

Who Do You Say That I Am?

Seeing and Delighting in Jesus through an Expository Journey through the **Gospel of Matthew**

152- Jesus Teaches the People in Parables- Part 8 The Parable of the Tares and the Wheat- Part 1

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Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43

24 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."'"

36 Then He left the crowds and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field."

37 And He said, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man,

38 and the field is the world; and as for the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the tares are the sons of the evil one;

39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the age; and the reapers are angels.

40 So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age.

41 The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness,

42 and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

43 Then THE RIGHTEOUS WILL SHINE FORTH AS THE SUN in the

kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

*To the Glory of God the Father; God the Son;
and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Now when Eschatology is being developed- most people usually examine several of the 66 Books of inspired Scripture. And among them are:

- 1. The Book of the Revelation**
- 2. Daniel**
- 3. Isaiah**

... and that's fine- but Jesus said, in this Parable in **Matthew**, He was teaching about...

1. The Kingdom of Heaven (v. 24)
2. The End of the Age (v. 39&40)

... which I would suggest should be *included* when we are developing what we believe and teach about "*Final*" or "*Last Things*".

Here in **Matthew 13**- Jesus began speaking to the people in Parables. Until now- He spoke plainly to them. But now, Jesus is making a "*Divine Distinction*"; a "*Separation*"; a "*Division*"; a "*Judgment*"- between those who are the Recipients of His Grace and Mercy and those who are the Recipients of His Judgment and Damnation.

So, Jesus desires that ALL those chosen for Salvation (from before the Foundation of the World)- will *hear* what He is teaching in these Parables; *believe* what He is teaching; *love* what He is teaching; and be *transformed* by what He is teaching. And that involves those, who were alive, when He actually spoke these words; as well as those, who are alive, today.

Now as I told you previously, one of the Reasons Jesus spoke to them about the "*Kingdom of Heaven*" and NOT the "*Kingdom of Israel*"- had to do with the false Teaching the Pharisees had been feeding to the Jews for about 400 years *before* Jesus was born. And *part* of that false Teaching had to do with what the Pharisees taught about "*Last Things*" (Eschatology). Because *part* of the Reason the Jews rejected Jesus as

being the Messiah had to do with the "*literal, nationalistic Interpretation of the Writings of the OT Prophets*" by the Pharisees. In the eyes of those religious Hypocrites, Jesus simply did NOT measure up to that "Standard"- and, therefore- could NOT possibly be the "One"!

Let me say this another Way: Those terrible men; those evil "*serial Adulterers*", who *despised* the incarnate God; who did everything in their Power to *discredit* Him; and when that didn't work- they worked overtime to have Jesus murdered- they also developed their *own* Man-made "View" of HOW all of Creation would wind down. And that *heretical* Teaching included a purely *literal* Interpretation of what the Prophets spoke in the Old Testament- that was entirely "*Nationalistic*"!¹

And it was those same, wicked, religious, Frauds, who, single-handedly, *created* the false Teaching called, "*Jewish Messianism*"- which stated, *unequivocally*, that the Messiah would NOT be "Divine" but would be solely, a *human* Man, who would rule over a *re-constituted "Kingdom of Israel"* for a thousand *literal* Years. All of those false Teachings *encouraged* the overwhelming Majority of 1st Century Jews to *categorically* reject Jesus- out of hand- precisely because Jesus did NOT teach that.

Yet, what those Men created and taught had become the "*Standard*" that was used to judge Jesus! And even though Jesus was *perfectly* Sinless; and was the ONLY Man in the History of the World, who could say:

Which one of you convicts Me of sin? (John 8:46a)

... and even though Jesus performed *breathhtaking* Signs; Wonders; and Miracles right in front of them- instead of repenting and admitting that their "Basic Teaching"² and Eschatology was NOT true- they *condemned* God in human Flesh and turned *against* Him!

