

# Revive Us Again

## Part 2 — Wheat and Tares

September 14, 2014

---

### Revival has three ingredients

- honest evaluation of current spiritual condition
- desperation for God's redemption
- intercession for God's salvation

---

### Parable of the Wheat and Tares

- a parable to help you with honest evaluation, may cause desperation for redemption, and intercession for salvation
- the parable of the wheat and tares follows last week's parable of four soils in Matthew 13
- this parable paints a picture, tells a story of spiritual activity surrounding the Kingdom, how the Kingdom works, and how it's worked against by the enemy of mankind's soul

### Matthew 13:24-30

#### Matthew 13:24

- sower of good seeds (wheat) is Jesus
- good seeds are sons of the Kingdom, genuinely saved and in a right relationship with God
- the field is the world, in one sense (vs.25) ; and also the Kingdom of God in another sense (v.41)

#### Matthew 13:25

- tares are sons of the wicked one
- tares were sown "while men slept"
- the enemy works when spiritual people sleep

#### Matthew 26:40-41

- Jesus finds the disciples sleeping while He prays
- Jesus says to stay awake and pray, so not to enter into temptation

Temptation and sin get sown and yielded to when men sleep spiritually. The enemy knows which buttons to push.

---

### Understanding what tares are is critical

#### Matthew 13:41

- sins — things that offend
- sons of wicked one — ones that practice lawlessness

## **Tares — a plant called “bearded darnel”**

### **1. deceptive**

- physical tares look just like wheat in its early form; it's true identity is known at harvest
- spiritual tares are known by their lack of spiritual fruit

### **2. dangerous**

- physical tares are a poisonous grass, if mixed with wheat flour, consumers become dizzy and sick
- spiritual tares become dizzy and sick when they surround themselves with the sons of the wicked one and partake of his sins

### **3. draining**

- physical tares soak up the wheat's nutrients and take up space, but never produce a harvest
- spiritual tares soak up and consume valuable Kingdom fruit and space, but do not contribute. 80%/20% rule

### **4. degenerate**

- physical tares debased, corrupt, worthy of being burned
- spiritual tares may look and talk the part, but are not genuinely saved; unable to regenerate

#### **Parallel Parable**

##### **Matthew 7:21-23**

- spiritual tares say “Lord, Lord” — wheat does the will of the Father
- it's not what you say, it's do you obey

#### **Tares are the “Almost Christian”**

##### **Acts 26:27-29**

- King Agrippa says that Paul almost persuades him to become a Christian
- spiritual tares believe to some degree, but lack true conversion

### **5. diabolical**

- the devil sows tares among the wheat, sowing what he is, a counterfeit
- the tares he sows look and smell the part of wheat for a while, but become known by their fruit

---

## **What's the big deal about being a tare?**

### **Tares are sins and sons of the devil, the enemy of God and man**

- only hope of getting free is really understanding your current spiritual condition
- tares are consuming sinful poison, partaking of the devil himself, and need to repent immediately!

### **Matthew 13:41-43**

- tares are bound, bundled, and burned in fire, with wailing and gnashing of teeth
- wheat are gathered into the barn, and will shine like sun in the Kingdom of their Father

### **Daniel 12:3**

- the wise and fruitful will shine like the brightness of the firmament
- those who turn others to righteousness shine like stars forever and ever

---

## **John the Baptist describes eternal destination**

### **Matthew 3:12**

- Jesus will clean and separate the wheat from the tares, the wheat from the chaff, the precious from the worthless
- gather His wheat into the barn
- burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire

---

## **Jesus' command to us**

### **Matthew 13:43**

- he who has ears, let him hear — do you hear?

---

## **Discussion Questions**

1. Pastor Steve told the story of the farmer with a "heart wound," who stopped everything and rushed to hear George Whitefield preach. What would it take for you to become that desperate for God?
2. What does it take for someone to be a "good seed." Are you a "good seed"?
3. What happens "when spiritual people sleep"? (John 10:10) What will you do to stay awake?
4. Since wheat and tares both look the same in the early stages, how and when can the difference be known? (Matthew 7:16) What kind of spiritual fruit (or lack of it) are you producing?
5. The tares take up space but never produce harvest. Are you soaking up and taking up space and not contributing? Are you part of the 80% or 20%? What will you do about your fruitfulness of service?
6. Jesus does not recognize an "almost Christian." Do you know anyone who thinks they are a Christian, but is not genuinely saved? How will you communicate truth to that person?
7. Have these passages confirmed your knowledge and belief in radically different eternal destinations?
8. How does that belief affect the way you live? How does it affect the way you tell others about Jesus?