

I. Introduction

The passage presents the final salvation and judgment through the imagery of the harvest. In essence, salvation and judgment consist of distinguishing and separating the righteous from the wicked. To fishermen, this truth is illustrated through the separation of good fish from bad fish (Matthew 13:47-50). To shepherds, it is portrayed through the separation of the sheep from the goats (Matthew 25:31-46). In today's passage, however, it is illustrated through the imagery of agriculture, particularly the harvest.

II. Main Body

1. Christ Harvesting with a Sickle (Revelation 14:14-16): The Harvest of Salvation

1) Christ Seated on the Cloud - The Lord Who Will Return on the Last Day (v. 14)

Christ is seated upon a cloud, signifying His glorious return at the end of the age. He wears a golden crown, revealing Him as the King and the righteous Judge who will come to execute judgment.

2) God Reveals the Time of Christ's Return Through an Angel (vv. 15-16)

An angel emerges from the heavenly temple, indicating that God announces the appointed time of Christ's return through His messenger.

3) The Principle of the Harvest as an Illustration of Salvation and Judgment

John the Baptist testified concerning Christ using the imagery of the harvest, distinguishing the wheat from the chaff (Matthew 3:12).

Likewise, Jesus explained this truth through the Parable of the Wheat and the Weeds (Matthew 13:41-43).

4) Christ Will Separate the Wheat from the Weeds and the Grain from the Chaff

When Christ returns, He will separate the righteous from the wicked, just as a farmer separates wheat from weeds and grain from chaff.

Each of us should ask ourselves: "Am I wheat or chaff? Am I true grain or merely a weed?"

The parable of the wheat and the chaff reminds us that spiritual maturity is a matter of growth (Mark 4:28-29). Just as grain develops from the sprout, to the ear, and finally to mature kernels, believers are called to grow continually into mature, fruitful disciples of Christ.

2. The Ripe Grapes Thrown into the Winepress (Revelation 14:17-20): The Harvest of Judgment

1) Explanation of the Passage

The angel who has authority over fire represents the angel entrusted with executing God's judgment. The juice flowing from the winepress symbolizes blood and represents the final judgment at the end of the age. The great winepress signifies the vast, universal scope of God's judgment. The winepress is located outside the city, symbolizing rejection and exclusion from God's holy presence. The blood rises as high as the horses' bridles, portraying the overwhelming and comprehensive nature of God's judgment.

The blood extends for 1,600 stadia—a symbolic number ($4 \times 4 \times 10 \times 10$) representing judgment that encompasses the whole world.

2) Lessons from the Passage

God's longsuffering toward sinners: God waits patiently until the grapes are fully ripe. Likewise, He delays judgment until sin has reached its full measure and can no longer be tolerated (Joel 3:13).

God's justice: God is perfectly holy and will certainly judge all evil with righteousness.

Jesus Christ bore God's wrath in our place: At Golgotha, Christ shed His blood and endured the wrath that we deserved. This recalls the closing scene of the film Ben-Hur, which powerfully depicts the redemptive significance of Christ's sacrifice. Jesus entered the place of divine judgment that rightly belonged to us (Isaiah 53:5).

III. Conclusion

By the saving merit of Christ's blood, may we be counted among the harvested grain that enters the kingdom of heaven, rather than among those cast into the winepress of God's wrath.

Bible Memorization

A VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire. (Matthew 3:12)

Bible Reading

Bible Reading Passage

| 7/6(Mon) | 7/7(Tue) | 7/8(Wed) | 7/9(Thur) | 7/10(Fri) | 7/11(Sat) | 7/12(Sun) |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| Psalms 70-75 | Psalms 76-78 | Psalms 79-86 | Psalms 87-90 | Psalms 91-99 | Psalms 100-105 | Psalms 106-108 |

QT

Quiet Time Passage

| 7/6(Mon) | 7/7(Tue) | 7/8(Wed) | 7/9(Thur) | 7/10(Fri) | 7/11(Sat) | 7/12(Sun) |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Psalms 110:1-7 | Psalms 111:1-10 | Psalms 112:1-10 | Psalms 113:1-9 | Psalms 114:1-8 | Psalms 115:1-8 | Psalms 115:9-18 |

Sharing Questions

1. Based on today's sermon, please share one new insight you gained or one truth through which God especially spoke to your heart.

2. Jesus will return to separate the wheat from the chaff, gathering the wheat into His barn while burning the chaff with unquenchable fire. Just as a farmer sows seed that grows into sprouts, then heads of grain, and finally mature wheat, discuss how we, as believers, can grow into mature "wheat" that will be gathered into God's heavenly storehouse.

3. The vision of the fully ripe grapes being thrown into the winepress teaches important spiritual truths. Going around the group, please share one lesson or application that you personally have learned from this vision.