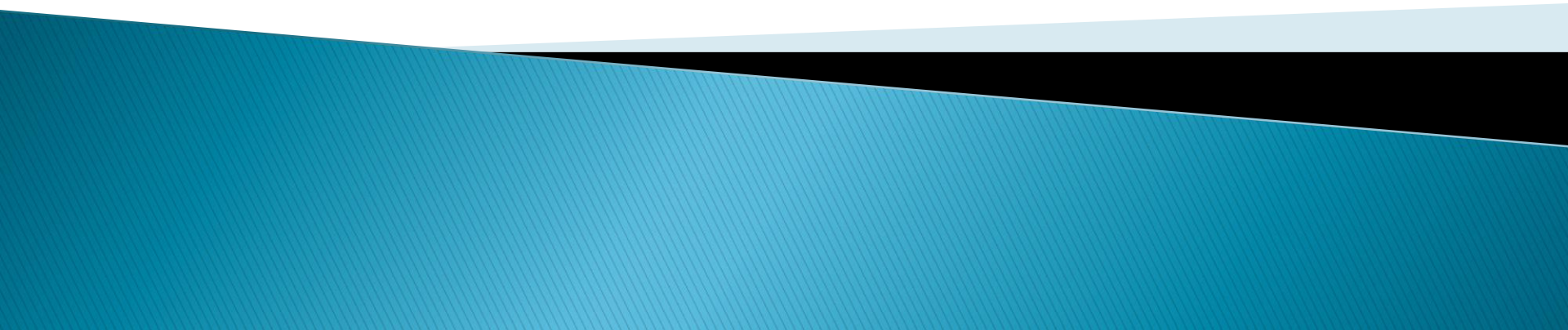


# The Parable of the Sower



- ▶ Matthew 13:1–9,18–23,
  - ▶ Mark 4: 1–20,
  - ▶ Luke 8:4–15.
- 
- ▶ Christ Object Lesson by E G White

- ▶ All who come to Christ for a clearer knowledge of the truth will receive it.

▶ EG White COL 35.3

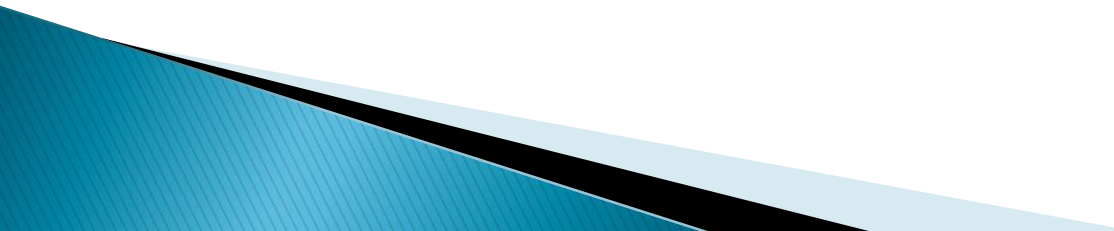
# Elements of parable

- ▶ The Sower,
- ▶ The Seed
- ▶ The Soil

# The Sower

- ▶ So Christ, the heavenly Sower, went forth to sow. He left His home of security and peace, left the glory that He had with the Father before the world was, left His position upon the throne of the universe. He went forth, a suffering, tempted man; went forth in solitude, to sow in tears, to water with His blood, the seed of life for a world lost.”

# The Seed

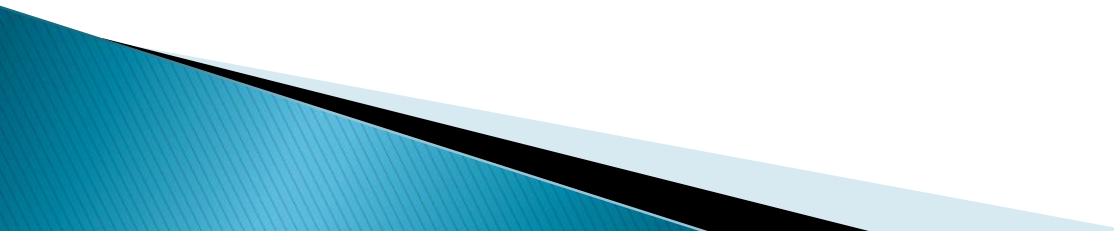
- ▶ Luke 8:11 “The seed is the Word of God”.
  - ▶ Mat 13:19 “Word of the Kingdom”
  - ▶ Mark 4:14 “the Word”
- 

