

**"THE PARABLE OF THE  
WHEAT AND TARES"**

**Introduction**

1. There are seven parables in this chapter
2. They relate to the Kingdom of God = church
3. Very precious to Christ, who died for His church

**1. THIS PARABLE TELLS US WHAT THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH IS**

- 1) v.24: "a man...good seed...his field":
  - (i) man: the Lord Jesus Christ – planned in eternity
  - (ii) good seed: the true believer
  - (iii) field: the world in which the church now is
- 2) How this happens
  - (i) the gospel is preached: Details. Examples
  - (ii) the way men believe: New Birth
  - (iii) conversion makes them "good seed"
  - (iv) their heart now changed: love to God...  
**APPLICATION**: If you are not sure, pray to know
- 3) The Lord loves his church = His special delight:
  - (i) it is growing all through history
  - (ii) ministers are to care for it: feed / weed  
**APPLICATION**: We should wish to be in Christ's church

**2. WE LEARN HERE ABOUT THE CHURCH'S ENEMIES**

- 1) v.25: "enemy...tares...his way":
  - (i) the devil: hates Christ and His people
  - (ii) hypocrites: false Christians. Explain
  - (iii) hidden from view: crafty / secretive
- 2) The effect of the tares:
  - (i) not noticed all at once:

- (ii) DARNEL look very like wheat – at first
- (iii) this crime punishable under Roman law (The Parables of Jesus: Terry Johnson)  
**OBSERVE**: The hypocrite looks like the true Christian for a while – gets church membership, etc.

- 3) The way the Owner deals with it:
  - (i) v.27: servants: Christ's preachers
  - (ii) the suggestion: to uproot all at once: v.28
  - (iii) v.29: not the Owner's policy  
**OBSERVE**: We need to be patient not hasty. If we are hasty we may harm God's children
- 4) History fulfils this exactly
  - (i) false Christians have sprung up
  - (ii) evidence: false creed / unholy life
  - (iii) 3 periods of church history  
**APPLICATION**: The church not yet perfect: watch!

**3. WE ARE LEFT IN NO DOUBT ABOUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE EVIL AND THE GOOD AT LAST**

- 1) Everything must be put right in the end:
  - (i) the righteous rewarded
  - (ii) the hypocrite exposed
- 2) The Judgement will be carried out:
  - (i) the ministry of angels: v.41
  - (ii) infallible separation – the heart of everyone finally exposed
  - (iii) the fearful destiny of the wicked: v.42  
**APPLICATION**: All sinners who do not believe in Christ will suffer eternal punishment.
- 3) The real Christians will be rewarded:
  - (i) "shine forth...sun": glorified
  - (ii) resurrection body, fitted for heaven
  - (iii) all his love and service acceptable to Christ

## CONCLUSION

1. The **Q**: "Do I believe?"
  2. How sad to be a "tare"!
  3. How blessed to be a real believer!
- Q**: Do you have ears to hear?

### **PSALM**

**23: 1 – 6**

**37: 23 – 28**

**139: 19 – 24**