

dec 21, 2022

unless a seed dies

"most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain." john 12:24

it is truly a joyous and beautiful thing to see a lost soul restored to fellowship with their Creator. there's no denying that. that is what God wants for all of His unique creations. He is "not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." 2 pet 3:9

make no mistake about it, the bible clearly teaches that eternal salvation rests entirely on God's grace and is appropriated through faith in the finished work of Christ. but it is death that produces life. i would like to read you a short portion from a favorite author, o.s. hawkins.

"we think that death comes from life but Jesus revealed just the opposite, life actually comes from death. imagine for a minute that you drop a grain of wheat into the earth and cover it with soil. that little grain corrodes and rots, it dies, and then releases its life germ. after a while a tiny blade pushes its way through the soil and reaches up toward the sun. days pass, weeks pass, and the blade eventually becomes a full grown plant producing hundreds of little seeds just like the one planted. all that energy and life was in a single, tiny grain of wheat. but, you couldn't see it ... until the seed died. then it

produced a lot more grain just like itself, many other firstfruits.'"

mr. hawkins goes on to say that if the seed were simply dropped into a desk drawer or something similar and was left there, upon return at a later time, it would still be sitting there; waiting and intact, but all alone.

this renewed life our Lord has given us is certainly ours to keep and hoard if we wish. however, doing so would mean there would be no interest or anything for our Master to reap upon His return. we would only have to give back what He originally gave us. i don't know about you or anyone else but i want a harvest to present my Master upon His return.

yes, there will be some seeds that produce a more bountiful harvest than others. again, it depends upon what the Lord originally endowed one with. make no mistake, it is God who gives the increase. the only credit we can claim is where we allowed that seed to lay, in a desk drawer or in soil. all things are from God and by God and will return to God. "now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all." 1 cor 15:28

i have a vision in my heart that i treasure. it's told beautifully in the book of revelation. "the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying" You are worthy, o Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and

were created.” rev 4:10-11

i too seek a crown to toss at His feet. that crown is one of a bountiful harvest. perhaps not as bountiful as others and perhaps i merely watered the seeds of another. whatever the task or the harvest, let my seed die that it may live in others. a crown to toss at His feet... because i allowed my "self" to die and release the life force in me; the life force He had given me. again, all things being from You and by You and now, back to You.

so, "break up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek the Lord, till He comes and rains righteousness on you." hos 10:12 break up that ground for a planting. summer is ending and harvest time is upon us. our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed!