise One, and He knows how to bless you best and to bring maximum glory to Himself...
 - And if that involves mixing you with tares for a time,
 - then it is for you to love and trust Him until that day arrives when His promise is fulfilled.