

# ARE YOU WHEAT OR CHAFF?

**T**he *wheat* are the believers in Christ — all who are led by the Spirit — who have felt themselves sinners and fled for refuge to the Gospel — who love and serve Jesus — who have taken Him for their only confidence, the Bible for their only guide, who regard sin as their deadliest enemy, and heaven as their only home.

The *chaff* have no saving faith in Christ. Some are infidels, others are formal Christians. Some are sneering Sadducees, others are self-righteous Pharisees. Some make a point of keeping up Sunday religion; others only think about their own pleasure.

I know well the world dislikes this way of dividing humanity. It tries hard to fancy there are *three* sorts of people. To be very good and very strict does not suit the world: they don't want to be saints. To have no religion at all does not suit the world: it would not be respectable. But to have just enough religion to be saved — a quiet, easygoing, moderate kind of Christianity, and then go comfortably to Heaven — *this is the world's favorite idea*. They fancy that there is a third group of peo-

ple — a safe middle class — and in this middle class most people think they will be found.

I denounce this notion of a middle class as an immense and soul-ruining delusion. I warn you strongly not to be carried away by it. It is nowhere spoken of in the Bible. Neutrality is impossible. Either you are wheat or chaff. Which is it?

You attend church, perhaps. You go to the Lord's Table. You can distinguish between good preaching and bad. You read religious books. It is good: it is all very good. It is more than can be said of many. But still this is not a

***"His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."***

**Luke 3:17 (NIV)**

## I HAVE BEEN CARRYING GREAT GUILT . . .

"God has spoken to me clearly about my sin of pride and my unwillingness to give God control. I have been carrying great guilt and a lot of bitterness around with me. It has left me discontent and constantly frustrated. Through the preaching of God's Word, I was able to repent of my sins toward God and others, and give Him my bitterness so that He could give me freedom!" (Testimony from Kentucky, U.S.A.)

*Often people can attend church for years and still miss the life-changing power of the Gospel. Genuine salvation isn't about what you know, believe, or words you have said in the past — it is about your present commitment to love, obey, and worship Jesus Christ. When we finally do yield ourselves to Him, He begins to remake us into a whole new person!*

straightforward answer to my question — "Are you wheat or chaff?"

Have you ever felt your sins, and repented of them? Do you long for perfect holiness, and follow hard after it? Do you delight in the Bible? Do you wrestle in

prayer? Do you love people? Are you a Christian in business, tastes, tempers, and daily private habits — on weekdays, and by your own fireside? Think of these things, and then perhaps, you will be better able to tell the state of your soul. ♦

### PREPARING FOR REVIVAL

- Would God say I am wheat or chaff?
- What evidence in my life proves I am a child of God?
- In what ways do I express my love for God?

*For further reflection, see Matthew 13:24-43, 1 Cor. 13:5, & 1 John 2:3-6.*

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