

In Our Battle Against Weeds

Promise: God can be relied upon to fully usher in His Kingdom

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Isa 44:6-8; Ps 119:57-64; Rom 8:18-27; Mt 13:24-30, 36-43

(7th Sunday after Pentecost (Pr 11), 7/19/20)

So the servants said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?" But he said, "No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them." – v. 28b-29

Lead In – This wisdom taught in the Parable of the Weeds is sorely needed in the world today! With this wisdom we could be spared from doing as much damage as we are doing. And we just might be able to increase the amount of good that is done...

I. A Serious "Category Error" With Idea of Progress

- A. Undeniable progress in science, technology...
- B. Assumption that we have or can make progress...
- C. Progress against evil is limited...

II. Paying Careful Attention to Jesus' Explanation

- A. The field is identified with the world in this age!
- B. The two sowers involved in this age...
- C. The focus: the damage that can be done when...
- D. Nirvana and utopia come at the harvest time!

III. Wisdom Unheeded: More Damage Than Good

- A. Who said, "In order to make an omelet..."
- B. Our job is not to save the world! It is not to...
- C. Contrast: French and American revolutions...

Parting Shot – The Apostle Paul adopted what seemed to be a willful ignorance when he said, *"For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified."* I don't believe Paul's example and overall teaching would commend a mindless faith, or not being well read and not well thought out. Rather, Paul knew the wisdom of the Parable of the Weeds. He knew that the eradication of sin, death, and the evil one belongs to the Crucified and Risen One, and to His angels at His return at the end of the age. In the meanwhile, as repentant sinners we can limit the damage we cause and do some good as we love God, and love our neighbor as ourselves.

Areas of Progress: Science, technology, communications, travel, medical knowledge and medicine, conveniences, etc.

Areas of Limited Progress: Character development, growth in virtue, overcoming self-centeredness and becoming more altruistic, overcoming sin, overcoming death, overcoming the devil, desiring God, trusting God's Word, etc.

Rom 3:10-12 as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."

The Field is the world: It is not primarily the church, although the visible church in this world is not exempt. It is not primarily the individual, although again, each individual is not exempt.

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 ESV

The Parable of the Weeds

²⁴He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. ²⁷And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?' ²⁸He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

The Parable of the Weeds Explained

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." ³⁷He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸The field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, ⁴²and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

"In order to make an omelet, you need to crack a few eggs." - Saying attributed to such radical revolutionists as Robespierre in France, and Joseph Stalin in Russia.

Not Our Job: to wipe out hunger, eliminate poverty, end racism, and ring in perfect justice. It is to love our neighbor.

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Psalm 119:57-64

Heth

⁵⁷You only are my **portion**, O LORD;*
I have promised to **keep** your words.

⁵⁸I entreat you will **all** my heart:*
Be merciful to me
according **to** your promise.

⁵⁹I have considered my ways*
and turned my feet
toward **your** decrees.

⁶⁰I hasten and **do** not tarry*
to keep **your** commandments.

⁶¹Though the cords
of the wicked **entangle** me,*
I do not **forget** your law.

⁶²At midnight I will rise
to **give** you thanks,*
because of your **righteous** judgments.

⁶³I am a companion of **all** who fear you*
and of those
who keep **your** commandments.

⁶⁴The earth, O LORD,
is full **of** your love;*
instruct me **in** your statutes.

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