

North Christian Church - Pastor Ed Collins

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10/11/15 - The Gospel, Salvation, & Sanctification - Part
10

Outline:

Wheat and Tares

Wheat is the desired crop. Tares look like wheat but are a type of weed (bad for the crop). In ancient agricultural times, an enemy would sow tares to destroy someone's livelihood. Wheat are true believers. Tares are professing believers that never bear any fruit for harvest.

"you may uproot the wheat"

refers to the fact that the roots of the wheat and tares in a field are so intimately intertwined that you may uproot the wheat if you pull the tares. There are always tares among us, often in churches, even.

"Allow both to grow together"

"Allow both to grow together" - It's not a believer's job to discern who is saved and who isn't; we can certainly "see" their fruit, possibly be motivated if we suspect a false gospel, but only God knows

The Flood/Torrent in Lk 6:46-49

The houses represent one's religious life. The rain represents divine judgment.

The House on the Rock

Only the house built on the rock (TLJC is the Rock) will stand. Note also that the builder "dug deep", laying a foundation "on the rock". This is not a trivial task.

The House Without a Foundation In Christ

This house is incapable of withstanding divine judgment. This alludes to those at the Great White Throne judgment who will stand on their own merit, and be sentenced to the Lake of Fire.

Foundations

We aren't to judge the foundation (or lack of) of others. Only God knows who is saved and who isn't.

Mt 12:33

"Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for the tree is known by its fruit."

1Pe 3:15

but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

Belittling Unbelievers Is Wrong

We are called to Christ-like conduct towards unbelievers. Our conduct is our witness to those outside the faith. If it is spiteful, elitist, and condescending, what will they think of Christ?

Mt 7:6

"Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces."

Discipleship

Jesus demanded that to become a disciple, one must abandon their ties to the self-life. They must be willing to surrender unconditionally to the Lord. The same requirement exists today.

The Great Commission

Where in scripture does it EVER say that we, as evangelists, ought to be conciliatory??? It doesn't!!! If we water down the gospel, we are injecting human works into God's work of reconciliation!!! (Ro 5:11; 2Co 5:18-19)

Control Freaks

Folks with control issues are those who haven't yet stripped [apekduomai - laid aside (Col 3:9)] themselves of the fleshly desire to "master" (teshuqa) those around them.

Ro 5:11 [Amplified]

Not only that, but we also rejoice in God [rejoicing in His love and perfection] through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received and enjoy our reconciliation [with God].

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Getting the Gospel Right

The fundamental issue is that if you get the Gospel wrong, you WILL end up with a portfolio of doctrines that are skewed somehow.

Berean Integrity

The Berean Jews respectfully heard the truth from Paul. However, instead of simply accepting his words at face value, they took the time to examine the Scriptures for themselves. If unbelievers can do this, EVERY believer ought be like this!

Bad Religion

Learning to get along with each other is not the source of true peace and never the pathway to God (John 14:6; Eph 2:8-9). That's man trying to hijack the true source by means of human works towards reconciliation with God.

Our Responsibility

For us to propagate a "convenient gospel" is to contribute to the bedlam we now know as "Christianity"! We MUST be exceptionally careful that we aren't inadvertently "widening" the gate that leads to salvation.

Truth is always offensive to the flesh.

The Word Is Offensive to the Flesh

If we aren't able to cling to truth in scripture, such as we have directly in front of us, as it is plainly stated, then we open ourselves up to a wider "gate" to salvation than scripturally warranted.