

## Wheat & Tares - 2

Matthew 13:36 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.

### **We are before the God of the universe.**

Galatians 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

We are dealing with the subject of the wheat and the tares in the last days – in the harvest time. We are looking at what has been sown and what is going to be reaped. Our God is the only one who is worthy of worship because of His great mind and comprehensive view of the universe, and because of His great character. Can you think of any character that is better than God's character? His character is beautifully pictured for us in the book of Nahum, in reference to what man sows and reaps.

Nahum 1:3 The LORD [is] slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit [the wicked]: the LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds [are] the dust of his feet. 4 He rebuketh the sea, and maketh it dry, and drieth up all the rivers: Bashan languisheth, and Carmel, and the flower of Lebanon languisheth. 5 The mountains quake at him, and the hills melt, and the earth is burned at his presence, yea, the world, and all that dwell therein. 6 Who can stand before his indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? his fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him. 7 The LORD [is] good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him. 8 But with an overrunning flood he will make an utter end of the place thereof, and darkness shall pursue his enemies. 9 What do ye imagine against the LORD? he will make an utter end: affliction shall not rise up the second time.

These words don't need any explanation, do they? The relationship between the wheat and the tares during the time of the harvest is introduced in this scripture. In the time of the harvest God's wrath will finally be poured out, just as it is written here. But in that time, as the wicked, the tares, are dealt with,

Nahum 1:7 The LORD [is] good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.

Do you trust Him? He knows how honest you are. He knows whether you are pretending or whether you are genuine. God is not mocked, what a man soweth, he shall also reap. In reference to the relationships both of His creatures with Him and of His creatures among one another, He is the Master of those relationships.

We will now contemplate His revelations pertaining to those that serve Him and those that pretend to serve Him. Is it a serious time to think? Who am I? Do I know myself? God knows me better than me. Am I pretending? Am I in relationships of pretence? or am I in a true relationship of entire submission to my God? God is speaking to His church in the last

days. Do you believe we are in the last days? Then we read here what He knows about His professed church in the last days:

Revelation 3:14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; 15 I know thy works,

I know all about you. I know whether you are pretending or not.

Revelation 3:15 ... that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

If you were cold I would know how to heat you up. If you were hot, I would be very gratified. But when you are lukewarm, I feel like spewing you out. He says: I know that in the last days the people who profess to be My people are lukewarm.

Revelation 3:16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. 17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing;

“Oh the Lord is so gracious to me, He has given me so many blessings, I am so rich.” Like the Pharisee praying, Lord, “I thank you that you have not made me not like this poor publican here. I thank you for being the wonderful person that you have made me. I’m so rich and increased with goods.” But He says, You don’t know that you are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.

Revelation 3:18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold ...

Although you are like that, I am not going to give you up just yet:

Revelation 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

This is especially addressing those are the messengers, because angel (angelos) means messenger. He is here addressing the messengers, the ministry of the church. If the ministry is like that, then what are the people like? Do the people get any higher than their leaders? It is very unusual. So He says, If the leaders aren’t listening to Me, I am going to spue them out.

Revelation 20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. 21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

We cannot fool God. He says, I know you. While you think you are so spiritually enriched and you claim you have so many goods that I have given you, good on you; but you don’t know that although I have given these things to you, it doesn’t make any difference to what you are like. Don’t pride yourself like Lucifer did. He was the greatest angel, but with all these goods, what did he become? The devil. Just because I am showering all these blessings upon you, that doesn’t make you any better, I am telling you, you don’t realise that you are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked. You can’t mock me; I know your inward self.

Each one of us is in the presence of God, and He is speaking to us. We are in the audience chamber of the Most High. People keep on trying to say to God, But no, no, we’re not like that. The moment that someone says to you, “I know you, there is something

wrong with you,” you immediately go into self-defence, don’t you? You immediately say, “But, no, no, I’m not like that, you are misreading me. I love God; I have made a covenant so that I will not die.”

Isaiah 28:14 Wherefore hear the word of the LORD, ye scornful men, that rule this people which [is] in Jerusalem. 15 Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us:

“We are already getting ourselves ready for that time. It’s not going to strike us; the overflowing scourge is not going to kill us.”

