

“In This Hope”

Isaiah 44:6-8

Romans 8:18-27

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Pentecost 7

With the apostle Paul (and ya'all, I know): “I consider the sufferings of this present time not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. **IN THIS HOPE** I was ... we were ... saved.”

Grace to you and peace from God, our Father, and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Bridge

“He that believes and is baptized shall be saved”, and God “**appointed** an ancient people”.

Jesus said, “a man (the Son of Man, He, Himself) sowed good seed in His field (the world)”.

The **Good News** is that to those who God’s **attached His Goodness to**, there is **VICTORY**

that is through His Son’s sacrificial death over the sins of all / **REDEMPTION IS**

ACCOMPLISHED. Sin’s **been atoned-for** by the bloodshed of the Divine who was made

man to die as **the necessary penalty for it**. And that **gives life** to everyone **regretting what**

caused His death in us. There **is** a “**kingdom of heaven**”, and the **thankfully-redeemed are**

in by connection ... and that connection by Divine planting is even before retiring to the

“barn” that’s “His”. **Being planted as** (what Jesus called) “**wheat” is blessed and marvelous.**

The Father sent His Son to **die for sinners, saving by doing that and connecting us to it**

along with His full name (Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit) through baptism, a promise that

we cling-to by faith.

“**Explain** to us”, Jesus, “the parable of the weeds of the field” disciples asked Him, and **the**

core of it is the Good News that we just talked about. But past the saving part is also the

tending as the Lord says He **cares-for the Good that He’s planted**. See, it’s all **His “field”**,

really, no matter what it looks like ... even allowing it to be “weedy” for the time being. But **He doesn’t “sleep” in the process on the way to its “harvest” (though we might)**. He’s **there** (it’s His kingdom, remember) with promises attached to this “field” time, **Himself-remembering** the “planting” **He did** at the **cross** and, then, at **baptismal fonts**, then “reaping” when judgment comes as He says it will in the last of His explanation in verse 43 of Matthew 13. He’ll make, then, **“wheat” obviously “shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father”**.

Text

So, with **THAT GOOD NEWS**, all us baptized and believing “wheat” **can consider** the sufferings of this present time **not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us**.

But even as Jesus tells us this parable with the encouragement of fact with promise: sometimes, still, we can get **bogged-down** by the “suffering”. So He **reminds of** the “glory” to appropriately be “longed-for” and “inwardly groaned”-for. What’s coming is the perfected and then-obvious **“adoption as sons” in the “redemption of our bodies”**. We’ll be **then visibly resurrected** after **being-it invisibly by baptism** and **promise**, known by **faith**. What we have we call **“hope** for what we do not **see**, yet **have IT** in the “kingdom of God” but **waiting for its visibility**. And we **do that (with all creation) patiently**.

And during that **patient wait**, we’re given to know that there’s “weeds” left to mix in with the ones who God’s planted as “wheat”. In the “field” that’s this “world”, **“weeds” grow also**. And some **“weeds”** can be **noticeable**. News abounds about **“weeds”** allowed-to-thrive in the streets of cities. “Weeds” are **recognizable** in Washington and in some Arab governments and

the Russian and Chinese way of governing. We're told-of and shown "**weediness**" that's store windows getting busted and people stealing products from those stores saying that they're "due that destruction and theft" trying to make a bigger point. Police misconduct is "**weediness**" but is the use isolated incidents to grow unrest. Gangs and groups taking retribution is "**weediness**", and God (who's "**field**" **this "world" is**) is not going to be forever having patience on "weeds" inflicting themselves on "wheat" ...

... which includes the "**weediness**" of **our own misconducts or negligence**. We may **sugar-coat those-versions**, convincing ourselves that ours aren't as bad as others, but every little misconduct is a **big one to God**. We either talk or do too much, or too little, and we disappoint others when we shouldn't, and we disappoint God almost always. "Weeds" grow also wrapped around **our hearts** and **our brains** and **our guts**, which never should be tolerated since **every ounce of us** has been re-planted from being "weeds" to being "wheat" by the Son's salvation. We should never act "**weedy**".

