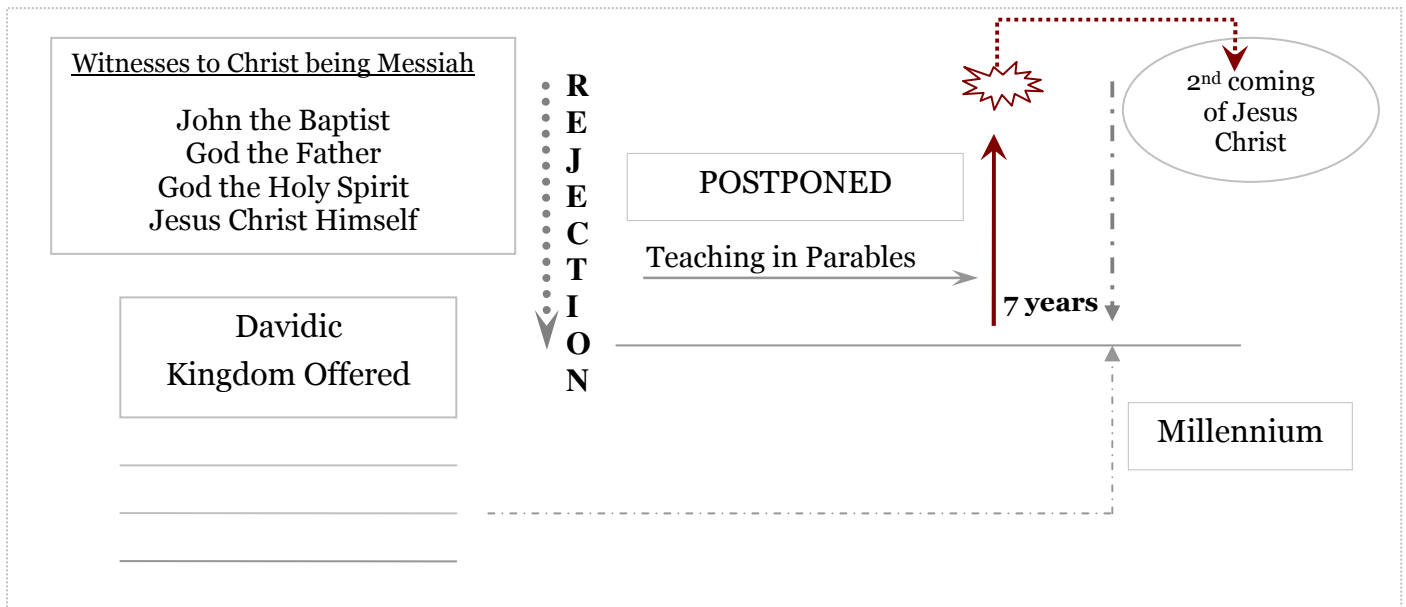


It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

Isaiah 55:11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

Mark 4:26- And He was saying, “The kingdom of God is like a man who casts seed upon the soil; ²⁷ and he goes to bed at night and gets up by day, and the seed sprouts and grows—how, he himself does not know. “



Remember:

- Seed is analogous to God's message [Word of God].
 - Gospel to the unbeliever
 - Bible Doctrine to the believer
- Scattering seed is analogous to communicating the Word of God.
- Soil is analogous to the heart.

Categories of response to the message:

- 1 – Negative volition
- 2 – Positive volition but no growth
- 3 – Positive volition but details of life are not subordinated to the importance of continuing in the teaching
- 4- Positive volition and growth – that believer can stand the adversity of testing

In this case, there is life and the seed grows apart from the farmer's efforts!

- His responsibility is to scatter the seed, but he cannot make it grow.
- Once he's done scattering seed, he goes to sleep because there is nothing more he can do.
- A man who is sleeping after his work is done is analogous to a man who is trusting.
- He is trusting the seed to do what it is designed to do in the soil.

The one who communicates the Word of God, must trust in the Word to do what it's designed in the soul to do.

- He must be patient as he waters people with the Word.
- The growth is not dependent upon the communicator of the Word of God.
- It's the Word and God that causes the growth by means of God the Holy Spirit.

²⁸ "The soil produces crops by itself; first the blade, then the head, then the mature grain in the head.

- Spiritual growth is progressive.
- Spiritual growth does not happen over night.
- That is why we must be patient with our own development and the growth of others.

²⁹ "But when the crop permits, he immediately puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

POD: Once the Word is taught, the pastor must depend upon the Lord to work in the soil with the Word.

- If the soil is rocky, nothing is going to happen.
- But if it's deep and rich it will receive the seed; growth will occur, but not overnight because maturity is not attained in a day.
- Believers don't start walking by the Spirit the day after the doctrine has been taught.
- Be forewarned about the plants that immediately spring up – the ones that shoot up overnight.
- They are excited about the Word; they come on strong; they crowd your church services.
- They eventually wither away (Matthew 13).

