

Eastern Mission

Apostolic Lutheran Church of America

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The Fields are white already to Harvest

Greetings of God's Peace to everyone.

As I prayed and sought for wisdom from God to write this article the words of Jesus came to mind which are recorded in the Gospel of John 4:34-38. Jesus saith unto them "My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish his work. 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. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together. And herein is that saying true, One soweth and another reapeth. I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured and ye are entered into their labours". In these verses Jesus speaks what the Will of God was for him to do and to finish. The fields are white already to harvest. He is speaking of the souls of men

This work began with Jesus sending out his disciples as is written in John 20: 19-23 when He appeared unto them as they were assembled with the doors shut for fear of the Jews. He showed unto them His hands and side. The disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. He says unto them "Peace be unto you: as my father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said unto them "Receive ye the Holy Ghost Whose soever sins ye remit they are remitted unto them and whose soever sins ye retain they are retained." The work of Jesus continued through the disciples with the spreading of the Word when they received the power of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost as found in Acts 2:1 Also when Jesus called Saul (Acts 9) who later was called Apostle Paul and was given the mission to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the gentiles.

The harvest fields are still white and plenteous but the laborers are few as Jesus says in Matt: 9:37-38. "Pray ye therefore the Lord of harvest, that He will send forth laborers into His harvest". Let us pray that God will give us wisdom and strength by His Spirit for this mission and also pray that He will raise up young men who will continue His work when the elder servants have been given rest from their labors The prayer of a righteous man availeth much. He has promised to hear the prayers of His children.

Scripture indicates that we are living in the end times. The devil seems to be having his power over the souls of men. Even as believers we can become indifferent to the Word. Many have been brought up in faith and in the hearing of the Word but have not continued to nurture the soul with a daily feeding of the Word and prayer and seeking the will of God. We all have a human nature that can be like the five foolish virgins and not remain awake and aware of the signs before us. We need, and have, the grace and strength of Christ Jesus in order to run a successful race toward our Eternal Heavenly Home. We are not alone. He is ever within us leading, protecting with His almighty Hand. May God give us all the strength to pray for laborers in His harvest of souls.

In God's Peace,

Donald Bisila