See, we're in the "kingdom of God" **militantly** (as in, to **fight for our "wheaty" status against "weediness"**). We're to **remember** what God's replanted us to be, and **reflect that in knowledge of Him** and in our **actions** and **re-actions** and **pro-actions**. But "**weediness**" **plagues** not just my **yard** but, also, my **existence on this planet** (which, too, is the explanation of Jesus' parable). It **plagues this world**. It **plagues me** and I know it plagues you (Jesus warns). Even as we've been re-planted to **want to BE** according to the intent of God's planting of us in His kingdom through His Son's saving bloodshed and our baptism into that, we **DO** and **ACT** still too much according to the plague. "**Weediness**" is still in this world ... and in us.

But the patient Lord leaves “weeds” among “wheat” ... and does so by grace. Instead of destroying everything wrong immediately where it sits, God hopes “weediness” gives-way to His desire to re-plant what’s “weed” as “wheat” in the Goodness of His kingdom. Christ can make that happen, and it’s what His tending of His field means to us. God is patient to allow for the best outcomes to happen to every ounce of “weediness” His Son can fix, so “weeds” and “weediness” can be laid at the feet of Him who died for the plague of it ...

... because there’s an accountability for “weediness”. “Weediness” that’s not allowed to be **redeemed and not forgiven** will be **burned up, as in consumed in fire**, which will be the **laziness of men** that will allow “weediness” to get to continue till then. Jesus said that “**while men were sleeping**”, “weeds” and “weediness” gets allowed **their own planting**, so **we must not be lazy men**. Just as the weeds of the parable’s field are “gathered and burned with fire, so **will it be**”, Jesus said, “**at the close of the age** (at the Judgment / at His return). “The Son of Man **will send His angels**, and they **will gather out of His kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers**, and **throw them into the fiery furnace**. In that place there **will be weeping and gnashing of teeth**”.

Application

For **our fight** against laziness and “sleepiness”, **there is Help**. Romans tells us that “**the Spirit** helps us in our weakness. **We don’t, even, know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit INTERCEDES**”, and “**does so for us** with groanings too deep for words” ... and, as Scripture says: “**according to the will of God.**”

“**Explain** the parable of the weeds of the field?” Fear the fact of the Judgment of God at the return of Jesus. But that in earthly sufferings? Those are put into perspective as **our way of participating in God’s patience ... even with us**. And **Help (for that) is ours**; given us by the **Helper** / the **Holy Spirit** who reminds us down in our very soul of our **status as promised safety, protected and care-for** as baptized believers (“**wheat**”) in God’s kingdom by His promise for such through baptism and faith. And “**weediness**”, even in **us**, will be **weeded-out**. Repentance is going to make (one day) **forgiveness in us** “**shine like the sun**” in the Lord’s “**barn**” of Paradise.

IN THIS HOPE baptized and repentant “wheat” are **promised that we can know ourselves as that (in His kingdom)**. **IN THIS HOPE** we can also know ourselves **useful, participating in God’s patience in the “field” of this world**. Even **in suffering**, He tells who He Himself has “planted” to “**fear not, nor be afraid**”, for **HE is** our “**Rock**” ... and there is **no God besides Him**.

There is an important **P.S.** to this explanation of Jesus’ parable. See, **HE’S** the “wheat” that He, Himself, **planted upon the “field” of this earth**. Into a mountain called Golgatha, Jesus planted Himself upon a cross embedded into that hill. He died there as “wheat” among “weeds”, His body, dead, then buried / planted into a tomb unto resurrection. Sinners **in Him and His “wheatness”** will be saved from the fire of Hell.

“**Wheat**” among “weeds”? That’s **Jesus first** ... **HE** “not considering the sufferings of His earthly time worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us”. Now, **THERE’S** **our hope and “Rock”!** In +Jesus’ name. Amen.