



As the TORTOISE & the HARE, so also the WHEAT & the TARE

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The story from Aesop's Fables *The Tortoise and the Hare* is about a hare (*rabbit*) who ridicules a slow-moving tortoise (*turtle*) and is challenged by him to a race.

The hare soon leaves the tortoise behind and, being **CONFIDENT** of winning, decides to take a nap midway through the course. In other words, he goes to **SLEEP**.



When he **AWAKES**, he finds that his competitor, *crawling slowly* but *steadily*, has crossed the finish line before him.

There is a *similarity* in this story told in the Word of God between *true* Christians and *false* Christians, between the **WHEAT** and the **TARES**.

While those who are *born of the Spirit* suffer persecution, rejected of men and separated from family and friends, those of "*religious reputation*" are well spoken of and received, flattered, and held in high esteem.



WHEAT

In a certain parable, Jesus said, "...*The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in HIS field: but while MEN slept, HIS ENEMY came and sowed TARES AMONG THE WHEAT, and went his way.*"

The *good seed* and the *wheat* are members of the *true* Church of God who are *born of the Spirit*. The *man* that sowed them is *the Son of God*. His *field* is the world we live in and his *enemy* is the *devil*. The *tares* are the *counterfeit* Church of the devil, that have not been

born again, nor have the *Spirit of God* dwelling in them.

"*But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then **APPEARED THE TARES** also.*"

"*So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow **GOOD SEED** in **THY** field? From whence then hath it **TARES**? He said unto them, **An ENEMY** hath done this.*"

"*The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the **TARES**, ye root up also the **WHEAT** with them.*"

"**LET BOTH GROW TOGETHER** until the harvest: and in **THE TIME OF HARVEST** I will say to the reapers [**THE ANGELS**], Gather ye together first the **TARES**, and **BIND THEM** in bundles to burn them: but gather the **WHEAT** into **MY** barn" (MATTHEW 13:24-30).

What is a **TARE**? A *tare* is a **WEED** that commonly grows among wheat. It takes someone *knowledgeable* to identify it.

There are **TWO** types of *Christians* in the world today, the **WHEAT** and the **TARES**. How can you tell the difference? "...*by their **FRUITS** ye shall know them*" (MATTHEW 7:20), **BUT** "...*The Lord knoweth them that are his*" (2 TIM. 2:19).

As the *hare* was so **CONFIDENT** in his abilities that he *took a nap*, so **TARES** are so *confident* in their own *goodness* and *religious upbringing*, that they have **IGNORED** God's *admonition* to:

"...**GIVE DILIGENCE** to make your calling and election **SURE**" (2 PETER 1:10), and to "**EXAMINE YOURSELVES**, whether ye be **IN THE FAITH**; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that **Jesus Christ is IN YOU**" (2 COR. 13:5)?

Is *Christ IN YOU*? Is He, in the person of the Holy Ghost, leading and guiding you into **ALL** truth?

If He is, then, "...*ye **NEED NOT** that any man teach you...the same **ANOINTING** teacheth you of **ALL** things, and is truth, and is no*"



TARES are WEEDS

lie" (1 JOHN 2:27). All *children of God* have this **ANOINTING** from their birth. Do **YOU** **KNOW** that **YOU** "...*are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in YOU*" (1 COR. 3:16)?

As the *poor tortoise* was *ridiculed* by the *hare*, so "*the **WICKED** in his **PRIDE** doth **PERSECUTE** the **POOR** [**THE HUMBLE**]" (PSALM 10:2). But, "...*the **MEEK** [**THE HUMBLE**] shall inherit the earth*" (PSALM 37:11), just as the *tortoise*, through *patience*, won the race.*

In this world, **TARES** make a religious show, drawing attention to **THEMSELVES** instead of Christ, and are glorified *of men*. Jesus said, "*they **HAVE** their **reward***" (MATTHEW 6:2, 5, 16) **RIGHT NOW**.

Yet, the **WHEAT** are told that they will **SUFFER** for His name's sake. Count it all joy, "...*when men shall **HATE** you, and when they shall **SEPARATE** you from their company, and shall **REPROACH** you, and **CAST OUT** your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake*" (LUKE 6:22).

True children of God are told to "**REJOICE**, and be **EXCEEDING GLAD: for GREAT is your REWARD in heaven**" (MATTHEW 5:11-12). We are "...**SOWN in WEAKNESS**" but "...**RAISED IN POWER**" (1 COR. 15:43) because God said "...*my **STRENGTH is MADE PERFECT in WEAKNESS***" (2 COR. 12:9).

We are living in the *time* of the *twelfth hour*, just before the return of the bridegroom, Christ Jesus, who will gather all *true* believers to Himself (MATT. 25).

Are you *trusting* in your *good works*, or your *good intentions*? "...***THEY that were READY** went in with him to the marriage*" (MATTHEW 25:10). Are you **READY**? Are you **SURE**? If not, then **REPENT**.