

But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear.

Matthew 13:16

Store In My Heart

Deuteronomy 1:1

These are the words which Moses spoke to all Israel across the Jordan in the wilderness, in the Arabah opposite Suph, between Paran and Tophel and Laban and Hazereth and Dizahab.

This book is a summary of the story of Israel coming to Canaan. As they camp just east of Jordan and the Promised land, Moses delivers his final address to the people of God. The failure to enter, the travels of the nation, the giving of the Law and the punishments of God are included in this message. Also included are reminders of God's promise of blessing if they obey and a curse if they turn aside from His Will. This message to the second generation was to impress upon them the need to obey God.

Moses would not enter the land, thus Joshua is given his role as Israel is to enter.



Growth

Fred Shewmaker

Brethren desire to see growth in the local church where they are identified. That is commendable. More commendable is a desire to see growth in the church everywhere on earth.

As we observe growth in nature, we see that certain factors are necessary for plant growth: The seed planted must be viable. The soil must be loose and the right temperature. The soil must have sufficient moisture. If these factors are present, the seed will sprout. When the plant comes up, continued growth requires the presence of other factors: A continuation of sufficient moisture in the soil. There must be proper soil nutrients. The plant must receive enough sunlight. If there are too many competing influences (Much thick grass or weeds around the plant. Large plants nearby that rob the soil of moisture and the needed nutrients.), growth will be hindered.

These observations lead to the idea that cultivation may provide a better environment for plant growth. In **Luke 13:7-8** a master told the keeper of his vineyard that he had come to a certain fig tree three years seeking fruit and found none. Then, he said, "*Cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground?*" The keeper said he would "*dig around it and fertilize it;*" and then, if it had no fruit, he would cut it down. Cultivation not only may remove competing weeds and grass and provide nutrients, it also may provide necessary moisture. In **1Corinthians 3:5-8** Paul writes regarding Apollos watering.

When we consider the growth of a local church or the cause of Christ everywhere on earth, we must remember the seed which must be planted, come up and grow is "*the word of God*" (**Luke 8:11**) or "*the word of the kingdom*" (**Matthew 13:19**) and the soil is individual human hearts (**Matthew 13:19**).

The seed is viable. In **Hebrews 4:12** we read, "*the word of God is living and powerful,....*" Thus, growth of the local church and the

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord's Kingdom.

Church of Christ
1512 Tanner Street
Malvern, AR 72104
(501) 332-8806

Find Us Online

preacher@tannerst.com

tannerst.com
FB @TannerStCoC

For Our Information

Paula Laubach is awaiting test results from stress test and heart monitor.

Merrill Berryhill is feeling better after problems with blood pressure and blood sugar last week.

Ruben & Brenda Keisler should be home this week.

The Berryhill family desires to worship and work with us. Their address is on the board.

Tonight - 2Kings 8.

Wednesday we will start in Hebrews 5.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

cause of Christ every where on earth depends on the condition of the soil where the seed is sown.

Jesus sent forth His apostles to sow the seed (the word of God or word of the kingdom) in all nations (**Matthew 28:18-20**) and in all kinds of soil (heart - of every creature - **Mark 16:15**). He knew the word would not sprout in a hard heart (**Matthew 13:19; Luke 8:12**).

The apostles not only were to sow, they also were to cultivate the crop which came up: *"make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things I have commanded you;"* (**Matthew 28:19-20**). The command *"teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you,"* requires the cultivating of the crop.

Some seed will sprout in stony places (**Matthew 13:20**), soil that lacks moisture (**Luke 8:6**). Cultivation of plants in the shallow soil of stony places requires watering. Without watering the root will not sustain the plant. After a while tribulation and persecution because of the word (**Matthew 13:21**) will bring temptation and falling away (**Luke 8:13**). Thin soil also may not provide sufficient nutrients and require liberal applications of fertilizer for proper growth. Jesus said, *"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God"* (**Matthew 4:4**).

Some seed will sprout where weeds or grass are thick and thorns grow nearby. Cultivation requires curtailing the cares of this world, dispelling the deceitfulness of riches (**Matthew 13:22**) and purging the pleasures of life (**Luke 8:14**). Not all pleasures of life are sinful, but some are (**Hebrews 11:25**). In order to fully enjoy the pleasures of being a Christian, life must be purged of the pleasures of sin.

Some seed will sprout in good soil and bear fruit (**Matthew 13:23**). At creation God's law of procreation was established: *"Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth"* (**Genesis 1:11**). The plant produced by the seed which is the word of God or the word of the kingdom will bear fruit with its seed (the word of God) in it. Plants which bring seed to maturity will release that seed in the soil around them. It is by this process of sowing - each one observing the things which Jesus commanded - that the word of God enters the hearts of others and causes the local church and the cause of Christ everywhere on earth to grow.

Both physical and spiritual church growth is desirable. If you desire to see the church grow, *"sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you"* (**1Peter 3:15**).



We seek only to serve God according to His Will!