



## SAVED TO SERVE

Pastor Andrew Henriques

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### THE CONDITION OF GOD'S REMNANT CHURCH THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER, PART 8

1. In this Sabbath School Lesson, we will conclude our series on the Parable of the Sower and identify what it means to be a good-ground hearer.

2. How does the Bible describe the heart of those who are on the good-ground?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Are good-ground hearers individuals who have never sinned? Romans 3:23; Mark 2:17

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**“The “honest and good heart” of which the parable speaks, is not a heart without sin; for the gospel is to be preached to the lost. Christ said, “I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.” Mark 2:17. He has an honest heart who yields to the conviction of the Holy Spirit. He confesses his guilt, and feels his need of the mercy and love of God. He has a sincere desire to know the truth, that he may obey it. The good heart is a believing heart, one that has faith in the word of God. Without faith it is impossible to receive the word. “He that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.” Hebrews 11:6. {COL 58.2}**

4. Read Matthew 13:23. In contrast with the good-ground hearers, how did the Pharisees receive the Word of God? Matthew 13:14, 15

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**“This “is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it.” The Pharisees of Christ's day closed their eyes lest they should see, and their ears lest they should hear; therefore the truth could not reach their hearts. They were to suffer retribution for their willful ignorance and self-imposed blindness...” {COL 59.1}**

5. Do the good-ground hearers receive the truth as the word of men or the Word of God? 1 Thessalonians 2:13

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**“The good-ground hearer receives the word “not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God.” 1 Thessalonians 2:13. Only he who receives the Scriptures as the voice of God speaking to himself is a true learner. He trembles at the word; for to him it is a living reality. He opens his understanding and his heart to receive it. Such hearers were Cornelius and his friends, who said to the apostle Peter, “Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God.” Acts 10:33.” {COL 59.2}**

6. **Note:** Let us look at the account of Cornelius who was an example of a good-ground hearer.

7. How does the Bible describe Cornelius' character? Acts 10:1, 2, 22, 33

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

8. As Peter proclaimed the truth to Cornelius, Cornelius both received and understood the message that was preached. What doctrines comprised the message that Peter preached to Cornelius and his friends?

A. Acts 10:36, 38; Daniel 9:24, 25; Matthew 3:16 Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

B. Acts 10:42; 2 Timothy 4:1; Daniel 7:10; Revelation 14:7 Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

C. Acts 10:42; James 2:12; Romans 2:12 Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

D. Acts 10:43; Revelation 14:12; Hebrews 11:6 Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

E. Acts 10:43; Mark 1:15; Hebrews 6:1; Romans 2:4; Acts 5:31 Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

“...There are many precious truths contained in the Word of God, but it is “present truth” that the flock needs now. I have seen the danger of the messengers running off from the important points of present truth, to dwell upon subjects that are not calculated to unite the flock and sanctify the soul. Satan will here take every possible advantage to injure the cause.” {EW 63.1}

“But such subjects as the sanctuary, in connection with the 2300 days, the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, are perfectly calculated to explain the past Advent movement and show what our present position is, establish the faith of the doubting, and give certainty to the glorious future. These, I have frequently seen, were the principal subjects on which the messengers should dwell.” {EW 63.2}

9. Unlike the other three grounds (wayside, stony, thorny), the good-ground hearers keep the word. What does it mean to keep the word? Psalm 1:2; Psalm 119:11

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**“Merely to hear or to read the word is not enough. He who desires to be profited by the Scriptures must meditate upon the truth that has been presented to him. By earnest attention and prayerful thought he must learn the meaning of the words of truth, and drink deep of the spirit of the holy oracles.”** {COL 59.5}

10. What will happen to us if we are not constantly filling our minds with spiritual things? Matthew 12:43-45

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**“God bids us fill the mind with great thoughts, pure thoughts. He desires us to meditate upon His love and mercy, to study His wonderful work in the great plan of redemption. Then clearer and still clearer will be our perception of truth, higher, holier, our desire for purity of heart and clearness of thought. The soul dwelling in the pure atmosphere of holy thought will be transformed by communion with God through the study of Scriptures.”** {COL 60.1}

11. What did Cornelius and his friends receive as they understood and kept the Word of the Lord? Acts 10:44, 45

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

12. The end result of the good-ground hearers is that they bring forth fruit. What does this fruit represent? Galatians 5:22, 23; John 15:4, 5, 8, 10

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

“The word of God often comes in collision with man's hereditary and cultivated traits of character and his habits of life. But the good-ground hearer, in receiving the word, accepts all its conditions and requirements. His habits, customs, and practices are brought into submission to God's word. In his view the commands of finite, erring man sink into insignificance beside the word of the infinite God. With the whole heart, with undivided purpose, he is seeking the life eternal, and at the cost of loss, persecution, or death itself, he will obey the truth.” {COL 60.3}

13. Luke 8:15 says that the good-ground hearers “bring forth fruit with patience.” What does God send us to strengthen our spiritual life? James 1:2-4; Romans 5:3, 4

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**“Through conflict the spiritual life is strengthened. Trials well borne will develop steadfastness of character and precious spiritual graces. The perfect fruit of faith, meekness, and love often matures best amid storm clouds and darkness.”** {COL 61.1}

“The husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.” James 5:7. **So the Christian is to wait with patience for the fruition in his life of the word of God. Often when we pray for the graces of the Spirit, God works to answer our prayers by placing us in circumstances to develop these fruits; but we do not understand His purpose, and wonder, and are dismayed. Yet none can develop these graces except through the process of growth and fruit bearing. Our part is to receive God's word and to hold it fast, yielding ourselves fully to its control, and its purpose in us will be accomplished.”** {COL 61.2}

14. What hope does Jesus leave with us as we strive to overcome our trials and remain on the good-ground? Matthew 24:13

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_