Isaiah 28:15 ...for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves:

There is a scripture that says, Don’t add to the Bible or take away from it, lest thou be found a liar (Pr. 30:6). We make the scriptures to read in a way that suits us, and we become liars.

### **Be Careful**

Isaiah 28:16 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner [stone], a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.

Who is this beautiful corner stone? Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, so that we don’t deceive ourselves.

Isaiah 28:17 Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet:

There is going to be a plummet, it is going to be a measuring; Jesus is our measuring.

Isaiah 28:17 ...and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place.

Remember the parable of Jesus about the man who built his house on the rock and the other who built it on the sand? He is here making direct reference to this.

Isaiah 28:18 And your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it.

God says, As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten, because I don’t want you to be destroyed by the overflowing scourge. As we read in Nahum, He is going to do His work; the mountains are going to melt before Him.

### **Professors**

There are a people who profess to be Christians. They are called in the Bible women, churches. What do they say in their relationship with Jesus Christ their Lord? In the Bible, a woman is a church. If she is an impure woman, she is an impure church. If she is a pure woman, she is God’s pure church. We just read in Revelation 3 about the seventh church period, and this church was identified by the heavenly Father and Jesus as wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked, and thinking they were right. Here are now seven of them:

Isaiah 4:1 And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach.

What did Jesus say? Come and eat the bread of life. Come and dress yourself in My righteousness. What do these churches, these women, say? We want to eat our own food, we want to eat our own bread, our own fabrication of the Bible. We want to dress ourselves in our own apparel. We don't want your clothing, but we want to be called Christians. This is what God is addressing. He says, I am not mocked, you can claim to be Christians as much as you like, but if you are not submissive to Me, you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked. He is the tried corner stone. In other words, all the winds and all the storms have struck Him, and He has been submissive and obedient to His heavenly Father, and He has stood the test. If you want to be part of Him, then you need to do what He says. "If you will do these things that I have said to you, then you will be like the man who built his house upon a rock." To illustrate this situation as we have been introduced to here, He, the tried and corner stone, the Rock of our salvation, gave a parable of what happens in the relationship between the different church people with each other:

Matthew 13:24 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.

The disciples heard this parable and they said, What do you mean with that? Let us ask the same question, What do you mean, Thou tried corner stone, with this?

Matthew 13:37 He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man;

Jesus came and imparted to us the truth, the seed.

Matthew 13:38 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.

**Now comes that beautiful phrase:**

Matthew 13:43 ...Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Doesn't that send chills down your spine? He is telling us something. There is a bit of danger here if you don't hear right. Pay close attention. Can you see in this parable a relationship suggestion? Wheat and tares, rooted together. When the seeds go in they develop their roots, and what did Jesus say when they asked, Shall we pluck up the tares? Jesus said, No, don't do that, because as you pull up the tares, the roots are entwined with the wheat and you will pull the wheat up as well. Don't. Let it ripen, let it grow and bring forth fruit. When the fruit is fully there, then you will see how it is going to be done. The angels are going to separate the wheat from the tares. But the relationship of the wheat and the tares needs to be understood because it is a parable of the children of the kingdom versus the children of the evil one.

In the last days Jesus is talking to people who are claiming to be His people; they are wanting to dress themselves in their own clothes and eat their own food and yet be called Christians at the same time. Are they wicked? Yes. So we are not just talking about the unbelievers, are we? We are talking about the professed people of God who are pretending to be Christians. Jesus is illustrating relationships in the kingdom of God in the last days – the relationship between the wheat and the tares in the harvest time, when the harvest has come about. When the summer time has produced the fruit you now have people dwelling together – tares and wheat, manifest.

“We Are Children of God, We Are the Church of God”

Malachi 3:13 Your words have been stout against me, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, What have we spoken [so much] against thee?

“Why are you judging us like this?”

Malachi 3:14 Ye have said, It [is] vain to serve God: and what profit [is it] that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts?

