

MARCH 19, 2023

# CHURCH OF CHRIST



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## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

### SUNDAY:

Bible Classes.....9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship.....10:30 a.m.  
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY:

Bible Classes.....6:00 p.m.

*Minister, John Keith  
(304) 266-9027*

**WELCOME!**

We invite you to all of our services.

*“...the churches of Christ salute you” (Romans 16:16)*

# PARABLE OF THE TARES

## INTRODUCTION: Matt. 13:24-30

1. Jesus had healed a demon possessed man who was blind and mute (Mt. 12:22), causing interest and controversy (Mt 12:23-37).
2. Pharisees challenged Christ to produce a sign but he rebuked them for their unbelief (38-45).
3. Jesus went out and spoke to an assortment of auditors who came to hear him (13:1-2). Parable of the Sower (3-23), then, that of the Tares.

## I. THE NARRATIVE

- A. A man sowed good seed in his field (24).
  1. The man = Christ (37).
  2. The good seed = the sons of the kingdom (38).
  3. The field = the world (41).
    - a. Satan is the prince of this world (Jn. 12:31).
    - b. The whole world lies in the evil one (1 Jn. 5:19).
- B. While men slept the enemy came sowing tares among the wheat (25).
  1. Tares=weeds which at first resemble wheat.
  2. Satan is the enemy; the tares were sown out of pure malice.
  3. "Slept" could indicate a lack of watchfulness or taking heed.
- C. The servants are forbidden to prematurely gather out the tares (29).
  1. This is a warning against over-zealous efforts to purify the church by violent means, EX: (Lk. 9:54).
  2. Temporary tolerance of wickedness for sake of the righteous (Gen. 18:32).
  3. This does not mean that loving, church discipline should not be exercised when needed (Mt 18:15-17; Rom 16:17; cf. 1 Cor 5).
- D. There is a coming harvest.
  1. This the end of the world (39; cf. Mt. 24:35; 2 Pet. 3:7-11; Rev. 21:1).
  2. A separation will occur at the end of time.
  3. The tares will be removed from the wheat (30).
    - a. The *tares* are guilty (41).
      - 1) of causing stumbling (Mt. 16:23; 18:6; Rom. 14:13).
      - 2) and practicing iniquity (1 John 3:4; Mt. 7:23).
  4. The reality of hell is affirmed (Mt 5:22; Heb. 10:27; Rev. 14:9-11; Mark 9:43-48; Mt. 25:41).
- E. There is a coming reward for the righteous.
  1. The righteous shine forth as the sun (Pro. 4:18; Dan. 12:3).
  2. Their abode shall be the eternal kingdom of Heaven (Mt. 8:11; 2 Peter 1:11).

## II. LESSONS LEARNED FROM THIS PARABLE.

- A. Evil in the church is the work of Satan.
- B. The church will never be free from sin on Earth.
- C. Be careful regarding rash judgments / hasty actions (28-29).
- D. We must be careful not to cause others to stumble.
- E. The faithful must press on in spite of the wicked infiltration (1 Tim. 4:1).
- F. Hell is a reality for the wicked (30).
- G. The kingdom will be purified eventually (30).
- H. There is great reward in the eternal kingdom (30).

# THE WORK OF THE FALSE TEACHER

Matthew W. Bassford

In an epistle that contains a number of negative descriptions, Romans 16:17-18 is the last. Here, though, Paul is not concerned with degenerate Gentiles or hard-hearted Jews. Instead, he focuses on troublemakers within the Christian community. They have the following four characteristics:

**They Create Division** Disciples of Christ are supposed to be peacemakers like their Master. Some Christians, though, seek out division instead. They prefer quarreling to bearing with, and they savor the feeling of angry self-righteousness that comes from being “right” when other brethren are “wrong”. We must watch out for those who enjoy conflict in the church, and we must beware of becoming such ourselves.

