

“The time is fulfilled,  
and the kingdom of God is at hand:  
repent ye, and believe the gospel”  
Mark 1:15



## The Harvest is Ripe, Ready for the Harvester

“Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.” (John 4:35)

These are gripping words, tugging at the heart, making one feel that no one should cross our path without impacting them in some way with the message of Christ, sin, and salvation.

### Four Piercing Thoughts

These words of Christ piece the heart in four ways:

1. People are *right now*, this very second, ready to hear the gospel, repent of their sin, and live according to the teachings of Jesus. The harvest for souls is always now.
2. God expects *His* children to bring in this harvest. That won't be done if you don't speak to, or give a tract to, or in some way make known Christ, sin, and salvation to the multitudes around you.
3. A harvest that is ripe will soon die and rot if not harvested. Once the harvest is ripe, it has less time to live than it did to mature to ripeness. Today is the day to harvest, not tomorrow.
4. To see these things and not do something is equal to a farmer seeing his corn ready for harvest but leaving it in the field to rot or expecting another farmer to harvest his fields.

### A Fifth Piercing Thought

Here is a fifth piercing thought which cuts deeper than the previous four: the individual Christian is responsible to *lift up* their eyes and to *look on* the fields. It is easy to live our day to day lives in busyness and ministry, never acknowledging our responsibility to bring the message of salvation to those around us.

To live in obedience to Christ is to take the initiative to see as He sees and that begins when we exert the energy to merely *lift up* our eyes, acknowledge the fields, and our responsibility to bring the harvest in. The indication here is that we walk through our day-to-day life with our eyes avoiding those heading for hell.

### The Task At Hand

The work we are to accomplish in these last days is the same work that Jesus came to do. It is to do the will of God by finishing the work that God started at Creation, through Moses,

Abraham, and the prophets; these all labored in the fields and planted the seeds for raising children for God. The result of their labor is a bountiful harvest, ripe and ready to be gathered in. Jesus appeared upon the earth to reap the harvest and train harvesters to reap the ready fields. You and I have been given the task to reap the fields that we have not labored in (John 4:36-38). Now that we are 2,000 years closer to the close of this present age, there is not much time left to bring in the harvest. Let us lift up our eyes, acknowledge the harvest, and do something, anything, to bring the harvest in.

## **Time is Short**

The Bible is clear that most people—inside and outside the denominations—do not fear God, neither put their trust in Him. You do not have to be part of the *most people*. You can put your trust in Him today and then go and tell everyone you know about the God who created the world, died for their sins, was buried, and rose from the dead. Time is short. Most people in our world need to hear the message that Jesus taught. Do your part to help them to hear. Go and help *return America* to God.

*Be so much the more, as ye see the day approaching*

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