



MONTHLY BULLETIN... VOLUNTEER MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY

REFORM AND PLANNING ASSOCIATION

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THE TIME OF REAPING

The Wheat? The Tares? Who Decides? ? ?

When and by Whom Is the Reaping Done?

In the Christian world today, man takes upon himself the task of distinguishing between the wheat and tares (righteous and unrighteous) by "voting in" and "voting out."

But perhaps he has overlooked the teachings of Christ concerning the "Kingdom of Heaven" (church phase of the Kingdom of God). Above all, Christ's words about the Kingdom should be authoritative and acceptable beyond question. Man should be most careful not to usurp authority that was never intended for him.

In the Church ("Kingdom of Heaven"), there are those righteous enough to be "called great," and those who are disobedient enough to be "called least." Nevertheless both groups are in the "kingdom of heaven" (See Matthew 5:19). These two groups continue together in the nominal Christian world, some great (wheat) and some least (tares), according to the measure of righteousness. Those remaining "least" (breaking "one of these least commandments" and teaching others to do so) will not be great enough for admittance into the eternal phase of the Kingdom of God.

Wheat? Tares?

Please see Matthew 13, for Christ's parable of the sower who sowed good seed in his field and the enemy who sowed tares in the same field. He said the "Kingdom of Heaven" (church phase of the kingdom) is like this. Along with the wheat, came the tares, to the surprise of the servants who

asked, "Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?" They were at the moment ready to begin "casting out."

When and by Whom Must This Work of Separation Be Done?

Here Christ taught that in the Church Phase ("kingdom of heaven"), man's work is not a matter of judgment--separating the tares from the wheat, "lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the

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wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest." This growing together of the wheat and tares in the "kingdom of heaven," is to continue to the end of the age ("end of the world"), for Christ said, "The harvest is the end of the world."

Man is not to do this reaping (separating), but the Son of man on His return to the earth shall have, as it were, "in his hand a sharp sickle," and at the voice of the angel the sickle shall be thrust in "on the earth," then the reaping (separation) will be done (See Rev. 14:14-16).

Again Jesus said, "And in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into the barn.... So shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth his angels and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; and shall (Continued on page 6)

Picture Above: R. P. A. Committee, elected by members of Advisory Council, at their lay-sponsored meeting, held in Denver, Colorado, December 22-26, 1960. One member of the committee, Elder Harvey Otto, Michigan, not present for picture. From left to right, Elder Charles Adams, Chairman, Denver, Colorado; Samuel C. Maynor, California; John Westfall, Missouri; Burton Rodgers, Missouri; and Byron Burrell, Oklahoma.