

**Hidden Hills Sovereign Grace Baptist Church**  
**Sunday Sermon**

**Date: September 19, 2021**

**Text: Matthew 13:24-43**

**Scripture Reading: Matthew 12:24-43**

**Subject: The parable of the tares among the wheat**

In the preceding message from Matthew 13:1-23, we considered:

1. That the reason Jesus taught the multitudes in parables was because it was not given them to understand the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven.
2. The parables were taught to the unbelieving so that the prophecy of Esaias is fulfilled by hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and not perceive.
3. Jesus had told the parable of the sower to the multitudes and his disciples, and later upon his disciples asking, expounded to them the parable of the sower.
4. In the sowing of the word of the kingdom some fell by the wayside; some on stony places; some among thorns and some on good ground. The good ground hearers were the only ones who heard the word and understood the word and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

The seven parables of Matt. 13 divide into four and three, which is the usual division of a series of seven. The first four were spoken to the multitude on the seashore, the last three to the disciples inside the house. The first four give us the external view in the history of Christendom, while the last three show us that which is more internal and spiritual. The first four are arranged in two pairs: the first—the

wheat and the tares—giving us individual aspects; the second pair—the mustard-tree and the corrupted meal—set forth the overall view.

Let us now proceed to the twenty-fourth verse of this 13th chapter of Matthew for the parable of the tares among the wheat.

**Matthew 13:24-30 (KJV) *Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: 25 But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. 26 But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. 27 So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? 28 He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? 29 But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.***

That is, our Lord spoke this parable to both the multitude and to his disciples as we shall see when Jesus comes to the explanation of the parable beginning in verse 36. Matthew is the only one of the gospel writers to include the parable of the tares in the field.

**Matthew 13:31-33 (KJV) *Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: 32 Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof. 33 Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman***

***took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.***

As I mentioned last time, I am not today expounding on these two parables, the grain of mustard seed and the leaven in the meal, but will definitely, as the Lord enables me, speak of them next time. I am not skipping these.

***Matthew 13:34-35 (KJV) All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them: 35 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.***

Here, we see another fulfillment of the Old Testament scriptures in New Testament times. Let us remember that many such things were written of our Lord in the “law of Moses, the prophets, and in the psalms concerning our Lord.”—Luke 24.44. Verse 35 is a quote from the book of Psalms:

**Psalm 78:2 (KJV)** *I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old:*

As the first verse of this 78<sup>th</sup> Psalm tells us, these were the words of Asaph, who was one of the singers and a psalm writer, but also a seer as we are told in 2Ch. 29:30.

Let us now notice the circumstances and the explanation of the parable of the tares in the field. Please notice that Jesus sent the multitude away so he could declare the parable to his own disciples. Is this not always the way, that we remove from the world in order to hear our Lord’s precious and encouraging words?

***Matthew 13:36-43 (KJV) Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying,***

***Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field. 37 He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; 38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; 39 The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. 40 As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. 41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; 42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.***

Our Lord set up his kingdom during his personal ministry – the message: “Repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” showed that to be true. The kingdom and the church were both instituted and were both visible. At this time, the kingdom was seen in the church at Jerusalem and none else. The church at Jerusalem reflected the kingdom which was in the midst of the unbelieving Pharisees, Sadducees, scribes and Herodians but they could not perceive it. The Parable of the Tares supplies an explanation of professing Christianity as it has existed all through these twenty centuries, and as it is today; the true and the false side by side. What does that mean? (1) We have Roman Catholicism and her Protestant daughters claiming to be Christians and followers of Christ, and we have (2) the true churches of the LORD who never were part of this religious conglomeration. We find these churches mostly among the Baptists. Let me clarify the term “Protestant Daughters.”

Rome and her Protestant daughters are the false churches (they are not the LORD’s churches). These all came from the Great Whore of Babylon, Roman Catholicism.

