

North Christian Church - Pastor Ed Collins

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

Outline:

Balance Statement

"Faith-fruit" will be produced by every believer, guaranteed; however, only God knows if a person is saved or not. A healthy suspicion based on a lifestyle of bad fruit may serve as motivation, but never a just cause for passing judgment.

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 who the tares are among us.

You're Not Alone

Always remember that God uses a multitude of evangelists in this world, often on a single individual. Consider that even Jesus couldn't evangelize his own family immediately, nor His town! (Jn 7:5; Ac 1:14; Mk 6:1-4)

Human Rationalism

Unbelievers take offense at supernatural phenomena because they cannot rationalize it. Believers are encouraged by the fact that they cannot rationalize it!

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2Pe 3:9 [Amplified]

The Lord does not delay [as though He were unable to act] and is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is [extraordinarily] patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

Patience Is a Virtue

Patience is especially useful in the process of evangelizing. Our job is to teach the Gospel accurately, including the challenging aspects of it that suggest a person "count the cost" of discipleship (e.g.: denying self, following Jesus) before accepting the invitation.

Only God can see a person's heart.

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.

Patience Is Power

The pinnacle of true power is not manifest in raw force, rather it is shown through virtues such as patience. It takes more power to exercise patience than force one's hand. The long-lasting effects are also greater.

Patience

Patience is often the key ingredient for righteous consummation. It is unsung in today's instant gratification society. We must present the true Gospel and wait patiently while others respond.