

CONSIDER THE FARMER Part III

Text: Isaiah 28:23-29

Key Word: Producing

Key Thought: Farmers Constantly Labour to Produce a Harvest

I. THERE IS A TIME FOR PREPARING (Isaiah 28:23,24)

II. THERE IS A TIME FOR PLANTING (Isaiah 28:25,26)

III. THERE IS A TIME FOR PRODUCING (Isaiah 28:27,29)

After the time of preparing and planting comes a time of producing.

III. THERE IS A TIME FOR PRODUCING (Isaiah 28:27,29)

Everything can be done right to this point and still lose the harvest. It is very important to once again carefully select the machinery to gather the produce. A forage harvester is used to chop up the corn before it is blown into the silo. A grain harvester is used to collect the grain and divide the chaff. There are even potato pickers. Fruit and many vegetables must be picked by hand because they are bruised easily.

Caraway and cumin are hand beaten to gather the precious harvest. Grain requires a threshing process. God has methods to harvest as much as He has for time of preparing the soil and sowing the seed.

Today I want to focus upon things that I have noticed over the years in reference to the wonderful differences that take place during this time of year.

A. The Fragrance of the Harvest

The Bible tells us that we rise up as a sweet-smelling fragrance unto the Lord and so were the prayers of God's people as the incense was added to hot coals in the Tabernacle of Moses.

“Our lives are a Christ-like fragrance rising up to God. But this fragrance is perceived differently by those who are being saved and by those who are perishing.”

*II Corinthians 2:15
New Living Translation*

III. THERE IS A TIME FOR PRODUCING (Isaiah 28:27,29)(Contd.)

A. The Fragrance of the Harvest (Contd.)

The fragrances of the harvest remind me how diverse God is. Just think of the wonderful fragrances that permeate the air this time of year. Even the leaves of the trees give off a distinct odour when you bristle through them. I love the smell of citrus fruits as the skin is peeled off. There is also a unique odour of freshly harvested corn and wheat. And bacon! Sorry that is not a fruit or vegetable. But think about the smell of tomatoes when they are freshly cut or even just removed from the vine.

Have you ever wondered why God chose to fill our earth with these wonderful fragrances especially during the harvest? I believe it is to keep these memories vivid and to also make them pleasurable for years to come. I can remember sitting on a fresh bale of hay as its fragrance filled the field as well as the area and having ice cold soft drink. I never thought of how my words filled the air but with a farmer I learned to control my tongue.

“Like a snow-cooled drink at harvest time is a trustworthy messenger to the one who sends him; he refreshes the spirit of his master.”

Proverbs 25:13

B. The Fabulousness of the Harvest

A few weeks ago Sharon and I were travelling back from the funeral and committal for Christine Raghunandan. It was a beautiful time travelling on the 401. The trees blanketed the side of the road in beautiful flowing hills. The mixture of yellows, orange and reds took over from the green leaves we saw just a month earlier on a similar trip to Toronto.

There was huge sun setting in the west so it magnified the beauty. We commented about the changes with each bend in the road as Sharon took plenty of pictures. At one point the sun was highlighting the top of the trees as the evening shadows began to fall blinding out the colours.

Just think for a moment about how beautiful it is to walk through a farmer's market. The slightest change of focus brings in another beautiful scene. The red and green apple, the oranges, the grapes, the ears of corn. Intermingle that with pumpkins and squash, lettuce, celery, radishes, onions and the list goes on and on.

“The Lord will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest.”

Psalms 85:12

III. THERE IS A TIME FOR PRODUCING (Isaiah 28:27,29)(Contd.)

B. The Fabulousness of the Harvest(Contd.)

** When Sharon and I were dating, I bought her a card and was trying to be creative in my remarks toward her. I finally came up with an original phrase and I signed it, "To my little watermelon." It seemed quite distinctive until I read that watermelons came from the gourd family of melons. It kind of lost its uniqueness so I never used it again. **

C. The Festivity of the Harvest

The Old Testament is filled with examples of the celebrations related to the harvest time each year. There were the early (first fruits) and the latter harvest in the fall.

*"Celebrate the **Festival of Harvest** with the firstfruits of the crops you sow in your field. Celebrate the **Festival of Ingathering** at the end of the year, when you gather in your crops from the field."*

Exodus 23:16

These were times filled with plenty of music, dancing and singing along with a bounty of joyfulness. God blessed His people and now there were going to rejoice in His presence. We will reap whatever we sow.

"Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness."

James 3:18

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

Galatians 6:9

Our God knows that we are a nation noted for its multiculturalism. Chinese must be ministered to differently than people from Africa or South America. This is why the culture of people must be considered at the time of planting and producing.

III. THERE IS A TIME FOR PRODUCING (Isaiah 28:27,29)(Contd.)

C. The Festivity of the Harvest (Contd.)

We must never fear making mistakes. The Ford Motor Company forgot to put a reverse gear in his first automobile. If Adam had admitted to his mistakes, he never would have passed death unto the human race. Darwin's theory of evolution would have been stopped. Dr. Spock's incorrect teaching on child discipline would have saved many a troubled child from being raised. Some of these admitted it but by that time it was too late.

Is it too late for the church to become effective in evangelism? Is there still a chance for the church in Canada?

Yes there is still hope! Until Jesus returns there will always be hope. I believe that God is raising up people who are getting excited about evangelism and getting properly trained for it. The time of God's return is somewhat dependant upon the effectiveness of our evangelistic efforts.

Jesus has made it very clear what will take place before He returns.

"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations and then the end shall come."

Matthew 24:14

"Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him who was sitting on the cloud, "Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe."

16. So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested.

Revelation 14:15

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Date: Oct 27/19

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: To the Ends of the Earth - G

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A. The Fragrance of the Harvest - *II Corinthians 2:15; Proverbs 25:13*

B. The Fabulousness of the Harvest - *Psalms 85:12*

C. The Festivity of the Harvest - *Exodus 23:16; James 3:18; Galatians 6:9; Matthew 24:14; Revelation 14:15*