1. Martin Luther nailed his "ninety-five theses" to the door of the all-saints church in Wittenburg on October 31, 1517. Luther kept his perverted Roman Catholic Baptism as well as many other catholic doctrines in Lutheranism. He founded Lutheranism, the state church of Germany.
2. The Church of England is essentially the same as Episcopalian or Anglican. The break with the Roman Catholics and the establishment of an independent Church of England came during the reign of Henry VIII (1509–47). When Pope Clement VII refused to approve the annulment of Henry's marriage to Catherine of Aragon, the English Parliament, at Henry's insistence, passed a series of acts that separated the English church from the Roman hierarchy and in 1534 made the English monarch the head of the English church. Henry VIII created the office of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the head of the Church of England. This effectively replaced the pope for England, at least in their view.
3. The State church of Scotland is the Presbyterian denomination. It was founded by John Calvin and John Knox both of whom retained their Roman Catholic "baptism." Presbyterians, like the Lutherans and Episcopalians "christen" their babies by sprinkling water on them.
4. Out of the Lutherans, Anglicans, and Presbyterians came more of the same. Methodists, Congregationalists, Nazarenes, and a host of Pentecostals. The modern Pentecostal movement had its beginning in the so-called Azuza Street Revival in California in 1907.
5. The Mormons and Campbellites are both restoration movements claiming that the Lord's church died out and they "re-established it – each of them." The Mormons began in 1830 under Joseph Smith; the Campbellites (and the so-called, Christian Church [disciples of Christ] began under Alexander Campbell in 1832.

6. The Seventh Day Adventists is a religious organization spawned by William Miller and a woman, Ellen White, in 1863. Miller is famous for setting specific dates for the return of Christ.
7. The Jehovah Witnesses were organized by Charles Taze Russell in the late 1870's.
8. The Christian Scientists were organized by Mary Baker Eddy in 1879 in Massachusetts.
9. There are many, many others all of which have had their beginning since the 1850's – almost 2,000 years too late to be the church which Jesus established during his personal ministry.

Jesus explained that the field into which the tares were sown by the devil is the world (the kosmos – speaking of the people and the arrangement). The good seed are the children of the kingdom, but the tares are the children of the wicked one (the serpent's seed). The wheat and the tares are "*growing together*" and shall continue to grow together until the harvest.

Postmillennialists believe that, through the preaching of the Gospel (under the blessing of God), the cause of Christ will extend, until the whole earth is filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. For the Postmillennialists, they believe so many will be converted to Christ that the earth will be a fit place for Him to return to and reign. But Christ here explicitly declared that the wheat and the tares should "*grow together until the harvest*", which He defined as "*the end of the age*". He gave no hint that the "*tares*" would gradually die out, or that they would decrease in numbers; but said that, at the end, they would be found in such quantity as to need binding "*in bundles*".

The prominent thing in this second parable of the series is the Enemy and his work. The enemy worked "*while men slept*" (v. 25); that is, at nighttime. In other words, it was under cover of the darkness that the Devil sowed his tares! This is characteristic of Satan. Satan hates the

light: secrecy, stealth, dishonesty, are his favorite tactics. But mark you, the Sower Himself did not sleep: He slumbers not, neither is weary. Nor does Satan. He is ever on the alert, going about, "*seeking whom he may devour.*"

To the Thessalonians the apostle declared, "*The mystery of iniquity doth already work*" (2 Thess. 2:18). John had to say, "*Ye have heard that Antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists*" (1 John 2:18). Jude wrote, "*There are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness*" (v. 4). To the Church at Pergamos Christ said, "*I have few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam so hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes which thing I hate*" (Rev. 2:14, 15). In this we see Satan's emissaries being brought into the kingdom – those who profess to believe in Jesus Christ.

The enemy's method. First, we are told that the Son of Man sowed good seed in His field (vv. 24, 37). Then we are informed that the Devil turned farmer (v. 25). Satan is no originating genius, but He is always an imitator. He produces counterfeits of the works of God. It is important for Christians to know this, so that they may be on their guard. It is to be carefully noticed that as the Enemy imitated Christ he sowed neither thorns nor thistles—had he done so his work had been easily detected, and there had been no difficulty in distinguishing the false from the true. But, he sowed "*tares*", or better, "*darnel*". This is a degenerate wheat, and so closely resembles the genuine article that the one cannot be distinguished from the other until harvest-time. That the "*servants of the householder*" recognized the tares as soon as they sprang up does not conflict with our last statements for it is the apostles who are here in view, and they were specially endowed with the Holy Spirit, and so had a greater measure of discernment than any since.

