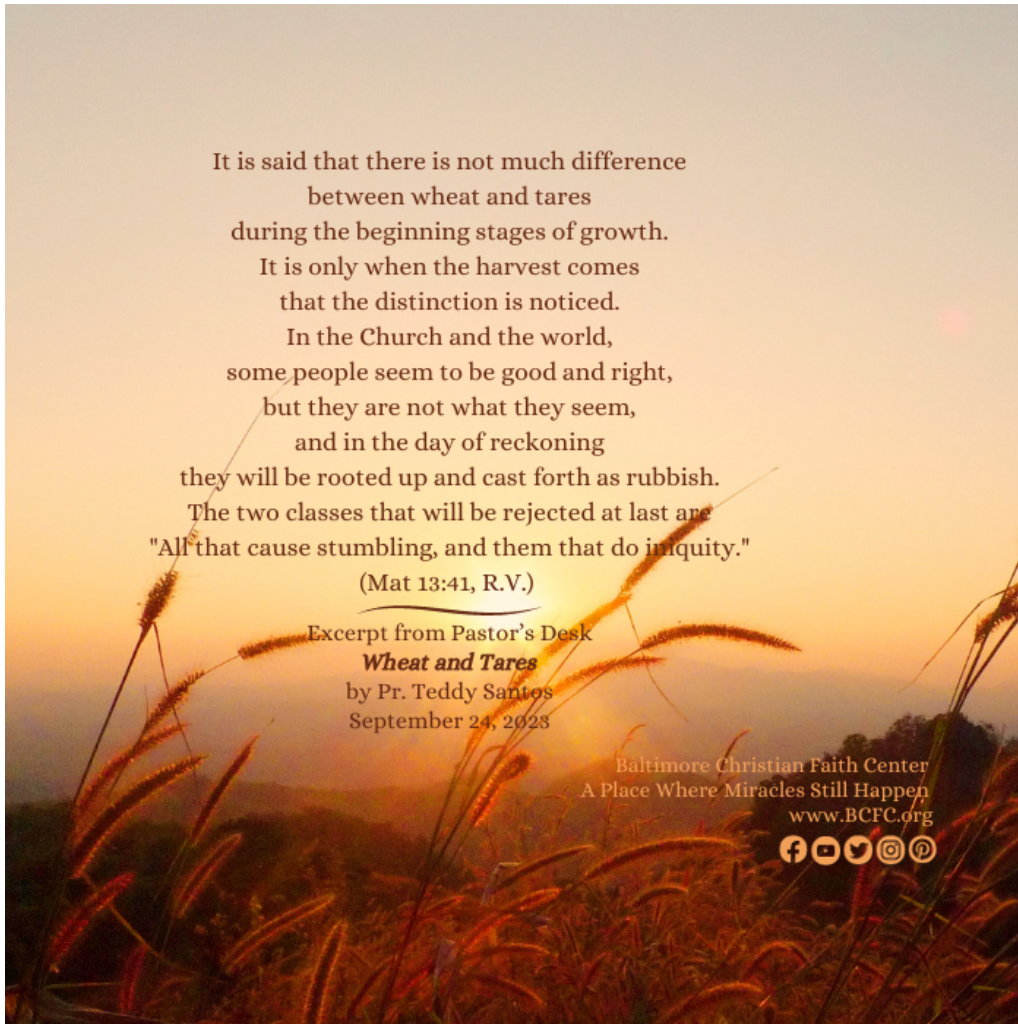


Wheat and Tares Pastor's Desk – September 24, 2023



“But while he slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.” — Mat 13:25

How our Lord taught the personality of the enemy! From our Lord's explanation of this parable, He said distinctly, "The enemy that sowed them is the devil." He knew that in every heart—in the Church as well as in the world—the great enemy of God's Kingdom, and human happiness, is always at work, sowing tares. The seed may be tiny, but in a single night, an irreparable calamity could occur.

Notice that we become as the seed we receive—those who receive the wheat-seed become wheat; those who receive the tare-seed become tares. "*As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he.*" How careful we should be over the books we read, the companionship and friendships that we form, the recreation that we take part in. Such are some of the processes by which our characters are being made. If we are thoughtless and careless, we expose ourselves to the reception of tare-seed, which germinates into weeds and rubbish. Of course, if our necessary duties take us into scenes where evil is rife, we may claim the keeping power of Christ, and hide in Him. The Holy Spirit, in whom we may bathe our souls, will be as the antiseptic and deliver us from the microbes of temptation (Gal 5:16-17).

It is said that there is not much difference between wheat and tares during the beginning stages of growth. It is only when the harvest comes that the distinction is noticed. In the Church and the world, some people seem to be good and right, but they are not what they seem, and in the day of reckoning they will be rooted up and cast forth as rubbish. The two classes that will be rejected at last are "*All that cause stumbling, and them that do iniquity.*" (Mat 13:41, R.V.)

Let each of us carefully examine ourselves, and not cause others to stumble by our inconsistent behavior. And open our hearts to receive from the hand of the Lord Jesus, the incorruptible seed which He awaits to implant by His Word.

At His service,
Pr. Teddy Santos