Are you hearing that nowadays? “Come on we're supposed to be happy!” Isn't that what they are saying? “We've been walking mournfully before the Lord of hosts, we've been trying to keep your ordinances and it hasn't made us happy. It's not very nice to have to do exactly what You say, it's not actually profiting us; it is not making us happy, and it's giving us a hard time in our flesh.” “My flesh is loathing all this kind of thing that God is wanting me to do. What's the purpose of it?”

Malachi 3:15 And now we call the proud happy;

“Look at all the people who are proud in the world, they are having a great time. Here I am, trying to do what God is saying, and I'm going through a drudgery.”

Malachi 3:15 ...yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, [they that] tempt God are even delivered.

How many times do we see people being cared for who are evil?

Malachi 3:16 Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard [it], and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name. 17 And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

My jewels – My wheat, in contrast to the tares. There is a day that I am going to gather things together, the jewels and the trash, the wheat and the tares.

His jewels are the people who are not speaking stoutly against God, saying, We have been doing all these things and it's not working any good for us. No, they are coming together frequently. They are speaking to one another of the Lord, and encouraging each other through the drudgeries of doing what is right when the flesh doesn't want to do it.

“These ones shall be Mine when I make up My jewels.”

Malachi 3:18 Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

### **Discernment**

When will you discern? When the tares have grown up and they have ripened and you can now see what's what. Before, you couldn't quite see, because the tares and the wheat are very similar in their original growth. Have you been through a field? When they grow together you can't see which one is which. “But in the day when I gather My jewels, then shall you return and discern between the righteous and the wicked.” This is all a nice story, but it's not a very nice and pleasant experience, let me warn you. When the wheat is gathered to the barn and the angels are separating the wheat from the tares and the tares are bundled together to burn; what does it say?

Malachi 4:1 For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

These are people; they are people that we know. They are people that we have relationships with – the wheat and the tares. In the time of the harvest we will discern between those that serve Him and those that serve Him not.

The tares closely resembled the wheat while the blades were green; but when the field was white for the harvest, the worthless weeds bore no likeness to the wheat that bowed under the weight of its full, ripe heads. Sinners who make a pretension of piety mingle for a time with the true followers of Christ,

This is the meaning of the parable. Sinners? But we are all sinners, aren't we? Yes, but those who make a pretension of piety mingle for a time with the true followers of Christ,

...and the semblance of Christianity is calculated to deceive many; but in the harvest of the world there will be no likeness between good and evil. Then those who have joined the church, but who have not joined Christ, will be manifest. {COL 74.3}

“But when we joined the church I thought we joined Christ.” Not always. You might have your names on the church books, but you might not have them in the books of heaven. You can't pretend with God.

The tares are permitted to grow among the wheat, {COL 74.4}

Why?

...to have all the advantage of sun and shower; {COL 74.4}

To have the advantage of the beautiful love and the provisions of God. They are there because of that. God says, I want you to receive all My blessings; I want to save you.

...but in the time of harvest ye shall “return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not.” Mal. 3:18. Christ Himself will decide who are worthy to dwell with the family of heaven. He will judge every man according to his words and his works. {COL 74.4}

**Remember: “I know your works.”**

Profession is as nothing in the scale. It is character that decides destiny. {COL 74.4}

Profession, if it is not followed by character, is of no value. For us who live in the time of the end now, what inter-relationship is to be expected in the church with this scenario? What do we expect in the church that professes to be God’s church?

Galatians 6:8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

Hosea 10:12 Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for [it is] time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you. 13 Ye have plowed wickedness, ye have reaped iniquity; ye have eaten the fruit of lies: because thou didst trust in thy way, in the multitude of thy mighty men.

Do you notice that there is a little message of hope here? “If you have done some wrong sowing, remember, I am not mocked. What you sow you shall also reap.” Now He says, “Seeing that you have done that, come on, re-cultivate your ground again. The tares are there, dig them out of your heart, and sow in your heart righteousness. I am not mocked, what you sow, you shall also reap. I can see what you are doing. Behold, I love you; I am rebuking you and I want you to make a new start.” That is what He is saying. “I don’t want you to be among the tares. I am going to judge in the last day.” What is He going to judge? He is going to judge profession versus character. Many of us think that when He judges He is going to be standing there directing each one to which side he must go. This is not what God is like. It is going to be discerned by everybody. That is how it works. What you sow, you will reap.

