



International Bible Lesson
Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Why Hypocrites Are in Churches

June 10, 2018

Matthew 13:24-33

“Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: ‘First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn’” (Matthew 13:30).

Why do we find hypocrites and God’s enemies in the church? Jesus gave a reason in His parable of the wheat and the weeds (sometimes called tares). In Matthew 13:39, Jesus explained that an enemy of His and the kingdom of heaven (the devil) plants them there. The enemies of Jesus and those who believe in Him will remain in the church until the time of the harvest at the end of the age. In Matthew 13:41, Jesus foretold, “The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil.” Why does Jesus allow His people and His enemies to live together in the kingdom of heaven on earth? For the sake of His people. In His parable, when the servants asked the owner if they should pull out the weeds, he answered, “No, because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them” (Matthew 13:29). So, when believers face God’s and their enemies in His kingdom on earth, they need to remember that these enemies remain there for their benefit, not for the benefit of God’s enemies. We find no evidence in Jesus’ parable that the weeds will change into wheat, or that the enemies the devil sows may eventually become believers in Jesus. Rather, in Matthew 13:43, Jesus said that after the harvest, “The righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

Thinking Further

1. Why does the kingdom of heaven on earth contain true Christians and those who do evil?
2. Why did the owner of the field tell his servants to leave the wheat and the weeds growing together until the time of the harvest?
3. What will the angels do at the end of the age?
4. How can the kingdom of heaven like a mustard seed and plant?
5. How can the kingdom of heaven be like a loaf of bread?

Begin or close your class by reading the short weekly *International Bible Lesson*.

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