

*In search of...*

# Truth & Right

Volume 10 Issue 41

October 11, 2015

## Time for Harvest

In Mark 4:26-29, we find the Parable of the Seed Growing: "And He said, 'The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.'"

Since it is October, we can see the yearly signs of harvest and autumn around us: the leaves changing color, the pumpkins, apples, and other fruits becoming ripe and in their season to be eaten. This is a time of year that a lot of us look forward to, even though it means that winter is just around the corner; we enjoy this time because those foods we have been waiting on are finally ready.

For those of us that have

not taken part in farming (which is becoming more and more the norm), the labor involved in harvesting is something that is lost on us. Sure, we might know on some academic level that the fruits never make it to the dinner table without someone going out to pick them, but to really understand the time and effort that goes into harvesting a crop is another thing entirely.

It truly is astounding the way that God created the earth and plant life. We have His promise, given to Noah, that such will be the way of things as long as the earth endures: "While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease." (Gen. 8:22) No wonder, then, that Jesus and His apostles so often compared the kingdom and the gospel to seed and growth. The gospel has the capability all on its own to grow, given the right circumstances. "What then

is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor." (1 Cor. 3:5-8)

When we preach and teach, we are scattering seed and watering seed that has already been sown. Yet we cannot take credit for the conversion of anyone, as Paul again points out: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek." (Rom. 1:16) The only way to stop a seed from growing is to completely withhold sun, soil, and water. Seeds just naturally know how to grow and do so on their own with no help from us. In the same vein, God's Word will produce absolute change in a person's life if their heart is receptive.

Growth is a gradual process. It takes time, and thus requires patience, something which we sadly do not possess in great quantity. "Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand." (James 5:7-

8) So often we want others to understand & obey the gospel on our terms, our time-table. But we all learn at different paces and do not have the same background knowledge. We must be steadfast, watering and waiting, and let the seed do its job.

If we can easily understand that the seed is God's Word, the gospel, and that the growth thereof is conversion & obedience, let us consider: what is the harvest? At what point do we, as stated in the beginning parable, reach that ripeness and are ready? Well, for one thing, we know it is not something that happens quickly, nor is it something that can happen in this life, because none of us will ever reach a point where we cannot grow anymore. No one is perfect, and no one ever "retires" from being a Christian. The apostle Paul says this about himself in Phil. 3:12-14,

"Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me His own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

So, since we can readily conclude that the time of harvest is not the point of conversion, when someone becomes a Christian, nor is it

at some later point during their walk of life in Christ, the inescapable result is that the harvest spoken of so many times throughout the Scriptures is the last day, when Jesus returns and this world ends. While that might seem like a long time away, we must remember that it could be at any moment! That is why we must be so busy, not just in our own lives, but going out and telling others the gospel so that they will be ready for when the harvest comes.

"When He saw the crowds, He had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.'" (Matt. 9:36-38)

The Lord is giving us time. Right now, we are given an opportunity to be obedient to His Word, to live for Him, and to repent of our transgressions. He is longsuffering and merciful, but He has told us that He will come again for His own. At that point, when we are "ripe," the harvest will come. Will you be ready? Are you looking forward to that day, or wishing for more time in this world? It is an appointment we will all keep, so let us be ready for it! Let God's Word change you, and be reconciled to the Father before it is too late! Grow and bear His fruit!

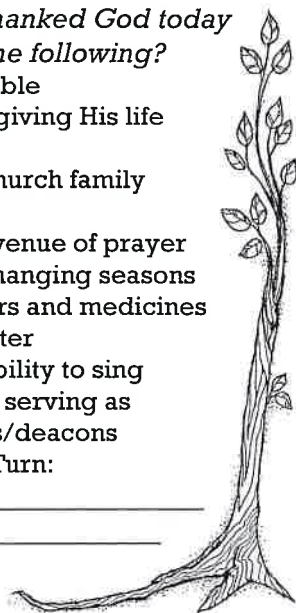
Jarred Currence

God gave you a gift of  
**86,400**  
 seconds today. Have  
 you used one to say  
**THANK YOU?**

*Have you thanked God today  
 for any of the following?*

- The Bible
- Jesus giving His life for us
- Our church family
- Jobs
- The avenue of prayer
- The changing seasons
- Doctors and medicines
- Laughter
- The ability to sing
- Those serving as elders/deacons
- Your Turn:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_



*This bulletin is published by the*  
**WELLSBURG CHURCH OF CHRIST**

92 Rose Cottage Lane  
 Wellsburg, WV 26070  
 304-737-1422

<http://www.truthandright.org>



Like us on  
**FACEBOOK** under  
 Wellsburg church  
 of Christ!

Follow us on **TWITTER**  
 @wellsburgchurch



View us on **YOUTUBE**:  
[https://www.youtube.com/  
 user/wellsburgchurch](https://www.youtube.com/user/wellsburgchurch)

# The Lord's Supper

C J U G M F B O F S P U B N S C R Y W V  
 K H K Z B K B I C X R Z V B T W D N R V  
 J C O V E N A N T D F U G J P I G B T F  
 P E E W T W D V G K J K E Q A T P Z Z J  
 V N F J R E X E G H J W Q U S T W X D P  
 E F O M A U J A P O S T L E S J O F G R  
 G S Y I Y L I R K R W T I S O Q I U X V  
 L J G S S E Z E J P W D K T V W X U N U  
 X T Q Q A E S Y Z U Z F E I E C R R S W  
 T C E I Q J V N X V I U W O R P C O T F  
 Y O F Q R S E R U R D P I N F T G X H R  
 G O U V T T G U O X G R S E L S X R J X  
 X M L T U H C I T X V E E J I I L A L E  
 M D F S W B D T M I Y C S C U X T C W Y  
 K I I M B J V R S T C L M Q D M B G C M  
 U V L T F E N D T N W I O E L T K R C N  
 I I L Y H J U L I D Z N I H M U T Q X L  
 Y D E K Y H V S O L H E X M X B P U V R  
 Z E D E T E R M I N E D D P Y S X Y Q F  
 R E M E M B R A N C E J E W A I V S Z R  
 D O Y R G I V E N E L L O V R A S D M R

**DIRECTIONS:** Look up the scripture in the Bible, and find the answer in the crossword above.

Luke 22:14, when the hour came, He \_\_\_\_\_ at table,

Luke 22:14, ...and the \_\_\_\_\_ with Him.

Luke 22:15, I have earnestly desired to eat this \_\_\_\_\_ with you

Luke 22:16, I will not eat it until it is \_\_\_\_\_ in the kingdom of God.

Luke 22:17, Take this, and \_\_\_\_\_ it among yourselves.

Luke 22:19, when He had \_\_\_\_\_ thanks, He broke it and gave it to them

Luke 22:19, Do this in \_\_\_\_\_ of me.

Luke 22:20, And \_\_\_\_\_ the cup after they had eaten

Luke 22:20, ...that is poured out for you is the new \_\_\_\_\_ in my blood.

Luke 22:21, behold, the hand of him who \_\_\_\_\_ me is with me

Luke 22:22, For the Son of Man goes as it has been \_\_\_\_\_,

Luke 22:23, And they began to \_\_\_\_\_ one another,