These "*tares*" are counterfeit Christians. When the "*servants*" first discovered what the enemy had done, they wanted to root out the tares (v. 28). But the Master forbade them, saying, "*Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them*" (v. 29). It is only when they are both fully ripe that the farmer can with safety separate them, for it is not until then that it is seen there is no grain in the ears of the tares.

Until the harvest time the tares present a very nice picture to the eye. As these imitation blades, green and flourishing, grow side by side with the real wheat, there is every prospect of a bountiful yield. But appearances are deceptive, and much of the product will prove only a disappointment and mockery to those who have spent so much time and labor on their cultivation. We shall see more clearly that Christ's flock, in comparison, is a little flock.

This parable, then, gives a remarkable expose of the methods employed by Satan. He seeks to destroy God's testimony on earth by bringing in illegitimate or false "church(es)" which reveals that he works from within: he sowed the "*tares*" among the wheat! Satan has an imitation Gospel. This is clearly implied in the solemn warning given in Gal 1:7-9.

**Galatians 1:6-9 (KJV)** I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: **7** Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. **8** But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. **9** As we said before, so say I now again, If any *man* preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

We see this more clearly in 2 Cor. II, where we are told "*false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of*



*Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore, it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness" (vv. 13-15).* The principal agents of Satan are to be found, not in the drinking-houses or race-courses, etc., but in the seminaries and in the pulpits! These are not advocating lawlessness, but they are preaching "righteousness"; but "*being ignorant of God's righteousness*" they are "*going about to establish their own righteousness*" (Rom. 10:3). It is a mingling of Law and Gospel, and multitudes are deceived thereby.

Satan has an imitation Church. The Harlot church of Rome professes itself to be the "spouse of Christ", and her ministers insist there is no salvation to be found outside of Roman Catholicism. Catholics do profess the name of Christ and hold some of the great fundamentals of His teaching. But artfully mingled with these truths are the deadly errors of Paganism. But so clever is the imitation, so subtly are the Scriptures appealed to in support of their "false gospel", that millions are deluded by their soul-destroying system. These and their followers are the "tares" among the wheat, that is, in the professed belief in Christ as the king. "*There is way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death*" (Prov. 14:12).

Satan will yet be permitted to bring forth an imitation Christ. This will be his masterpiece. Much is said in Scripture concerning him. He is the great *antichrist*. He will have power to work miracles; he will at first claim to be the true Christ come back to earth. Multitudes will be deceived by him so that all the world will wander after him (Rev. 13:4). Yes, the Devil sows "*tares*", imitation wheat—not thorns and thistles.

Note the enemy's success. We do not read of any opposition or hindrances to the growth of the tares, like we did in the first parable concerning the wheat. No mention is here made of any soil uncongenial to the Devil's seed. There is no "*wayside*" ground too hard for them to penetrate. There are no "*thorns*" to choke them, for they will thrive

anywhere. There is no mention made of "*fowls of the air*" coming to catch them away. All external conditions and circumstances are favorable to the growth of this seed. No cultivation is needed; they will grow of themselves.

The enemy's success is plainly suggested by the prominence given to the "*tares*" in this parable. This comes out very clearly and most solemnly in v. 36. When Jesus had sent the multitude away, and had gone into the house with His disciples, they said, "*Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field*", not "*the parable of the good seed and the tares*" (see vv. 24, 25). It is the tares and not the wheat which predominate and occupy the larger portion of the field.

The Owner of the field would not allow any interference with the tares. This is a point which has puzzled many. Why did the Lord permit the Enemy to sow his "*tares*"? Why has God allowed the Devil such long-continued freedom? The leaders of this world rejected its rightful Sovereign – the Lord Jesus Christ. The Jews preferred Barabbas; having chosen a murderer instead of the Lord of Life, both Jews and Gentiles have reaped what they sowed.

*The time the tares are gathered and burned in the fire is "the harvest, the end of the world (Greek: aion) which means "age." At the end of this present age (which we commonly name "the Church age", the tares shall be gathered and burned.*

Notice the order: "*In the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together **first** the tares, and bind them in **bundles** to burn them: but gather the wheat into My barn*" (v. 30). The tares are gathered into "*bundles*" before the wheat is actually garnered. In spite of their promising and attractive appearance, everything which has not sprung from the Seed sown by the Son of man is ultimately to be consigned to the everlasting burnings; as He himself declared, "*Every plant which My heavenly father hath not planted, shall be rooted up*" (Matt. 15:13). But

what we would particularly direct attention to is the "*gathering together*" of the tares into bundles. These are taken directly from the field in bundles and cast into everlasting fire.