In other words, “if you are not going to sow righteousness, you are going to make a profession, and then, in the harvest time, when I make a judgment, you are going to demonstrate what you are like.” That is the way God works. He is not an arbitrator. Many people have thought that God is an arbitrator. No. What we sow will produce its fruit; and the fruit will be the arbitration. This is what God is like. I love Him. I love the way His mind works. It is so different to the way our mind works. He is a God to be awed with such a mind.

What is He going to judge? The character. And He is going to reveal it by the way He judges.

God is long-suffering and patient. He reproveth and warns the erring, but He does not destroy those who are long in learning the lesson He would teach them; He does not uproot the tares from the wheat. Tares and wheat are to grow together till the harvest; when the wheat comes to its full growth and development, and because of its character when ripened, it will be fully distinguished from the tares. {TM 45.2}

Because of its character – When God judges in the time of the harvest, the angels are going to separate because the fruit, the character, will be discerned. God’s people in the church are going to go through very strange experiences as this happens. That is what we

want to get very clear in our mind. At the beginning the blades look so much the same. But later on, things change.

## **In the Church**

We will now go into some details of application of this object lesson in the living reality, as it actually is in the church.

As the tares have their roots closely intertwined with those of the good grain, so false brethren in the church may be closely linked with true disciples. {COL 72.1}

Here is the relationship. Can you see the detail? False brother? I love him? I am entwined with him? Yes, that is a relationship. And you may not discern that he is a false brother. As I study this with you, does it look like I am starting to become suspicious of my brethren? That is almost what it seems like, doesn't it? But no, don't be suspicious. You don't need to be suspicious. God knows whether he is a false brother, you don't. He is going to show you as time goes on. So leave it with Him, don't you be suspicious. That is very important.

The real character of these pretended believers is not fully manifested. Were they to be separated from the church, others might be caused to stumble, who but for this would have remained steadfast. {COL 72.1}

If we start to become suspicious of each other and we start to say, "Hey you, I think you're a Judas," and we start to create rifts, and others say, "But I don't believe he is a Judas, I believe he is a lovely follower of Jesus Christ," and the other person says, "No, out," then the other person may say, "Well, if he is going to go out, then I go out too." This is the relationship problem. Jesus says, Don't do that. The false and the true will grow together until the real character is manifested. Both worship and both engage with Jesus Christ. Did Judas engage with Jesus Christ? Who was he? He was a minister. Jesus Christ ordained him.

I received a phone call some days ago from someone who asked me, "Why did Jesus ordain Judas when He knew what he was like?" Is it wrong to ordain someone, to bring someone into the church when you may know that there is something a bit iffy about them? Relationships, you see, right to the depth of ordination. Jesus knew, but did the disciples know? We are now going into the actual relationship interactivities which we must be aware of, so that when we dwell together with tares and wheat, we bear in mind that the Lord knows each one of us but we don't know each other; so don't start becoming suspicious, because if you do you will create a problem. Let the Lord deal with that.

John and Judas are representatives of those who profess to be Christ's followers. {AA 558.1}

Do you love Apostle John? and Judas?

Both these disciples had the same opportunities to study and follow the divine Pattern. Both were closely associated with Jesus and were privileged to listen to His teaching. Each possessed serious defects of character; and each had access to the divine grace that transforms character. But while one in humility was learning of Jesus, the other revealed that he was not a doer of the word, but a hearer only. One, daily dying to self and overcoming sin, was sanctified through the truth; the other, {AA 558.1}

What was he doing?



