



## **WHEAT & TARES**

A Temcat study

I am writing this short study as a response to the bundles of letters we receive, that over and over again chant "Wheat and Tares in the church" like a bunch of trained parrots. It is in my experience that many of the ones that fall back on this phrase are using it as a cop-out; an excuse to sit back and keep their mouths shut, while sins are paraded around them, and the Holy Spirit is urging them to 'stand up and be counted'.

Did Jesus give that parable to us as instruction to sit down and be quiet and shut our eyes and never point out sin?? Was the parable to inform us that "you can't do anything about it anyway, so don't even be concerned"?

No friends, this parable was a **WARNING** to us. A **WARNING** that up until the final **PURGE** of the church, that you need to be watchful and never take it for granted that you can blindly rely on the word of a brother, or a leader because **FALSE BRETHERN** would be in the church and you need to be alert!

Who were the wheat in the story? They were the 'children of the kingdom'. What does that mean?? It means they are the ones who ultimately **WILL** be saved. Can you or I know which one of us will **ULTIMATELY** be saved? No, we cannot. We cannot even know that about ourselves. We can know, if we give all over to Jesus, and live 'by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God', and continue like that on a daily basis, we will be saved. But we can prove unfaithful, if we neglect constant **WATCHFULNESS**.

Who were the tares in the story? They were the 'children of the wicked one'—children of, and hence servants of, the devil! Ultimately they are going to be lost—nowhere are we told that a tare ever becomes wheat, no matter how closely it resembles the wheat!

We were warned that they would be right there among us. We were being told we need to be watchful, and study for ourselves, and walk circumspectly. "Take ye heed every one of his

neighbour, and trust ye not in any brother: for every brother will utterly supplant, and every neighbour will walk with slanders." Jeremiah 9:4

Am I saying we are to constantly look with paranoid askance at everyone around us? No, BUT we ARE to notice if those around us start veering from the path cast up for the righteous to walk in. "...and they have caused them to stumble in their ways from the ancient paths, to walk in paths, in a way not cast up." Jeremiah 18:15

We are to ESPECIALLY notice when LEADERS turn from the true foundation and bring in 'strange slips'! (Isaiah 17:10)

Now there is one BIG fact about the tares in Jesus' story: WHY did the owner of the field say "Don't pull them up"? BECAUSE humanly, we cannot tell an IMMATURE TARE, from an IMMATURE WHEAT. As I said before WE cannot tell who among us will ultimately be saved and who lost.

BUT, let me ask you this: Was this the ONLY parable Jesus gave about weeds? No, it certainly was NOT. In fact the Bible has a LOT to say about weeds, and briars, and thorns, and wild grapes. AND Jesus gives us some clear counsel that there is a TIME when we ARE to judge them.

What is that time? It is when we SEE FRUIT on them.

I will tell you an interesting living parable I experienced a couple years back in my little flowerbed. Some plants came up and they looked like FLOWERS, they grew larger and larger and they looked exactly like flowers. I cared for them and so on and waited for the flowers. None came, so I thought that these are late flowering plants, and left them there.

They grew so large they smothered out some smaller flowers. I kept thinking what a mass of flowers I was going to get on them. The buds came out, and the buds looked like flower buds. THEN finally the FRUIT appeared! It was a kind of nasty bur. Now ONCE the fruit was there, did I go on hoping for flowers from these tares? No, I removed them.

Jesus warned us about WOLVES in sheep's clothing, and then did he say, wolves and sheep are to grow together until the harvest? NO WAY! He told us how to judge; "Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?" Matthew 7:16.

Friends when we see the fruit of wicked ways and open sin and we hear doctrines being put forth CONTRARY to the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, we are to do something about it. We are to first address the person, warning him that his ways are NOT according to light. A truehearted one who has stumbled into error, will hearken to such a warning. But if they refuse to hear the Word, other steps need to be taken to remove stumbling blocks from the path—so the weak do not stumble therein.

We must not allow such a one to continue on teaching and preaching heresy among us! And don't tell me that we can't tell TRUTH from ERROR! If you can't then DO something about

it—Get into your BIBLE and SPIRIT OF PROPHECY and READ and STUDY, until you see the straight connected chain of TRUTH that runs all through them, and YOU will know truth from error.

"And shall say, Cast ye up, cast ye up, prepare the way, take up the stumblingblock out of the way of my people." Isaiah 57:14

"Go through, go through the gates; prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, cast up the highway; gather out the stones; lift up a standard for the people." Isaiah 62:10

How can you lift up a standard if SIN is never to be pointed out?? How can the truth survive in a group that allows anything to be done and said and taught among them?

