

We are all children of Adam and we are all implicated in Adam's sin. The devil has led all of us astray. He led Adam astray and he leads each one of us astray. We are all in a way children of the devil. But Jesus Christ has sown the good seed. An earlier parable, the parable of the sower, depicts him as sowing the good seed. It is shown as coming up and in many cases withering away on account of dryness, or being choked by the thorns, or being plucked away by the birds, but that doesn't mean that individuals are plucked away by birds and carried off, but rather that the good seed, which was available, did not receive fruition because of certain existing conditions.

This parable emphasizes the fact that cannot always be
readily distinguished by us the bad seed from the good seed. So ~~what~~ the Lord commands that the tares are not to be taken out of the field until the harvest. They are to grow together.

It is sometimes very difficult to tell ~~in this world~~ what is good wheat and what is a tare. When I was ordained I was asked, "Do you believe that Constantine's conversion was genuine?" I answered that I do not believe that I am competent to judge of the salvation of any man, and I think that was a true answer. There are very good evidences in Constantine's life that he sincerely believed in Christ, but ^{on the other hand} there are various evidences in his life of actions that make one question. Only God knows. Only God knows about each of you, and about me. God knows whether we have truly looked to Him for salvation, and have truly been born again.

As a result of differing backgrounds, the moral standards of individuals vary greatly. Some who seem to have a very lofty moral standard are moving downward, while some who have a low moral standard are improving. Only the Lord knows those who are truly His. He allows the wheat and the tares to grow together in the field until the harvest.

The Lord does not tear out the tares from the field, but leaves them there. This passage says, "lest the wheat be damaged" but that is not the whole answer. Another reason why they are left here is because He plans that many, who would now be