

The Eternal Harvest

Background

The following thoughts came to me during the sermon at Grace Church, Porthcawl on 28th August 2022. The sermon was based on Psalm 131 which, among other things, talks about stilling quieting our souls. Tom, our Pastor, also talked about moving forward in our spiritual journey.

The Eternal Harvest

The farmer prepares the soil and plants the seed for the next wheat harvest. Hopefully the seeds germinate and rain waters the field. The farmer will also nurture the growing crop, using his experience and skill to encourage, feed and protect it as it develops. Finally, when the plants have ripened, he goes out and harvests it.

But that's not the end! If it was, it would simply fill the barn and be of no use.

So, the harvested wheat is sent to the mill where it is ground into flour. But still, that's not the end.

The flour is sold and used to make bread, cakes, and other food. But the story continues. Bread and cakes will go stale and mouldy unless they are eaten. The consumed food nourishes the eater (including the farmer) so that the people can grow and develop into mature adults.

Some of these adults will later plant crops and so the cycle continues, but only if the nurturing and protection of the crop is maintained.

My thoughts

The farmer represents God who plants the seeds of the Kingdom in the hearts of men and women. It then needs to germinate in our hearts. For us to grow into maturity, that seed needs to be tended and fed (i.e. disciplined) so that we can become the next generation of crop tenders.

In the past year, many farmers are seeing crops fail due to lack of rain. Without mature Christians nourishing the younger Christians (and each other), the next harvest will suffer. The danger is that we focus on evangelism as meaning that we attract people into becoming Christians and then abandon them to find their own way forward while we seek out the next potential converts. Are we prepared to do our bit?

For Your Consideration

- Where do you see yourself in this picture?
 - Seed planter?
 - Tending new growth?
 - Or are you the new seedling?
 - Where does God see you? The options are the same, but the answer may not be. You may find it useful to talk to a trusted Christian to get their view.
 - How do you see this developing in the future?
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Pete Bennett
28th August 2022