I have something serious to warn you about; where are the tares—the ones WITH fruit, and the sneaky ones you aren't sure about—going to end up? They are headed for the lake of fire, brothers and sisters! Even if you see someone and you see symptoms of their being a tare—should you not seek to WARN them? Maybe they do not know. Maybe they will take heed and turn out a wheat after all? How would it be loving to keep dumb?

I also want you to realize that if you think it is just fine to hang around with tares and wolves and so on, YOU may get tied up with them. Remember Jesus said they will be tied up in bundles and burned. The wheat is gathered but it is the TARES that are bundled in groups. "Say ye not, A confederacy, to all them to whom this people shall say, A confederacy; ..." Isaiah 8:12.

You know who are the main ones among us that have chanted the 'TARES & WHEAT' song until most of the church has memorized it? THEY are the WOLVES! Notice I did NOT say TARES—Wolves are tares with FRUIT on them. Thorns, thistles, burs, fangs, claws! Of course they want you to be quiet. If you start to baaaa and yell then you may get the Chief Shepherd after them and they will get a whacking!

You know; there is an interesting prophecy in Isaiah 10 and it is talking about the 'King of Assyria' and how he is boasting. I want you to realize that this prophecy has a parallel to our day. The 'Haughty King of Assyria' is the papacy, and of course, along with him, the devil. Notice what he is saying:

"For he saith, By the strength of my hand I have done it, and by my wisdom; for I am prudent: and I have removed the bounds of the people, and have robbed their treasures, and I have put down the inhabitants like a valiant man: And my hand hath found as a nest the riches of the people: and as one gathereth eggs that are left, have I gathered all the earth; **and there was none that moved the wing, or opened the mouth, or peeped.**" Isaiah 10:13,14.

He is saying that he has robbed us blind! He has taken away our 'bounds'—our standards; he has taken our treasures—our pure message; he has 'put down' the teachers of Present Truth and NONE moved the wing or peeped! NO! They just sit there saying 'tares and wheat, tares and wheat'!

It is clear to anyone who KNOWS his Bible and SOP that the Lord does not look with pleasure on those who refuse to move a wing or peep. To keep silent when the TRUTH is being trampled on – is treason in the sight of the Lord.

Notice what is said about Israel when they ‘remained neutral’ and would not stand for truth:

"This blindness and apostasy had not closed about them suddenly; it had come upon them gradually as they had not heeded the word of reproof and warning which the Lord had sent to them because of their pride and their sins. And now, in this fearful crisis, in the presence of the idolatrous priests and the apostate king, they remained neutral. If God abhors one sin above another, of which His people are guilty, it is doing nothing in case of an emergency. Indifference and neutrality in a religious crisis is regarded of God as a grievous crime and equal to the very worst type of hostility against God." 3 Testimonies pg. 280

HOSTILITY against GOD! That is how the Lord looks on those who refuse to speak up for right. Those who don't ‘move a wing or peep’.

Is it an accident that the tares are in the field? No, Jesus said the enemy did it deliberately. He has a reason that he wants them there.

"Satan is working with great power in and through the children of disobedience to exalt treason and apostasy as truth and loyalty. And at this time the power of his satanic inspiration is moving the living agencies to carry out the great rebellion against God that commenced in heaven." Testimonies to Ministers pg.16

See? ‘children of disobedience’, tares! Satan works through them. What does he do through them? He gets people CONFUSED as to what is right and wrong; what is light and what is darkness. "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" Isaiah 5:20.

Do you know what WOE means? It is a warning; watch out! Beware! Don't do this! That is why Jesus gave us this warning parable that we will NOT just blindly trust but will watch and be alert- studying to KNOW truth from error and then seeking to help others know also.

I have said enough: I will list a few quotes for your further consideration:

"Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins." Isaiah 58:1

"When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand." Ezekiel 33:8

"Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?" 1 Corinthians 6:2,3

"His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber." Isaiah 56:10

**"When the religion of Christ is most held in contempt, when His law is most despised, then should our zeal be the warmest and our courage and firmness the most unflinching. To stand in defense of truth and righteousness when the majority forsake us, to fight the battles of the Lord when champions are few--this will be our test. At this time we must gather warmth from the coldness of others, courage from their cowardice, and loyalty from their treason." 5 Testimonies 136 (1882).**

May God help us to lift a wing and open our mouths and PEEP!