

## Hebrews 6.7-8

### The Field of God

The working of God in the lives of all people is a work of grace. We absolutely do NOT deserve the goodness of God; NOR do we deserve the grace that has been given to us; but God still rewards those to whom He imparts grace. The example given is that He smiles on those who bear fruit, who receive the rain of heaven although any ability to do that comes from God. Nonetheless, His blessing is on those who receive the word, and bear fruit. God shows much patience toward those who have received the word. He labors over them and delights in them. He blesses them with increase and with the delight of His own countenance. But there are also those who receive the word in some measure and sip it. They give it room in their minds and hearts, they receive the word with temporary joy... but without a good and honest heart... These are those who bear only thorns and thistles... these are the ones who are outside,

who do not know the grace of His favor, who have been given the same common grace and have born only sin. God gives special attention to those who are His own choice, to those that He has made His own inheritance, and the in this field His labor over us falls on the elect and the un-elect side by side... we are called to take in the rain, to bear fruit according to the labor of the Lord in us... We are God's field, cared for by God's labor, and called to produce God's fruit.

**Matthew 13.24-30**

## **I. THE YIELD OF THE FIELD**

a. Two possible options of production.

- i. Good fruit, herbs... useful things that are the intention of the one who plants. Useful, beautiful, according to proper season and design.

- ii. Thorns, thistles, briars - things that are destructive and an impediment to the one who plants.
- b. two possible categories of use
- i. All manner of good
  - ii. Only useful to be destroyed
- c. Two ideas of how they are produced
- i. Bears fruit - <tiktousa> - same word for bearing a child. Something that is desirable and beautiful, useful and proper. There is in the idea, the element of the intention of the husbandman. He has cultured the intended fruit, and is pleased with the result.
  - ii. Bears thorns - <ekpherousa> - to carry the dead for burial, to bear a burden, to carry out, to carry forth, to bring forth. This is a word that indicates that that which is brought out is monstrous, harmful, wrong, useless or dead. It is also implied that it is

contrary to the intended work and husbandry of the One who plants. He is not pleased with the crop, and his anger will be aroused for the waste of his time, resources and labor.

## II. THE INTEREST OF GOD

- a. God smiles on the fruitful earth, for He has blessed it with its fruit...
  - i. He is not ashamed of it, calls it His own
  - ii. He cares for it and watches over it
  - iii. He preserves it from all final evil
  
- b. This blessed ground is the true believer

*Matthew 13:23 (NKJV)23 But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”*

- i. They bring forth what was planted in their hearts. The fruit is a direct result of the planting and the labor that has gone into them. Our lives reflect the nature of the work of the Spirit of God.
- ii. Those that are not, bring forth the weeds that have been in them.
- iii. They are the intended result. The fruit of our lives are what God delights in and they are evidence of the blessing of God in our lives.

- 1. The fruit of the spirit
- 2. The fruit of righteousness
- 3. The fruit of holiness

c. They are useful for the one who cultivates it - God Himself.

- i. God is the great vinedresser –

*John 15:1 (NKJV)1 “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.*

ii. All believers are God's field –

*1 Corinthians 3:9 (NKJV) 9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building.*

iii. He is the sovereign owner of the vineyard and puts workers into it to dress and keep it

*Matthew 21:33 (NKJV) 33 "Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country.*

iv. He calls His people His portion –

**Deuteronomy 32.7-9**

and speaks as though He has temporarily given over ownership of all others into the hand of another and has reserved this

portion as that which He desires. He thus has a special care for them...

### III. THE LABOR OF GOD

a. God Himself is One who takes care of us –

**Isaiah 5.1-2; cf: Matthew 21.33**

- i. The giving of the Word,
  - ii. the giving of the Spirit
  - iii. as well as all other means of light, grace, growth and truth. All come from God and all are utterly dependent upon Him for them.
- b. Tills the earth, cultivates and cares for it.
- i. Publicly proclaimed preaching of the Word
  - ii. Private intake of the Word
  - iii. The work of the discipline of the church
  - iv. Afflictions, trials, difficulties - by these He prunes the vine and improves our faith and our lives

*1 Peter 1:7 (NKJV)7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,*

**Romans 5.3-5**

**James 1.2-4**

c. God thus has expectations from the field

- i. Weeds here are unwelcome and despised. While weeds in the wild are not as problematic
- ii. He looked for grapes –

*Isaiah 5:2 (NKJV)2 He dug it up and cleared out its stones, And planted it with the choicest vine. He built a tower in its midst, And also made a winepress in it; So He expected it to bring forth good grapes, But it brought forth wild grapes.*



- iii. He sent his servants to receive the fruit of it

*Matthew 21:34 (NKJV) 34 Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit.*

- iv. He does not need our goodness but it is the design of His labor. He desires what is His. And He is glorified by that fruit –

*John 15:8 (NKJV) 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.*

*Matthew 5:6 (NKJV) 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.*

#### **IV. THE BLESSING OF GOD**

- a. God approves of the fruit that is brought forth, and blesses those who bring it forth

- i. Note that this is God's blessing and may not necessarily be seen by men. Thus the work of the mother quietly raising her son in the fear of the Lord, is just as blessed and the pastor of the large church with missions all over the world. God plants where He will and blesses according to His own design.
  - ii. The plant does not deserve praise for the simple bringing forth. The work has all been the labor of the Lord. It is His grace that has produced its work, and He has graciously given us what has produced the fruit in us
- b. This blessing is threefold
- i. He accepts us and our offerings –

*Genesis 4:4 (NKJV)4 Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering*

*Genesis 8:21 (NKJV) 21 And the LORD smelled a soothing aroma. Then the LORD said in His heart, "I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done.*

ii. He increases our fruitfulness –

*John 15:2 (NKJV) 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.*

*2 Corinthians 9:10 (NKJV) 10 Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness,*

iii. He blesses us in the preparations being made for our everlasting reward.