This shows us how Important a *correct* View of "*Last Things*" is- because it was the very Bad View that the Jews had been taught- that *encouraged* them to *deny* and *reject* Jesus!

So, in this Section of **Matthew 13**- Jesus *continues* to teach His Disciples about the "*Kingdom of Heaven*" by adding to His Parable about

¹ Early in the 4th Century- the Christian Church, *formally and officially*, condemned the Jewish Eschatology that had been developed by the Pharisees as being a Heresy.

² The "*Basic Teaching*" of the 1st Century Pharisees centered on three main Topics: Their supposed Knowledge of the Old Testament; their Focus on the Temple in Jerusalem; and their Focus on the Sabbath. These are the Areas that Jesus confronted the Pharisees on- the most.

“*The four Kinds of Soil*” - with *another* Parable that was also based in 1st Century Agriculture. And this Parable has to do with “*Tares and Wheat*”. So, let’s read verses 24-26 again together:

24 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.

So, that’s the “Setting” or the “Context” of this Parable that is designed to give us a little more Information about HOW we are to understand the Kingdom of Heaven.

Now Jesus had just finished telling them about a Farmer, who was sowing Seed in the *first* Parable. And so, He *continues* that Theme by saying,

The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field.

Now in the *first* Parable, Jesus taught us about the Condition of four kinds of Soils- which represent the Condition of the Heart of ALL lost people. So, from the first three kinds of Soil- we learn just how *pervasive* our “Falleness” or our “Lostness” really is. Because while all three “heard the Word”- they could NOT “love the Word” and could NOT produce any lasting Fruit.

And what we learned from the fourth Soil was the Doctrine of Sovereign Election as well as the Power of the New Birth. Because *unless and until* God does something- *sovereignly*- to *radically* transform the Condition that our Hearts are *already* in- FIRST- NOBODY would ever believe the Gospel; NOBODY would ever repent; NOBODY would ever trust in Jesus; and NOBODY would ever be saved!

But here in this *second* Parable- Jesus is NOT talking about the Condition that the human Heart is already in. Instead, He tells us that somebody else did something:

But while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went away

Now this is one of two Parables in **Matthew 13** that Jesus actually interpreted for us. And so, we don't have to guess about anything. So, in verse 37, Jesus said the "**Man**"- the Farmer- who sowed the good Seed into his Field is "**the Son of Man**" (Jesus). The "Men" in this Parable are the Farmer's Slaves. So, even though Jesus didn't specifically address them- I would suggest that they represent the Leaders of the Christian Church- who are among those the Bible says are "bond-slaves" of the Lord Christ. And they labor in the Field with the Farmer. And, evidently, those "men" were also tasked with "*keeping Watch*" or *protecting* the Farmer's Field.

And so, while the Farmer's Slaves were sleeping- "his Enemy"- an "Enemy of the Farmer" came- at Night- and sowed something Jesus called, "*Tares*" among the "*Wheat*" and then left. And in verse 39, Jesus told us,

the enemy who sowed them is the devil ...

So, the "*Enemy of the Farmer*" of verse 25 is the fallen arch-Angel, "*Lucifer*", whom God created and judged, who is now,

... the devil and satan... (The Revelation 20:2b)

... and then, in verse 38, Jesus said,

... the field is the world ...

So, this entire Parable occurs on the Earth. NONE of it occurs in Heaven. And that is because God defeated satan's Rebellion in Heaven and cast him and the deceived Angels into the Earth (**The Revelation 12:4&9**). In **Luke 10:18b**, Jesus said,

... I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning.

... so, satan's Fall was both *instant* and *frightening*. And then **The Revelation 12:8b** says,

... there was no longer a place found for them in heaven.

... so, neither satan nor the fallen Angels can ever go back into Heaven!

ALL of satan's Activities- *including* that which is found in the **Book of Job**- occurs on the Earth and NOT in Heaven.

