

Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest.

**John 4:35**

## Store In My Heart Daniel 7:1

In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel saw a dream and visions in his mind as he lay on his bed; then he wrote the dream down and related the following summary of it.

The first half of this book tells how four young Jewish men grew up and lived in the capital of their conquerors. The stories of the men are a powerful testament to the endurance of those who put their complete faith in God.

The last half of Daniel contains several prophetic visions that Daniel received from God.

These visions reveal the future of Israel and the coming Messiah. Near the end of the book, it seems Daniel asked for insight into things that were to take place even after the coming of the Messiah. Yet he was told they were concealed. Some see these prophecies as yet in our future. We must be careful not to seek for that which God has concealed.



# It's Planting Time

**T. Sean Sullivan**

According to a relatively recent agricultural census, there is a little over one hundred and ninety thousand acres of cropland in Greene County, Arkansas. That is a lot of potential for harvest, but not one bushel of grain will be gleaned without seeds being planted. Jesus, in **Luke 8:5-9**, spoke a parable about one who went out planting seed in the hope of a good harvest. In His explanation, Jesus said, *"The seed is the word of God"*—this is the more significant lesson to be learned (**Luke 8:11-15**). Without seeds planted, there can be no expectation of harvest.

The harvest that we are looking for is not bushels of grain; it is souls for the Lord (**Matthew 9:36**). The population of Greene County, Arkansas, is almost forty-seven thousand souls. (Hot Spring County, AR is a little over thirty-three thousand souls. [[census.gov/quickfacts](http://census.gov/quickfacts)])

Planting season is a good reminder for us all to renew our interest in sharing "the seed"—the word of God.

**If We Don't Tell Them about Jesus, Who Will?** We should see the ethical dilemma of souls being lost. Souls we know, souls we love, and souls we've never met are perishing under the weight of their sins. Romans 3:23 "...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

And further, in **Romans 6:23a**, *"The wages of sin is death..."* Since you and I know what can save them, we are ethically bound to at least attempt to let them know, too.

Too many Christians expend great energy making excuses for not sharing in this responsibility. They must be thinking that someone else will tell those lost souls. God's word, however, commands us to share the gospel with everyone (**Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16**).

If we do not plant the seed, how will we ever have a harvest?

**There is Only One Message.** The gospel is not like a product that needs to be packaged and marketed. The gospel message is a divine gift from God for the hope of mankind (**John 14:23; 15:23; 16:12-16**). The gospel is the power of God to salvation (**Romans 1:16**). This power has been entrusted to our keeping and sharing (**Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:44-47**).

It is designed to save us and others who will listen to us (**1Timothy 4:16**).

God desires more souls to be saved. In **Mark 16:15-16**, Jesus declares that the message is to be taught to *“every creature”*—everyone, everywhere! In **1Timothy 2:1-4**, we are told that God, *“...desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth”*—“All” continues to mean “all”. In **2Peter 3:9**, it is declared that God desires all souls to be saved, saying, *“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance”*—“All” continues to mean “all”.

If we do not plant the seed, how will we ever have a harvest?

**We Can Do This!** Every congregation can grow— it does not matter about age averages, financial capabilities, or any particular community—every congregation can grow. Not all congregations are growing. We need to begin seeing the hope of reaching other souls in a different light. To be like Jesus, we must look at our fellow man more with our heart and less with our eyes (**Matthew 9:36**). We need to see souls and have compassion on them.

Our sharing of the gospel will always be the most powerful method of congregational growth. Talking to souls about their Savior and showing them His way (**John 14:6**) is the quickest way to see actual growth of numbers in the Lord’s church.

If we do not plant the seed, how will we ever have a harvest?

Here in Arkansas, it is planting season—the farmers are planting seed in the hope of a great harvest. This congregation represents 0.2% of our county’s population; there is a lot of work to do. (Tanner St is a little under 0.09% of HSC population) There is a tremendous potential for harvest here if we make the effort to get the seed out there. Our harvest plans must include friends, neighbors, family, coworkers, and whoever will listen. All souls, everywhere, need the hope that we have, and they will have it if we share. There is much to do, and we are running out of time to do it. What about your soul’s salvation? The opportunity to salvation through gospel obedience is right now.”

(This article was in the latest bulletin from brother Sullivan who preaches in Paragould, AR. It seems appropriate to both the current season and our upcoming Gospel Meeting. Let us use the time ahead wisely in giving others opportunity to hear the Word. DLH)

## Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

### Church of Christ

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The  
**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service  
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study  
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study

## For Our Information

**Malcolm Rigsby** is still wearing a heart monitor.

**Sue Soliday** continues to slowly improve.

**John LaValla** is doing much better but still has some lingering difficulties from his respiratory infection.

**Paul Simpson** (Johathan’s father) is in a regular room and doing about the same.

**Gracie Simpson** has a follow up with a cardiologist.

Sunday Evening – **Isaiah 8** Wednesday – **John 19:17**

**Gospel Meeting announcements are available in the foyer**