

# The Parable of the Wheat & Tares

Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. 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? He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. 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 (**Mt. 13:24-30**)

## I. The “Who’s Who” & “What’s What” of the Parable – **Mt. 13:36-43**

- A. Jesus = Sower {**cf. Lk. 9:58, et al**}      The field = The world (thus the parable **cannot** argue against church discipline)
- B. The good seed (i.e. wheat) = Children of the kingdom (i.e. Christians)
- C. The tares = Children of the wicked one (i.e. non-Christians)
- D. The enemy = The devil      The harvest = The end of the world      The reapers = The angels

## II. Two Main Lessons:

- A. Good and evil are always going to coexist in this world prior to a great and permanent separation.
- B. Christians are not to attempt to personally exterminate evil men via carnal tactics {**cf. Rom. 12:17-21**}
  - 1. Our weapons are not carnal {**2 Cor. 10:3-4; Eph.6:12; Heb. 4:12**}
  - 2. Christians must understand that in the end “*it all comes out in the wash*” {**cf. Ps . 37; Ps. 73**}
  - 3. Rather than ruling over the ungodly, Christians would live amongst the ungodly – A timely lesson {**Lk. 9:51ff**}

## III. Other Lessons:

- A. Whatever is not wheat is a tare {**cf. Mt. 12:30; 2 Jn. 9-11**}
- B. Christians are in the world, but we must not be of the world {**Jn. 15:18-19; 17:9-18; Rom. 12:1-2**}
- C. Tares look like wheat for a while {**cf. 2 Cor. 11:13-15; 1 Jn. 4:1; Mt.7:15**}
- D. This world will end {**cf. 2 Pt. 3:10-12; 2 Th. 1:7-9**}
- E. The final judgment will come {**cf. 2 Cor. 5:10; Mt. 12:36; Rom. 2:16**}
- F. Many will be lost – The tares were in bundles! {**cf. Mt. 7:13-14, 21-23; Lk. 13:23ff**}
- G. The devil is not a cartoon character {**cf. 1 Pet. 5:8**}
- H. Hell is real & it will be horrible {**cf. Mk. 9:42ff; Rev. 21:8**}
- I. Wheat ends up in heaven {**cf. Mt. 25:46**}
- J. God is longsuffering {**cf. 2 Pet. 3:9**}
- K. Denominational predestination is a false doctrine (FD) – “*He who hath ears to hear, let him hear*” {**cf. Rev. 22:17**}
- L. Universalism is a FD – God’s grace does not unconditionally make wheat out of tares!
- M. The rapture is a FD – The parable teaches there will be no separation of good & evil until the end of the world.
- N. Annihilation is a FD – Tares weep & gnash teeth.
- O. The whole world is accountable to the Law of Christ {**cf. 1 Jn. 3:4; Isa. 59:1-2; 2 Jn. 9-11**}