...resisting the transforming power of grace and indulging selfish desires, was brought into bondage to Satan. {AA 558.1}

This is what Jesus was doing with His church. John of course, like the disciples, thought, Jesus ordained me; I am the son of thunder, oh, Jesus has really showed me up. Jesus said, One of you is a devil. Both of them could have said, Oh Lord, show me, where am I wrong? But Judas knew that He was talking about him, and he grumbled. Do you ever do that? Do you ever do that when a word of rebuke is spoken to you? Jesus loved Judas; and He spoke in a such way that Judas could feel the rebuke and at the same time realise that Jesus loved him. As you hear God speaking to you in the messages of rebuke and counsel, what do you do inside of yourself? Do you say, "Now that is going a bit too far"? But who said it? Was it Jesus that said it? Is Jesus real? "Do I really have to do that? I don't like it." This is the way that Jesus is working. The disciples were all in the same arena, and so is God's church in the last days. We see it perfectly illustrated in the following statement, how the disciples really loved Judas. He was better than the fisherman. Who was he? A scribe; he was a learned man, brought up amongst the Pharisees. Of course! He was one of the men who had been trained in the seminaries. "Of course he is much better than we are, come on Jesus, let us use him!"

While Jesus was preparing the disciples for their ordination, one who had not been summoned urged his presence among them. It was Judas Iscariot, a man who professed to be a follower of Christ. He now came forward, soliciting a place in this inner circle of disciples. With great earnestness and apparent sincerity he declared, "Master, I will follow Thee whithersoever Thou goest." Jesus neither repulsed nor welcomed him, but uttered only the mournful words: "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay His head." Matt. 8:19, 20. {DA 293.2}

He was trying to turn Judas off.

Judas believed Jesus to be the Messiah; {DA 293.2}

What was his desire?

...and by joining the apostles, he hoped to secure a high position in the new kingdom. This hope Jesus designed to cut off by the statement of His poverty. {DA 293.2}

The disciples were anxious that Judas should become one of their numbers. He was of commanding appearance, a man of keen discernment and executive ability, {DA 294.1}

Don't you like people like that in the church?

...and they commended him to Jesus as one who would greatly assist Him in His work. They were surprised that Jesus received him so coolly. {DA 294.1}

The disciples had been much disappointed that Jesus had not tried to secure the co-operation of the leaders in Israel. They felt that it was a mistake not to strengthen His cause by securing the support of these influential men. {DA 294.2}

That is exactly how Jesus deals with the angel of the church of Laodicea. He says to the leaders of the church, You are lukewarm. "Why are you talking to the leaders of the church like that? Why don't you involve them?"

If He had repulsed Judas, they would, in their own minds, have questioned the wisdom of their Master. The after history of Judas would show them the danger of allowing any

worldly consideration to have weight in deciding the fitness of men for the work of God. The co-operation of such men as the disciples were anxious to secure would have betrayed the work into the hands of its worst enemies. {DA 294.2}

Yet when Judas joined the disciples, he was not insensible to the beauty of the character of Christ. He felt the influence of that divine power which was drawing souls to the Saviour. {DA 294.3}

He was amazed at Jesus, and he was attracted to Him.

The Saviour read the heart of Judas; He knew the depths of iniquity to which, unless delivered by the grace of God, Judas would sink. {DA 294.3}

God takes men as they are, with the human elements in their character, and trains them for His service, if they will be disciplined and learn of Him. They are not chosen because they are perfect, but notwithstanding their imperfections, that through the knowledge and practice of the truth, through the grace of Christ, they may become transformed into His image. {DA 294.4}

Whoever you are, He takes you, and He wants to change you. He says, Break over your fallow ground, sow righteousness. Judas, I want you to turn your heart over.

Judas had the same opportunities as had the other disciples. He listened to the same precious lessons. But the practice of the truth, which Christ required, was at variance with the desires and purposes of Judas, {DA 294.5}

Are the things that Jesus is saying to you at variance with your desires and purposes? That is what Judas went through.

...and he would not yield his ideas in order to receive wisdom from Heaven. {DA 294.5}

Judas was doing what the seven women of Isaiah 4 are doing, "No, I don't like to dress the way you want me to dress, I don't want to eat what you want me to eat; I am going to do what I would like to do, but I'll still be a follower of you, like Judas."

How tenderly the Saviour dealt with him who was to be His betrayer! {DA 295.1}

How carefully He worked with him.