Now in my Opinion, far too many people today either *minimize* or outright *ignore* what I consider to be very Important biblical Issues concerning the Future. And I believe that if those Issues were understood better (or at all)- it would change the Way people look at what is happening now; what is *going* to happen in the Future; and why. Let me mention just three:

1. The physical Earth
2. Heaven
3. Our physical Bodies

Most of the Attention of the average Believer in the modern Church- *concerning Eternity*- is spent on only two Concepts:

1. The human Soul
2. Heaven

... which is fine.

But there is very little (if any) Teaching today that deals with the "Eternality" of the physical Body as well as the Earth. We basically end the Conversation about Salvation at the Point where the Believer dies; and his Soul goes to Heaven. Yet the Bible goes much further than that.

So, while the Focus of many today has been *narrowly* directed at the human Soul going to Heaven at Death (which is absolutely True)- the Bible (as well as historic, orthodox Christianity) goes much *further* and includes something I hear very little of in our Day:

The *purification* of the Earth

... which Jesus discusses here in this Parable.

What is *rarely* discussed any more in Church is that BOTH the physical Earth as well as our physical Bodies are ETERNAL! They will NOT be totally destroyed- but will be "made New"! And, therefore, they

WILL both figure in- along with Heaven itself- throughout ALL Eternity!

And those three Entities: the physical Earth; our physical Bodies; and Heaven- have at least three things in Common:

1. They were ALL *created* (they did NOT always exist)
2. They were ALL made by God at some Point during the “*Creation Narrative*” of **Genesis 1-3**
3. They were All subsequently tainted and polluted with Sin

... and the Scriptures teach that all three will be redeemed; purified; and “made New” in the Future (by Fire). So, let’s look closely at the physical Earth.

The Physical Earth

In the Beginning, God sovereignly (all by Himself) created BOTH the Heavens and the Earth, “*ex Nihilo*” (Latin: *out from Nothing*). And after He finished with His Masterpiece, God the Holy Spirit “moved” on Moses to write this in **Genesis 1:31a**,

God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good ...

So, the Earth itself is NOT “Evil” or “Bad”. God said it was “**very good**” (**Genesis 1:31**)! So, we need to look at the Earth the Way God does. The *physical* Earth does NOT sin against God. The Earth functions *exactly* the Way God intended- every single Day. Evil is found in lost and fallen People- Sinners- NOT in the Earth.

But because Sinners live here- the Earth has been *polluted* with Sin. And so, God “cursed” it (**Genesis 3:17**)- but ONLY in the Sense- that the Earth now brings forth “*Thorns and Thistles*” and it actually *wars against* the Accomplishments and Efforts of Humanity (**Genesis 3:18&19**).

So, while the Earth absolutely needs to be *restored; purified; redeemed*; and “*made New*”- it does NOT need to be destroyed! In fact, the Bible does NOT teach that the Earth will be destroyed.

Sadly, when speaking about the Earth- many modern Believers seem to simply want to “get out of here” as quickly as possible (the

Rapture). And I think I understand why. They equate living on the Earth with the Sin of evil people. And so, they want to “go to Heaven” and “get away” from all the Sin. Me too.

Yet, when we read the Bible- we see that God’s Plan for the Earth is Eternal. For example, when we read the infallible Words of **The Revelation 21:2**, we see:

And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.

... so, the New Jerusalem- “comes down OUT of Heaven”- and then sits on the *new* Earth! And that City will contain the *purified* Redeemed who will live on the *purified* Earth- *forever!*³

Then in verse 6- the Apostle John was “moved” by God the Holy Spirit to give specific Information about the Width, Breadth, and Height of this City- again- that will sit on the Earth- evidently- *forever!*

Also, when we look at **Matthew 5:5**, we see:

Blessed are the gentle [meek], for they shall inherit the earth.

... so, the Earth is *part* of the Inheritance of the Saints!

Now I realize that Scripture teaches certain things about the Future of the physical Earth- such as what the Apostle *infallibly* wrote in **2Peter 3:10-12**:

10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

11 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!

