

THE PARABLE OF THE TARES AND THE WHEAT (Part 1 of 6)

Our Lord and Savior spent some of His ministry teaching publicly in parables. He makes it clear in Matthew 13:11 that He did so for the purpose of concealing these teachings from a majority of the public while revealing the true meaning to His closest disciples. One significant parable consisted of a description of the Church Age on earth, also referred to as the kingdom of heaven (John 18:36). It would serve as a warning, not only to His current followers, but to all true believers throughout Church history. If you hold to the perspective, as I do, that we are at the very end of this dispensation known as the Church Age, the parable which Jesus shares with His disciples regarding tares being sown among a crop of wheat, is more relevant now than ever. Why? Later in His ministry, Jesus taught that at the end of this age, just prior to His return, there would be a time marked by a proliferation of false prophets, deceiving and misleading many, recorded in Matthew 24:4-5, 11. 24 –

“And Jesus answered and said to them, ‘See to it that no one misleads you. For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ, and will mislead many.’ (vv4-5) Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. (v11) For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.” (v24)

Can there be any doubt that we are living in such a time? And the reason is revealed in the parable of the tares and the wheat. I would encourage you to read both the parable in Matthew 13:24-30, as well as its all-important interpretation in vv36-43, before proceeding any further. A quick survey of the parable and its interpretation, describes the kingdom of heaven and its advancement in our world, by means of the building of Christ’s Church. Jesus makes it clear that the Church will not be a localized theocratic nation as Israel was under the Mosaic Covenant; but a spiritual entity consisting of individuals and groups of disciples “planted” by our Savior throughout our lost and fallen world. In response to this successful growth and development of the kingdom of heaven on earth, there will be opposition, in the form of disciples whose master is the evil one, the devil. Here is the exact description recorded for us by Christ, in Matthew 13:37-39 –

“And He said, ‘The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man, and the field is the world; and as for the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the tares are the sons of the evil one; and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the age; and the reapers are angels.’”