

## Standing Grain John 4:1-42

In John 4:35 our Lord comments to his disciples: “Lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest.” In reality there was four months to go before the wheat harvest would be ready to cut. Jesus shared this insight with His disciples though they may not have been completely aware of the wonderful things He was giving them. The soil had already been prepared and sown with good seed, it had sprouted and grown to maturity and was ready to cut. Jesus also informed them that the harvest was already underway and that He was sending them into a harvest of which they had not labored. Jesus indicates that those who had sown and those who are reaping should rejoice together: Jn 4:35-38. The most astounding thing of all is that the grain is standing and ready, just in the same way the Samaritans were standing ready having a faith in Messiah: Jn 4:25. So the question wasn't whether they believed in Messiah or not, but: Was this person named Jesus actually the Christ? We see that God, existing in Jesus, was able to convince a portion of the Samaritans of His true identity: Jn 4:39-42.

It's a very common and, sometimes, destructive misconception to assume those coming to a crusade are unbelievers seeking salvation. It's more important to assume they are already saved: Mk 6:34. Certainly this passage and so many others in the Bible support a conclusion like this. We live in a time where the shadows of darkness are obscuring more and more of these simple truths of God's Word. Of course we are not to assume that all coming have an understanding of the Gospel, this would be unwise also: Mat 3:7-10. God saves people because they have an appreciation for the truth: 2Thes 2:10. These Samaritans had an appreciation for the truth such to the extent they invited Jesus to stay with them. Jesus accepting stayed with them for two days and many others received Him, them realizing also He was the savior of the world: Jn 4:42. If people are willing to receive us in good faith because we are followers of Jesus then the scripture indicates we're to assume they are saved also: Mat 10:40-42. Once these simple truths are realized much suffering can come into our lives; Satan is willing that we abandon these convictions for a (faith plus Gospel) that can only result in further ungodliness and the propagation of doubt.

These days the harvest would be no less viable because the principles Jesus presents here still stands: that the harvest is already there because others have sown and they are already reaping. For us to assume they are not saved is to doubt the very system that God Has established. There is no reason to doubt people who are willing to receive us in the name of Jesus: Mt 10:40-42. If we have doubts about the salvation of the people God would gather to us, then why should they not doubt our salvation and be suspicious of our intentions? A person would not walk into a field of standing grain and think it was not there, unless of course he couldn't see it. A person is in the field because he knows the grain is there. But if it were because of the enemy's deception and therefore non-biblical processes used to call in the sheep then we will have our reward in full with all the thorns and thistles. If we are blind to these things for sure we are going to walk into God's field trampling down the grain promoting doubt rather than the furtherance of the gospel of Christ: Jer 12:10; Gal 1:7, leaving God's people with the impression their faith in the past was not effective for salvation; causing them to forget their former purification of sins: 2Pet 1:9. As a result this generation being plowed under because no one could see them (the grain) for what they were. Sure the grain needs to be cut and then thrashed to release the

perfect result of God's word: Isa 28:23-29. Knowing what to do with the land, the plow, the seed and so on will determine what the land will produce. God at times will graft a wild olive into a cultivated tree; are we cultivated enough?

Because of the Holy Spirit's ministry, the Elect are willing to concede to God that they are sinners in need of a savior: Jn 16:8-11. The standing grain is already aware of sin righteousness and judgment i.e. the most basic elements of why we need a savior. So what is the more important issue considering they are already saved if not to give them the pure milk of the word of God so they can become more and more convinced of the salvation they already possess: Mk 6:34; Col 1:3-12; 1Pet 2:1-2; 2Pet 1:19.

The second epistle of Peter communicates the tragedy of persons forgetting their former purification of sin. Read 2Peter 1:1-15, verse 9 being the key verse. It is impossible to renew a salvation that was already completed at the moment the Holy Spirit indwelt us; along with the Father and the Son: Heb 6:4-6. God's elect can't become unelect; as many as were appointed for eternal life will be saved: Acts 13:48. God chooses those that He knew would choose Him: Eph 1:3-14. The only way to receive the gift is the positive response to the call of the Holy Spirit; seeing in our heart that we need the savior; listening to the Gospel message with faith: Col 1:4-6. Crying or feeling sorry for the sins, or Doing the repeat-after-me prayer are not an indication of salvation but can obscure the true essence of the Gospel. These things should not be the criteria when considering whether a person was saved or not; yet these are the very things being recognized as the signs of a person's salvation. The only true sign of salvation is a Good confession of faith. It is important to note that all of these things previously mentioned represent (things we can do), yet the Bible could not be clearer that Spiritual Death is [dead] and can do nothing to be saved: Eph 2:1-5. The only true sign of salvation is an accurate confession of the tenants of the Gospel and a life that reflects the glory of Christ. Another extremely important thing to know is that Spiritual Death does not have the power of invitation; We respond to the invitation of the Holy Spirit by expressing faith towards the merits of Christ, not the reverse invitation commonly heard: Isa 55:1-3; Mat 11:28-29.

Because of the inaccurate handling of God's word, Revelation 3:20 has been used for the Gospel; this passage is not an invitation to an unbeliever but on the contrary the carnal believer. This passage is God's call to His Children who are out of fellowship with Him: Rev 1:4-6, 3:19; Heb 12:5-8. Believers at a crusade that respond to this message are crucifying the Son of God afresh if they are under the impression they are rededicating their life to Jesus. The wrong impressions are being given by the inaccurate handling of the word of God: Acts 18:26; 2Tim 2:15. This whole message gives the impression they were never saved or they had lost their salvation and now they're gaining it back. These traditional and non Biblical methods of evangelism are the flaws that inadvertently set in motion the lie. Where in Paul's epistles do we even once see the various dynamics of the sinner's prayer taught? Yet this is the Message being used and the impression a person can have after they do all this is they are saved because of a process of man made precepts; the speaker often adds at the end, "We believe if you have prayed this prayer you are saved; welcome to the family of God." Where in the scriptures do we see this asserted to be true? Sometimes this repeat after me thing is done out loud: the preacher encouraging all to join in; the people feeling a sense of obligation to join in for the sake of not being embarrassed. Then little Susie hearing all of this looks over to her Mom and says, "Mom look Uncle Bob is receiving Christ as his Savior." Yet when you later ask many of these people about it they are willing to admit they had felt pressured and embarrassed and that is why they did it. So now

the result is: Uncle Bob's niece is under the impression that uncle Bob is saved because she heard him repeat what's called "the sinner's prayer". People are being pressured into confessing Jesus with their mouth in the name of filling a few more pews, yet these methods just represent greed and coercion rather than effective evangelism.

We hear it all the time, ministers saying or insinuating that the Churches seem to have a lot of unbelievers in them these days; the minister has the thinking; "I wonder if they are really saved...they don't seem to be responding to the message." Yet these are the same ministers who just weeks, months, and years earlier said; "We believe you are saved if you did the repeat after me thing; welcome to the family of God." So what we're seeing is a lot of this type of gross contradiction, and this is being noticed by true believers. Ignorance and possibly greed are the underlying causes of these problems; pressures to fill the church is a tragic flaw that is yielding the harvest of thorns and thistles that are close to being cursed: Heb 6:8. Of course the foundation can not undergo any type of destruction but Paul warns those who are edifying to use appropriate materials in the superstructure. Those who worked the soil planted the seeds and did the watering can not go unacknowledged or some of the truth is going to be lost. Satan would like us to forget these things and see us cursed with no Glory; all our dead works being burned up though we still are saved: 1Cor 3:1-23.