... but if that means the Earth is *destroyed*- then the Heavens would *also* be destroyed- because the Apostle wrote that the Heavens would “pass away”, too! Yet, NOBODY believes that! Therefore, this Passage is

³ The Scriptures seem to suggest that in “*Eternity Future*” all the Redeemed will have Access to BOTH the new Heaven and the new Earth

NOT telling us that the earth will be destroyed!

Yet many people take this Passage and then *assume* that the “**Elements**” Peter was talking about here in verses 10&12 is the Earth- and that it will simply be “burned up”. I was taught that as a young Convert and I believed it- UNTIL I began to analyze the Scriptures better. And then I connect what Peter said in this Passage with the very next verse that says:

2Peter 3:13

But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

... which teaches that, Believers are to *continually* “look for” **new heavens and a new Earth!**

But after being taught about the Rapture- over the last 200 years or so- I really don't believe many people in the modern Church are actually looking for the “*new Earth and new Heavens*”- at all! They simply want to “get out of here and go to Heaven!”

And then God the Holy Spirit “moved” on the Apostle Peter to write... “**in which righteousness dwells**”- which suggests that Righteousness rather than Sin will “dwell” in BOTH the new Heavens AND the new Earth!

Now the word that was translated here as “**dwell**” comes from a Greek word, (*katoikeo*; Strong's #2730) and means: *to reside* or *to house permanently*. So, what exactly was Peter saying here?

He was saying that, as Believers, we are to *actively and continually* “look for”; “anticipate”; “hope”; and “believe in” NEW Heavens and a NEW Earth! And Peter went on to say that Righteousness would *reside* and be *housed permanently*- in BOTH!

But *why* does both Heaven and Earth need to be “made New”? Because they were BOTH *polluted* with Sin! That is also WHY our *physical* Bodies have to be “glorified” or “made New” as well (**Romans 8:17&30**). And that would suggest that the “Burning” and the “Intense Heat” that the Apostle infallibly predicted (**2Peter 3:12**)- is a *purifying* Fire rather than a *destructive* Fire.

Therefore, it seems Wise that we should *include* this *physical* Earth in our Understanding of the Future and of Eternity as well as what Jesus was teaching here in this Parable of the Tares and Wheat.

Now even though Righteousness “dwells”- to some extent- on the physical Earth today- *in the Church*- it certainly does NOT “dwell” anywhere *else* on the Earth. But that is NOT because the physical Earth has failed. It is because satan has sown Tares among the Wheat!

So, just what are “*Tares*”? Some say that “Tares” are simply “Weeds”. But “Tares” are very different from average Weeds- because the word, that was translated here into English as “*Tares*” comes from a Greek word (*zizanon*; Strong’s #2215) that has to do with: *a plant, that in Appearance, is NOT unlike Corn or Wheat, having, at first, the SAME sort of stalk and the SAME “Greenness”- but it does NOT bring forth any worthwhile Fruit.*

So, a “Tare” looks *similar* to genuine Wheat- but CANNOT bring forth any “*worthwhile Fruit*”! But “*bearing godly Fruit*” is the “*Name of the Game*” in Christianity. Please look at **John 15:1-6**, where Jesus said,

1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.

2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit.

3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.

5 I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned.

... so, bearing godly Fruit is what true Salvation causes!

So, ALL those- who are genuinely saved- “**abide**” in Jesus! And the word that was translated here into English as “**abide**” is a Greek word (*meno*; Strong’s #3306), which means: *to remain; dwell; or live somewhere or with someone- continually*. So, Jesus is NOT someone we are supposed to “visit” periodically- like once a Week in Church. No, we are supposed to *remain* with Jesus- every Day! We should *dwell* with Jesus- ALL the Time; and we are to *live continually* with Jesus- so that we will bear godly Fruit. But if we do NOT bear godly Fruit- then we prove beyond any Doubt that we are Tares and do NOT belong to Jesus! Because Jesus said ALL who abide in Him:

... **bears much fruit ...**

... and ...