**They Impose Obstacles** As all of us know, it isn’t easy to follow the commandments of the Lord. The path of righteousness is narrow. However, there are those who think it isn’t narrow enough. Pharisee-like, they bind heavy burdens on others that the word does not, and they reject those who do not agree with them. There is an appearance of holiness to this rigor, but it isn’t truly holy. We must be faithful to the Scriptures in what we condemn as well as in what we approve.

**They Serve Their Own Appetites** Christ is to be master over us, but the devil constantly strives for dominance in every heart, especially the hearts of teachers of the word. He employs the familiar tools of I John 2:16, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. The lust of the flesh and the lust of the eye are obviously problematic, but it’s harder to spot ministers who are motivated by pride.

Perhaps the best way to determine whether pride is an issue in a man’s heart is to analyze his behavior according to the previous verse and Jesus’ dictum about knowing a tree by its fruits. Does he look to cause division instead of making peace? Does he put obstacles in the way of those who seek Christ? If so, pride is the likely culprit.

**They Deceive with Smooth Words** It is worth noting that Paul says that the unsuspecting are the prey of the false teacher. It is much easier to fool the ignorant and trusting than the knowledgeable and wary.

**Guarding Against False Teachers** Thus, we always must be on our guard against those who would deceive us in spiritual matters. This begins with a Berean attitude toward everything we hear. Even if the speaker is our favorite preacher or an angel from heaven, don’t take his word for it!

Second, we must beware of appeals to extrabiblical information. There is much to be gained from the study of linguistic and historical resources, but the Bibles we hold in our hands are all any of us need to inherit eternal life. [*continued on back*]

# Welcome!

*We are thankful for your presence. To our visitors, please fill out one of the blue cards and place it in one the collection plates.*

**AM Bible Study:** Colossians 4:2f.

**AM:** Parable of the Tares (Matt. 13:24-30).

**PM:** God Shows Himself (Jonah 1:1-3).

**Wednesday Bible Study:** Revelation 12:1f

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Karen Grove** seems to be showing some improvement.
- **Tina Keith** was in Genesis overnight this past Wednesday, but it was determined to not be another optic stroke. More tests to follow.

## REMINDER:

- ❖ Our *Gospel Meeting* will be May 21-25 with **Phil Grear**.
- ❖ Men's Encouragement Day here, October 7, 2023, with **Roger Rush**.

**IN OUR PRAYERS:** Diann Bachmann, Betsy Cook, Erma Endly, Mike & Karen Grove, Cathy Jackson, Bruce & Kim Johnson, Gary Jones, Rick Lambert, Jody Main, Carol Mitchell, Bev Singleton, Linda Steele, Helena Tewksbury, Jean Whitley, and Randy Yost.

**SHUT-INS:**  
Debbie Jones,  
Nancy Love,

**FAMILY AND FRIENDS:** **Weston Boulet** (great-grandson of Shirley Patterson), **Betty Cox** (Diann Bachmann's sister), **Melanie Harper**, **T.J. Hart**, **Trudy Kerby**, **Colleen Kiester** (Mo Smith's sister), **Bob Main** (Bill Main's brother), **Linda Potts** (Joyce Starrett's sister-in-law), **Kellie Price** (Richard Mayo's cousin), **Addy Reed**, **Rodney Reeves** (Erica Cunningham's father), **John Rockhold**, **Leatha Warner** (Erma Endly's daughter-in-law), the U.S.A., **Ukraine** and remember to pray for **one another**.

<b>AM STUDY</b>	<b>SUNDAY AM</b>	<b>SUNDAY PM</b>	<b>WED. STUDY</b>	<b>GIVING (\$2,460)</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>\$2,343</b>

[continued from inside] When somebody starts telling us that we don't understand a verse right because the Greek actually means this or because scholars have determined that thus and such was true in Ephesus 2000 years ago, we should become very suspicious. Their goal is for us to put our faith in the expert instead of the Word. Bible helps and Bible scholars have their place, but that place is not to trump the plain meaning of the text.