**CHRIST COMPANION BIBLE CHURCH**

**Weekly Bible Study**

***Branch: Hqtrs Date: 05/04/2022.***

 **The Parable of the Sower (Part1) study 11.**

 **TEXT: Matthew 13:1-9.**

**MEMORY VERSE: But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. Matthew 13:8**.

Parables are short narratives that are intended to teach valuable lessons for practical applications and profit. It is wisdom to embrace such teachings especially when it comes from infallible authority like Christ. Parable is not for the fools!(Proverb 26:7).

To benefit from parables, there must be: **I. Humility**, **ii. Attention to learning and iii. Readiness to understand and obey instructions given.** Otherwise, it will be like those in Jesus time, who were at loss: "because they seeing, see not; and hearing, they hear not, neither do they understand." Matthew 13:13. When the heart is anchored on, and guided with the truth and grace, error with accompanied mistakes and consequential ruins are overcome.

**THE DANGER OF FALSE HOPE** **Matthew 13:3-7.**

 Imagine the futility that goes with a field planted with seeds whose vitality is dead or eaten off by weevil!. However harrowed, fertilized or irrigated the field is, the hope of bumper harvest will simply be, a mirage. The shepherds as well as the sheep need serious caution, and double assurance, that the routine labour, activities and diverse effort in religion will yield the expected good fruit, at the end of it all!

**1.** **There are three important elements that are the determinant of success in this parable.** When one of these is wrong, the outcome of all efforts and expectations will be fruitless!

i. The seed (representing the word): Wrong word/teaching will rather do harm than good. Just like a dead carcass that is not covered, it will create environmental nuisance to the populace. Erroneous teachings will breed confusion and fanatic adherents.

ii. The Church must avoid wrong teaching, no matter how little it is.

iii. The ground: Arid land will result to a labour loss. The choice of the field and effort to prepare it fit, is very key to success.

iv. The sower: Who the sower is determines a lot. In fact, his life is more affecting than all other factors. Christ likeness is the only acceptable standard.

**2. Only the truth will survive the test of time.** The gospel of Christ demands genuine and total transformation.

 To propagate a substandard gospel that demands association without conversion, physical conformity without inner grace, fake demonstration without permanent impact are all dangerous! It will result to a disappointing end. Therefore, our gospel must focus on Christ, demand true repentance, and place responsibility on each soul to secure grace for true holiness in love.

**3. Climate and environment determine the success of the planted field.** Hash weather voids of rain and sunshine in right proportion will be counter productive.

 A prayer soaked Church, vision driven workers, unity harnessed leadership and active loving-fellowship of believers, will create conducive environment for growth. Such Church will meet people's need in all realms. Fruits, followers and increase will be a natural outcome.

**4. To sow without proper consideration of the field, and working to break the fallow ground is foolishness. This includes:**

i. Insensitivity to the understanding, state and actual need of prospective converts.

ii. Demanding immediate full perfection from young converts without given opportunity for learning, correction, grace, growth and maturity can discourage commitment. Patience and grooming are key to converts stability and steadfastness. Matthew 9:14-17.

iii. Wrong projections of holiness as so high and unattainable standard! True holiness is love for God and our neighbor that makes us seek to do what pleases and brings glory to God at all time. It is saying no to sin, and yes to that which is right in God's sight. As simple as abc! Act 15:1.

iv. Emphasis on personal work of righteousness without grace.

 All eyes must be on Christ's merit. All hearts must trust him alone, and the Holy Spirit as the helper and counsellor. Without him, no one is anything! Zechariah 4:6. Through grace, we can be all Christ wants us to be.

**5. Fruits and walk in the Spirit are the sure guarantee that a believer is planted on the solid Rock. It must be there to multiply in degrees as we increase more and more in grace!**

 To lack it, is a proof that your profession and hope in Christ is false! This will lead to regret and eternal anguish in life and eternity. Beware! 2 Peter 9:4-9.

**6. Do not leave your heart unprepared, living at the mercy of your Pastor's effort alone as convert/believer is dangerous! You need to be personally rooted in Christ. Watch against predators, thorns and hardness of heart that choke faith. Otherwise, your religious effort will be useless in the end. Hosea 10:12.**

**7. Make every effort to see that God's word in truth is alive and working in your heart, to produce right result in your daily life. Amen. Matthew 13:8.**

**HYMN: GO LABOUR ON**