... every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit.

... and those who do NOT abide in Jesus- do NOT bear Fruit. Why?
Because Jesus said,

... apart from Me you can do nothing

... and so, for those who do NOT bear Fruit (because they DON'T abide in Jesus), our Lord *promised*:

... he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned.

... and let us agree that this is NOT Heaven!

Now the “Parable of the Tares and Wheat” is one of the two in **Matthew 13** that Jesus actually interpreted for us. So, there doesn't have to be any guessing here. Jesus *explicitly* told us what the Images and Symbols mean. And at the End of verse 38 and the *first* part of verse 39- Jesus gave us the Identity of both the “Tares” as well as the “Enemy” that sowed them into the Field when He said,

... the tares are the sons of the evil one; and the enemy who sowed them is the devil

So, who are the “*Sons of the evil One*”? Many think that this references *especially* wicked people, who do *especially* wicked things. So, in MOST Minds, a “*Child of Hell*” or a “*Child of the devil*” or a “*Son of the evil One*” refers ONLY to mass-Murderers; Pedophiles; Drug Dealers; and other people, who are *uniquely* Evil.

Yet the Bible teaches that ALL who are Lost- are “Children of the devil”- precisely because they are NOT already “Children of God”! Our first, *natural* Birth, from our Mothers, that brings us into this *physical* World- is the “*giving*” of *natural* Life. And the Bible teaches that to be alive and living on this earth means, by Default, that we are ALREADY a “*Child of satan*”! And even though we are *naturally and physically* alive- the Holy Bible says we are “*spiritually Dead*”! **Ephesians 2:1-3a** says,

**1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,
2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world,
according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now
working in the sons of disobedience.
3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the
desires of the flesh and of the mind...**

Notice that verse 1 does NOT say we are *spiritually* “Sick” (as many teach). Lost people are NOT *spiritually* “Impaired” or *spiritually* “Hindered”. No, according to the Bible, we are *spiritually* “DEAD”! And that means we CANNOT love God and we CANNOT even respond to the “Call” to repent and believe- unless and until God sovereignly changes our Nature!

But then the Apostle Paul *infallibly* taught that the net Result of WHO we are as spiritually Dead lost People is:

... and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

... in other words, we are “*Children, who live every- Day underneath the Wrath of God*”- precisely because we sin against God repeatedly and with Impunity and care NOTHING about Him! And that’s what it means to be a “Son of the evil One”.

Another Way of saying this is to say this is the “Nature” of ALL people on earth who have NOT yet experienced the Miracle of the New Birth! So, this is “WHO we are” and not merely “WHAT we do”! And the Best “summary Statement” I know of- anywhere in the Bible- that describes the Nature of ALL lost people is found in **Genesis 6:5** that says:

Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

... so, “**every intent of the thoughts**” of the Heart of ALL lost people is ALL EVIL ALL THE TIME!

And this is WHY we MUST be “born again” at some Point AFTER our natural Birth in order to become a “Child of God”. Because the Miracle of the New Birth is the sovereign giving of *new, spiritual* Life! So, the Tares represent ALL of the Lost while the Wheat represents ALL of those who have experienced the Miracle of the New Birth.

But Tares are MORE than just Weeds, because the “Tares” DO have the SAME stalk and the SAME Greenness as the Wheat. And so, they *deceive* people- and even deceive *themselves* into thinking they are saved.

But they are NOT saved! They remain ‘Sons of the evil One’- even though they are sown right next to the genuine Wheat. So, in this Earth- from the very Beginning- and even in the Church- there are BOTH Wheat and Tares- *growing together*- who look very *similar* to an untrained eye. It has ALWAYS been this Way and will ALWAYS be this Way- until the “**Harvest**” or the “**End of the Age**”.

