**CHRIST COMPANION BIBLE CHURCH**

**Weekly Bible Study**

***Branch: Ido-Ekiti Date: 19/04/2022***

**The Parable Of The Sower (Part 2) study 12**

**BIBLE TEXT: MATTHEW 13:3-9**

**MEMORY VERSE: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh. Jude vs 23**

 The mind of a man is a beautiful and amazing wonders of God’s creation. When rightly cultured, renewed and groomed after the knowledge of Christ, the results will be so beneficial to the individual, mankind and God's purpose on earth. Above all the treasures in Man's possession, the mind must be valued and diligently kept (built) as the scripture enjoins in Proverb4:23, **"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."** When the heart is right with God and the mind in line with His purpose and counsels, fruitfulness in all realms are assured through the earnest working of His Spirit and power in us. Philippians 2:13.

 **Cultivating good Ground For Fruitful Christian Living Matthew13:3-9**

 The heart is the ground to be cultivated to grow precious seeds. Psalm 126:5-6. With good spirit, determination, and diligent work, any ground can be worked upon to prepare and make it suitable for great harvest. Isaiah 28:24-26. Who could have seen an Apostle in Saul when he went about fighting against God’s cause? Who dreamed of the honourable in Jabez or a powerful queen in Esther? Proper cultivation by someone brought out precious fruits and quality product out of these saint's lives. Today, we can achieve much for Christ when we take it upon ourselves to prepare the ground for great harvest of souls and fortunes in Christ.

**1. Something has to be done to bring out the hidden blessings out of the ground.** Uncultivated land can become a curse, when filled with thorns, cockatrice and all sort of dangerous predators. The unsaved souls will be thorns in society’s flesh! Salvation of sinners is the only remedy. Every sinner is like uncultivated ground! The thorns, the hardness of the rock and the unhedged (careless) nature of sinners' heart can be transformed into good, productive and fruitful field through genuine effort of determined saints for their salvation

**2. How did Christ and the early Church achieve such a ground breaking feet of multiplied and fruitful souls harvest?**

i. Christ saw it as His sole business and preoccupation in life. Luke 2:49. ii. Christ spent much time in fasting, prayer, intercession to break the ground! If much of our prayers today will be directed on securing great harvest of souls, what result will follow? iii. The Apostles likewise were committed to Christ call to prepare the ground for great harvest. Luke 29:47-49, Act 1:14. Their united prevailing prayers at the Upper Room meant to break the fallow ground, led to the great Pentecostal harvest of revivals! Today, the Church cannot do less in preparing the ground for revival!

**3. What are the indicators to show that the ground is prepared, good and ready for great harvest?**

***i. From believers perspective:*** a. Thirst and hunger for God, revival and righteousness.b. Removal of all hindrances: sin, discords, disobedience, Lukewarmness and so on.

c. Brokenness and tears in intercession for the sinking and perishing souls. d. Spirit outpour from on high.Acts1;8. e. Consecration, zeal and aptitude for witnessing.

***ii. From sinners perspective***:

a. Receptive heart, repentance and attendance to the gospel. Act 2:37 b. Continual abiding in the Lord in truth and in fellowship with the brethren. Act 2:42.

**4. Love for God prepares believers for bountiful harvest as against indifference, choking by thorns and hardness of heart. A heart full of love for God will sow in various dimensions, among which are:**

i. Willingness to labour and invest in God's cause as in Matthew 25:20-21. ii. Joyful giving, donation and contributions to God work, both in cash and kind as God prospers you. Proverb 3:9,10. iii. Sacrificial service to the body of Christ. The act of sowing is always accompanied with determination, pains and hopeful expectations. When done in good faith, the outcome is honoured by the Lord with diverse blessings.

**5. The devourer is hindered when God' security is guaranteed over your labour! Malachi 3:10.** Great reward of hundred fold will attend such work. Hebrew 6:10. It is your wisdom therefore to sow into God's kingdom. You will have dual advantage in reward,here on earth and thereafter in heaven. Matthew 6:19-20.

**6. Trust in the sufficiency of God’s grace over your labour, for without God, you can do nothing! "It is the Lord doing mentality" that is a sure route to divine help and abundant life.** Wisdom and strength come from the Lord. Learning to ascribe all the glory to God is important for greater exploits. Isaiah 28:29.

**7. Work hard! The sower in our study demonstrated: Decisiveness, diligence, determination, persistence, resilience and discipline. Matthew 13:4-8.** Has he stopped when the seed fell on the wayside or on the rock, all would be a labour lost! Success in spiritual and physical endeavours require giving your totality to attain and achieve excellence. Our Lord Jesus said: **"And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force." Matthew 11:12.** Every child of God must strive to build a winning habit. A good ground will surely excel fruitfully.

 **HYMN: *Give Of Your Best To The Master.***