Protestantism is virtually a spent force, and the hindrances and obstacles against the Roman Catholic system whose goal is to gather all Christendom under her wings are rapidly disappearing. Those who understand prophecy know well that it will not be long before the harlot of Babylon (Catholicism moved by the Devil) attains that ambition for which she has so long worked, and that one huge "world church" will be the result.

Consider the ending verses of our text again: ***As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. 41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; 42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.***

Let us now go to chapter 25, verses 31 through 46 to consider the LORD's judging of the living nations, which I understand to take place at the beginning of the 1000-years-reign of Christ on this earth.

**Matthew 25:31-46 (KJV)** When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: **32** And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth *his* sheep from the goats: **33** And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. **34** Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: **35** For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was

thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: **36** Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. **37** Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed *thee*? or thirsty, and gave *thee* drink? **38** When saw we thee a stranger, and took *thee* in? or naked, and clothed *thee*? **39** Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? **40** And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done *it* unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done *it* unto me. **41** Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: **42** For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: **43** I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. **44** Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? **45** Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did *it* not to one of the least of these, ye did *it* not to me. **46** And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Consider that these are living nations on this present earth; there is no resurrection; no books are opened; the time is at the return of Christ when he sits on the throne of His glory – the throne of his father, David as King over all the earth. To say that this is the same as the Great White Throne judgment of Revelation 20:11-15, is to greatly miss the mark.

These are living Gentile nations –

1. those who are left on the earth of all the nations which came against Jerusalem at Armageddon.

2. It will be at Armageddon in the land of Israel near Jerusalem where the armies of the beast will be gathered to fight against him who is on the horse.
3. The Lord will destroy those armies with the sword of his mouth so that their "flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth."
4. The LORD will cast the Beast and the False Prophet into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.
5. There will be great numbers of the nations besides the armies which were destroyed at Armageddon which shall still be living on the earth after the tribulation period. These are the nations which shall be brought to judgment before the LORD.
6. You will notice that the basis of the judgment is the treatment of "these my brethren." There are three groups present at this judgment. They are:
  - a. The Sheep Nations.
  - b. The Goat Nations.
  - c. "These my brethren," - The Brethren of the LORD, both Israel and the Church.
7. The sheep are set on Christ's right hand – while the goats are on the left. It is a judgment of the nations, based on how Jews and Christians were treated by the nations themselves. These are probably not political nations because, as we have seen, the whole world seems to have turned against the Jews and are permitting persecution of Christians. None are openly helping either Christians or Jews – nay, but have an innate hatred and opposition to them.

The Greek word for nations is "ἔθνος ethnos" which appears in the NT 164 times. It is variously translated as: "Gentiles 93 times, nation 64 times, heathen 5 times, and people 2 times." It can be a tribe or a people group. It is my opinion that these are the elect of the LORD who were in false churches or not in any church until the time of the first resurrection when the Lord took his church to himself.

8. These sheep nations fed their hungry, gave them drink, clothed them and visited them, in prison, that is they did these things unto Christ's brethren and so did it to him. As we see the sheep nations are called "ye blessed of my Father" and will inherit the kingdom prepared for them from the foundation of the world. This fact says they are the elect of God chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world.
9. The exact reverse of this ministering to "these my brethren" is true of the goat nations. Because they were never converted and had not been "created in Christ Jesus unto good works" they are called "ye cursed" and consigned into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels. These living goat nations are taken from the earth and turned into everlasting fire while living in their natural bodies, thus the Lord gathers out of his kingdom all things that offend and cast them into everlasting fire – then –

*The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear. (Matthew 13:41-43 KJV)*

Hear me in this. Is your name written in the lamb's book of life from before the foundation of the world? Are you one who believes

that Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son died for your sins? Have you believed on him – called on him because you believed? Have you professed your faith in him by submitting to scriptural baptism in water? Are you now a member of one of the Lord's churches – the bride of Christ – which shall reign with him on this earth during the 1000-years-reign of Christ, then live and reign with him forever in the New Jerusalem on the new earth? If you have ears to hear, please hear!