And it is from this very Parable as to WHY the early Church Fathers developed the Concept of two DIFFERENT Jews and Israel in the Old Testament and two DIFFERENT Christians and Church in the New. And they called them either “*Visible and Invisible*”; “*Natural and Spiritual*”; or “*False and Genuine/True*”.

- *Visible, Natural, or False* Jews and Israel = Tares
- *Invisible, Spiritual, or Genuine/True* Jews and Israel = Wheat
- *Visible, Natural, or False* Christians and Church = Tares
- *Invisible, Spiritual, or Genuine/True* Christians and Church = Wheat

... and that has ALWAYS been true- whether in the Old or the New Covenants!

Now you would think that the most normal thing that anyone listening to Jesus that Day would have said was, “*Well, if the Tares are that Bad- then tell the Slaves that work for that Farmer- to just go and remove them!*” Problem solved! In fact, that is *exactly* what the Bond-slaves of that Man asked,

The slaves said to him, 'Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?

... and MOST people would answer, “*Yes! Absolutely! Go and remove those evil Tares out of the World- right now!*” Yet, look what Jesus said,

... No; for while you are gathering up the tares, you may uproot the wheat with them. Allow both to grow together until the harvest ...

Now this is Incredible! This makes NO sense! Why in the World

would Jesus say that? Doesn't God want a *pure* Earth? Why allow them BOTH to grow together? This also makes us have to ponder long and hard to try to understand what Jesus is talking about. And that brings up the Question: "*If Jesus does NOT want His own Bond-slaves to remove the Tares- immediately- what is He going to do with them?*" And Jesus answered that Question by saying,

... 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."

So, it isn't that Jesus does care or that Jesus thinks it is Good for there to be Tares. He doesn't. The Lord absolutely wants ALL the Tares removed! He just doesn't want them removed Immediately and He doesn't want any of us to remove them! Why? Partly, because of what He said,

... for while you are gathering up the tares, you may uproot the wheat with them.

... which displays at least two of God's majestic "Excellencies":

1. The Omniscience of God
2. The Patience of God

The Omniscience of God

The word, "*Omniscient*" means: *all knowing*. This Term means that God knows *everything* about *everything*. So, God's intellectual Capabilities are without *any* Limitation. And God uses those Capabilities *fully* and *perfectly- at all Times*. So, God *never* operates at "*half Speed*". He never sleeps or takes a day off. God has no Need to Rest; or "Re-charge"; and has no Need to take Vacations. So, God operates at "full Capacity" at all Times. So, we can be *assured* that when we call on His Name- God is always able to give us His full Attention. God's "*Omniscience*" means that there is *nothing* that can be known about *anything* that God does not already know in perfect *Fullness*. Therefore:

- God *never* learns new Things

- God is *never* at a Loss as to what to do
- Nothing *ever* takes God by Surprise
- God is *never* Nervous about how to Answer due to His lack of Knowledge
- God *never* worries about the Future because He alone *controls* the Future

“*Omniscience*” also means that God is not limited by Space or Time as far as Knowledge is concerned. So, God “sees” the Past, Present, and Future all at once. And that means that the God of the Bible knows, in Fullness- *everything* that has *ever* happened; *everything* that is happening right now; and *everything* that *will ever* happen at any Point in Time with or to anyone and anything in the Future!

“*Omniscience*” also means that absolutely Nothing is hidden to God. God knows the Secrets of every Person, who has ever; or who will ever live- fully and completely; and is able to answer the Prayers of all of His people *simultaneously*- without conflicting or contradicting His Own Will in any Way! And Omniscience also means that God is able to use His infinite Knowledge to such an extent- that His Will is *always* carried out- *exactly* as He Alone has determined it would be- and that it will always be carried out- for His Own Glory! So, *part* of WHY we worship God- is because He is Omniscient!

But we are NOT Omniscient! And we will NEVER be Omniscient! And so, we simply DON'T KNOW all things- and NEVER will! We *fear* the Future- precisely because the Future is Unknown to us. And so, we change our Minds and our Positions on Issues- many, many Times throughout our Lives. Why? Because we learn new things.