Second, experimental sanctification. This second aspect of the sanctifying work of God for the believer is *progressive* in some of its aspects, so it is quite in contrast to the *positional* sanctification which is "once for all." It is accomplished by the power of God through the Spirit and through the Word: "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy Word is truth (John 17:17; see also 2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 5:25-26; 1 Thess. 5:23; 2 Pet. 3:18). Experimental sanctification is advanced according to various relationships. (1) In relation to the believer's yieldedness to God. In virtue of presenting his body a living sacrifice, the child of God thereby is set apart unto God and so is experimentally sanctified. The presentation may be absolute and thus admit no progression, or it may be partial and so require a further development. In either case it is a work of experimental sanctification. (2) In relation to sin. The child of God may so comply with every condition for true spirituality as to be experiencing all the provided deliverance and victory from the power of sin, or, on the other hand,

he may be experiencing but a partial deliverance from the power over sin. In either case, he is set apart and thus is experimentally sanctified. (3) In relation to Christian growth. This aspect of experimental sanctification is progressive in every case. It therefore should in no way be confused with incomplete yieldedness to God or incomplete victory over sin. Its meaning is that the knowledge of truth, devotion, and Christian experience are naturally subject to development. In accord with their present state of development as Christians, believers experimentally are set aside unto God. That development should advance with each passing day. And thus, again, the Christian is subject to an experimental sanctification which is progressive.

Systematic Theology, L. S. Chafer Vol. VI, pages 284-285

Parable of the Tares

Matthew 13:24-30 Jesus presented another parable to them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵ But while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went away.

- **Tares** – ζιζάνιον – ZIZANION – *weed*
- A weed that grows alongside the wheat but it cannot be distinguished from wheat until the wheat comes to maturity.
 - ✚ **Field** - - the world in which we live today
 - ✚ **Wheat** - - believers in the Lord Jesus Christ
 - ✚ **Tares** - - unbelievers
 - ✚ **Enemy** - - our adversary the devil

While the Davidic kingdom is postponed, weeds are going to be sown in the field of the world alongside wheat.

There will be unbelievers living next to, around, and alongside believers.

But there is no distinguishing between the two until the believers come to maturity.

Satan sows religion into the world – he masquerades as an *angel of light!*

²⁶ “But when the wheat sprouted and bore grain, then the tares became evident also.

- The fact that the wheat and the tares cannot be distinguished indicates Satan will scatter religious unbelievers amidst the wheat.
- This produces confusion; wheat is in a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ; tares are in a religion – a system of works by which man attempts to gain the approbation of God.
- Distinguishing between the two is very difficult – hence the kingdom of the cults we live amongst today.

²⁷ “The slaves of the landowner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?’ ²⁸ And he said to them, ‘An enemy has done this!’ The slaves said to him, ‘Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?’ ²⁹ But he said, ‘No; for while you are gathering up the tares, you may uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰ Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn.” ’ ”

- The barn is the kingdom that has been postponed yet will be established.

Matthew 13:36-43 Then He left the crowds and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field.” ³⁷ And He said, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man [*Jesus Christ*], ³⁸ and the field is the world; and *as for* the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the tares are the sons of the evil *one*; ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the age; and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness,

Notice what the religious unbelievers are analogous to - stumbling blocks.

⁴² and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then THE RIGHTEOUS WILL SHINE FORTH AS THE SUN in the kingdom of their Father. [*Millennium*] He who has ears, let him hear.”

The Mustard Seed

Matthew 13:31-32 He presented another parable to them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field; ³² and this is smaller than all *other* seeds, but when it is full grown, it is larger than the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that THE BIRDS OF THE AIR come and NEST IN ITS BRANCHES.”

- This spiritual kingdom will have a very small beginning.
- The kingdom began with One man – Jesus Christ; then the disciples.
- It is going to grow and continue to develop until it becomes a tree -

“ . . . so that THE BIRDS OF THE AIR come and NEST IN ITS BRANCHES.”

There is great blessing and protection in the tree.

The Leaven

Matthew 13:33 He spoke another parable to them, “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three pecks of flour until it was all leavened.”

- Leaven is also a very small thing that is placed in something of greater measure.
- hid in three pecks of flour - it can hardly be detected.

But once it comes into contact with the flour, something is set in motion which is irreversible.

The plan of God is irreversible!

1 Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

- When leaven is put in contact with flour it affects change - - “until it was all leavened.”
- As believers we are part of the kingdom of heaven on earth.
- We must have contact with the unsaved - - some unbelievers are going to stumble upon the kingdom when they come into contact with us just like the servant tilling the field (**Matt 13:44**).

Matthew 13:44-46 “The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid *again*; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Application in *review* – nothing is more valuable than our relationship with Jesus Christ.

If the details of life are suppressing our spiritual advance they must be let go of in light of continuing our advance to the high ground of maturity.

Will the unbeliever hear the way into the kingdom as God directs that unbeliever to you?

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, ⁴⁶ and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

- They will find it, providing you are in contact with them like the leaven.
- Your responsibility is to communicate the Good News – scatter the seed of the message.
- Let the seed do what it is supposed to do in the soil of the soul as you pray to the One who causes the growth.

Remember that parables were designed to hide the truth from those who rejected Him while containing the truth for those who had believed in Him.

Matthew 13:34-35 All these things Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables, and He did not speak to them without a parable. ³⁵ *This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: “I WILL OPEN MY MOUTH IN PARABLES; I WILL UTTER THINGS HIDDEN SINCE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD.”*

Matthew 7:14 “For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

John 14:6 Jesus said . . . “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”

John 3:3 “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 3:10 “THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;”

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

1 Peter 2:24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

Acts 16:31 “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.”

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Isaiah 59:1 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not so short that it cannot save; nor is His ear so dull that it cannot hear.

Acts 10:43 “Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins.”

*I believe I am a sinner.
I believe your Son died for sinners.
I believe He died for me.
Therefore, I am trusting in Him alone as my Savior for eternal life.*

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.