

(Continued)

In Jer. 8:20 we read "the harvest is past, the summer is ended and we are not saved."

It is obvious ^{that here} the prophet is speaking ~~here~~ figuratively. Such terms as ⁽⁴⁾ harvest, ⁽¹⁾ sowing, ⁽²⁾ and ⁽³⁾ reaping are used ~~a good~~ many times in a figurative sense in Scripture. ^{To}

⁽⁷⁾ The full import may not always be ^{immediately} apparent ⁽⁶⁾ to a ⁽⁵⁾ good many of us since comparatively few of us have a farming background. Yet there are teachings connected with this theme that I believe are extremely important and particularly important for seminary people.

I want to speak this morning about ^{three} the harvest. ~~There are two~~ of these that are referred to in the NT ⁽²⁾ that are quite different from one another. ⁽¹⁾ The first of these

⁽¹⁾ We find ⁽³⁾ mentioned in one of Jesus' parables when he said in Mat. 13:24-28a, "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while everyone was sleeping his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went away. [Skip two spaces]" quit here

⁽¹⁾ ~~The first of these is used~~ ^{NT} ~~in~~ John 4:34-36. Jesus said, My food is to do the will of Him who sent me and to finish His work. Do not say, Four months more and then the harvest. I tell you open your eyes and look at the field; They are ripe for harvest. Even now the reaper draws his wages. Even now he harvests the crop for eternal life. So that the sower and the reaper will be glad together. ^{Here}

~~I believe we would all agree that Jesus here was referring to the harvest of souls, that he was referring to the work of the Christian in reaping -- reaching individuals for Christ, and in helping other Christians to grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord. Here there is a tremendous harvest to be obtained and~~ ^{We need to realize that} ^{reaped}

~~Jesus said, The fields are ripe for harvest. Students come to seminary in order to prepare to engage in the Lord's work, but they however must not wait until after graduation to wait to expect to accomplish something for Christ. We are here~~ ^{before turning} ^{but}

~~in the midst of an ungodly world. All around we find individuals who are on their way to eternal destruction. God calls us not to look forward to look forward to Christian service to be done after we are fully trained. We hope that we will be far more effective and efficient than we are now, but it is important that we~~ ^{us as people} ^{everlasting} ^{doesn't simply}

~~do Christian service right now. I have heard it said, An ocean voyage never made a missionary. A person who has not served the Lord effectively in this country is very unlikely to accomplish much for Him across the seas. The field is the world. The need is great. God calls upon each of us to work for the harvest.~~ ^{great}

The reference to sowing and harvesting is used in a quite a different way in Gal. 6:7 where the apostle says, Be not deceived. God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The man who sows to please his ^{his flesh} ~~sinful~~ nature from that ^{flesh} ~~nature~~ will