So, while we *think* and even *believe* that people are saved- we really DON'T know that for sure. The ONLY one we know for sure is saved- is *ourselves*. Now we can (and should) examine their Fruit- but even then- our Examination is NOT Perfect nor Pure! Our Examination of other people is always Faulty; Inconsistent; Incomplete; and Biased. And that means we are NOT the End of all Judgment. But God is. Therefore ONLY God is qualified to make the Distinction between those, who are truly saved from those who are simply deceived. And that is part of why He does NOT want us to try to make that Distinction.

We must also understand that God already knows which person, who is currently very Evil, will be saved in the Future! And in His Omniscience- God also fully knows each person He has chosen to save-

who hasn't been born yet! All of this makes God *uniquely and solely* qualified to divide between the Tares and Wheat!

The Patience of God

Another humiliating Truth about this- is that, at one Time- we were ALL- Lost! And as lost people- we were, at one Time, "children of the evil One"! and this is *exactly* what the Apostle was talking about when he wrote this in **1Corinthians 6:9-11**:

9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals,

10 nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.

11 Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

So, at one Time- ALL of us were Tares! And yet, God knew who He had already chosen for Salvation- who were already on the earth as well as those who hadn't even been born yet! But if the removal of the Tares was left up to mere Men- they would have uprooted many of those, who were very Evil at that Time- but who would, one Day in the Future, repent and believe!

And that is why God allows this wicked World to continue on: He is *patiently* waiting until ALL of His Elect are born and saved! And that is what Paul meant when he told Timothy:

The Lord knows those who are His, (2Timothy 2:19)

And that is *exactly* what Peter wrote in **2Peter 3:9** where he said,

The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

... which does NOT mean that God wants to save EVERYBODY!

People twist what Peter said in this verse so much- it *barely* even resembles what he actually said! According to the Context of the entire

3rd Chapter of **2Peter**- this is what he meant in verse 9:

God is NOT forgetful or uncaring (slack/slow) about His Promise to return to this Earth- (and put an End to the Evil) as some people are (because God will *always* keep His Word), but He is patiently waiting until ALL of the Elect are saved (since not all of them have even been born or saved yet), (and so, God will allow this wicked World to continue on)- because He does NOT want anyone He has chosen for Salvation (from before the Foundation of the World) to be Lost- but He *continues* to allow great Evil and Sins to occur- so that ALL of the Elect can be born and come to Repentance- precisely because He has promised to save ALL of them!⁴

... and this is *why* I have asked this Question many Times to people, who genuinely believe that the Rapture or even the 2nd Coming is going to happen very soon: "*Aren't you glad that Jesus didn't come back before you were born? Aren't you glad God continued to have Patience with this Sin-cursed World- long enough for you to be saved?*" So, what Jesus meant when He said,

Allow both to grow together until the harvest ...

... is ...

- We are NOT qualified to remove the Tares
- Some of those God will save- are still Lost and are- right now, Tares
- Some of those God will save- haven't even been born yet

... and so, God waits- *patiently!*

But there is one more part of this Parable I want you to ponder until we can rejoin it next Month:

Look what Jesus said was the *Chronology* for the Removal of the Tares And the Glorification of the Wheat- in Light of the Fact that God's Will is to *purify* the Earth and to *glorify* our physical Bodies:

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

⁴ I have a "*White Paper*" on this verse that goes into great Detail about what Peter was actually talking about

burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn.

... and ...

Then THE RIGHTEOUS WILL SHINE FORTH AS THE SUN in the kingdom of their Father

Ans so, at the End of Time- our *glorious* God will reign supremely over a *purified* Heaven and Earth; and over a glorious Church filled with people, whose Souls have been reborn; whose physical Bodies have been glorified; and whose Joy has been made Full- by what God alone has done- for His own Glory! And Lord willing, I'll get into this- next Time!

Amen. Let's pray.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your Pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.