

On Misapplying the Scriptures

Written by George Bentsch

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It has been said concerning trouble in the church, that the wheat and the tares grow up together. Since this statement refers to the parable Jesus told in Matthew 13:25-40, they are misapplying the scriptures.

In verse 38 our Lord said, "The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one." The kingdom, or church, exists in the world, but the world must not exist in the church. Sometimes the children of Satan infiltrate the Lord's people. Too many times brethren allow liberal, worldly ideas to be promoted. When someone stands up against them they are called "troublemakers." This is like when Ahab faced Elijah and asked, "Art thou he that troubleth Israel?"

Paul wrote, "For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you" (1 Cor. 11:19). In standing for the right, the true children of the kingdom are made manifest. It is not man's approval they seek, but God's. Jude tells us we should "earnestly contend for the faith." We must stand for the right. If we begin to veer toward the left (liberalism), we will be on the wrong side of Christ at the judgment.

There are groups who call themselves the church of Christ who promote error. Some say we can worship with anyone if they set the table correctly. What if the Lord came while you were in that group? Don't try to justify where you worship by the church at Sardis (Rev. 3:1-5). Those in that city may not have had choices of where to worship—you do! Don't be guilty of supporting error by association. —105 W Jefferson, Richland, MO 65556