

The Three Laws of the Spiritual Harvest - Part I

Reference: **Mark 4:26-29**

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This is an often-ignored parable called the parable of “*the growing seed.*”

verse twenty-six, “*And He (Jesus) said, ‘The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground,’*”

verse twenty-seven, “*and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how.’*”

verse twenty-eight, “*For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head.’*”

verse twenty-nine, “*But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.’*”

Principle one: We reap _____

Reference: **Galatians 6:7b**, “*...for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.*”

Question: This parable illustrates that we are called to sow spiritual seed; so what is the seed we are to sow?

- In a generic sense the seed represents God’s word, meaning the seed represents what God has said in _____
Reference: **Mark 4:14** Jesus said, “*The sower sows **the word.***”
- In a specific sense the seed represents what God has said in Scripture about _____, i.e. the _____

Our word gospel is translated from the ancient Greek word **euaggelion** from which we get our English words *evangelist* and *evangelical*. The word *gospel* means “_____” and it occurs _____ times in the New Testament.

Reference: **Galatians 1:6-9** (see screen)

Reference: **I Corinthians 15:1-8** (see screen)

In particular the Christian gospel is specifically defined in **verses three and four**

verse three, “*For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that **Christ died for our sins** according to the Scriptures,*”

verse four, “*and that **He was buried**, and that **He rose again** the third day according to the Scriptures”*

There are three components to the Christian gospel:

- Jesus _____ for sins (penal substitutionary death)
Reference: **I Peter 2:24** (see screen)

- Jesus was _____
The fact Jesus was buried in contrast to ancient Jewish and Roman tradition was in _____ of Old Testament Messianic prophecy.

Reference: **Isaiah 53:9** (see screen)

- Jesus was _____
verses five through **eight** (see screen)

Question: How does that gospel announcement become applicable to us? That is an all important question and is discussed in **verses one** and **two**.

verse one, "Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, **which also you received** and in which you stand,"
verse two, "by **which you are saved**, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain."

Notice that _____ the gospel mentioned in **verse one** is equated to _____ in the gospel mentioned in **verse two**.

Reference: **Acts 16: 30-31**

verse thirty, "And he brought them out and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?'"

verse thirty-one, "So they said, '**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.**'"

Illustration: **Believing** in the Christian gospel is analogous to a _____ that has two simultaneous sides: heads and tails.

One side of the coin is called _____

Repentance is translated from the Greek word *metanoia* and means to _____ one's mind.

Definition: repentance means a change of mind that result in changing someone's _____.

Reference: **Acts 17:30**, "...but (God) now commands all men everywhere to repent"

The second side of the coin is called _____

Definition: Faith means _____ or confidence in something or someone.

Reference: **Galatians 2:16**, "knowing that a man is not justified (pronounced righteous) by the works of the law (good works) but by **faith in Jesus Christ...**"

Believing's two simultaneous sides can be illustrated through paraphrasing repentance and faith: Repentance is _____ away _____ and faith is _____.

This simultaneous combination of repentance and faith is mentioned in numerous biblical passages.

Reference: **I Thessalonians 1:8, 9**

verse eight, "For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your **faith toward God** has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything."
verse nine, "For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and **how you turned to God** (_____) (turned) **from idols** (_____) to serve the living and true God,"

Reference: **Acts 26:19, 20**

verse nineteen, "Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,"

verse twenty, "but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that **they should repent** (_____), **turn to God** (_____), and do works befitting repentance (changed actions)."

Definition: The gospel of Jesus Christ is the good news that Jesus Christ died for our sins, was buried, and was resurrected from the dead and through believing on Him we can receive salvation.