- ▶ In our day, as of old, the vital truths of God's word are set aside for human theories and speculations. Many professed ministers of the gospel do not accept the whole Bible as the inspired word. One wise man rejects one portion; another questions another part. They set up their judgment as superior to the word; and the Scripture which they do teach rests upon their own authority. Its divine authenticity is destroyed. Thus the seeds of infidelity are sown broadcast; for the people become confused and know not what to believe. continued

- ▶ Continued There are many beliefs that the mind has no right to entertain. In the days of Christ the rabbis put a forced, mystical construction upon many portions of Scripture. Because the plain teaching of God's word condemned their practices, they tried to destroy its force. The same thing is done today. The word of God is made to appear mysterious and obscure in order to excuse transgression of His law. Christ rebuked these practices in His day. He taught that the word of God was to be understood by all. He pointed to the Scriptures as of unquestionable authority, and we should do the same. The Bible is to be presented as the word of the infinite God, as the end of all controversy and the foundation of all faith.



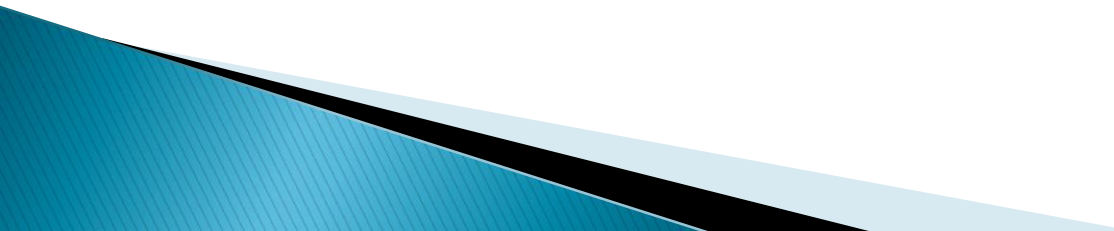
## 2 Timothy 4:3

- ▶ “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from truth and be turned aside to fables.”
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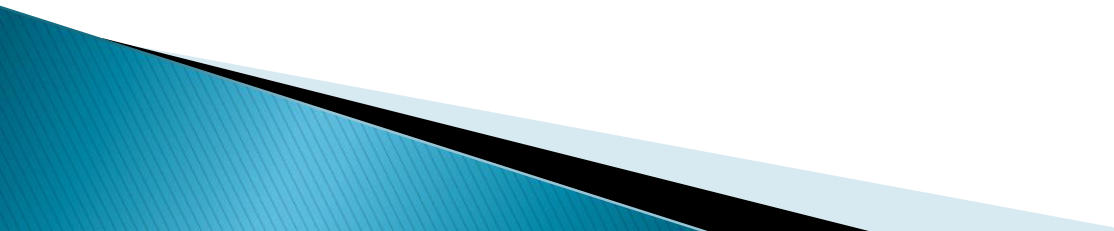
- ▶ Christ's favorite theme was the paternal tenderness and abundant grace of God; He dwelt much upon the holiness of His character and His law; He presented Himself to the people as the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Let these be the themes of Christ's ministers. *Present the truth as it is in Jesus.* Make plain the requirements of the law and the gospel. Tell the people of Christ's life of self-denial and sacrifice; of His humiliation and death; of His resurrection and ascension; of His intercession for them in the courts of God; of His promise, "I will come again, and receive you unto Myself." John 14:3.

# The Soil

- ▶ Four types:
  - The wayside
  - On the rock
  - Among the thorns
  - Good soil

- ▶ Matt 13: 19 – anyone who hears,
  - ▶ Matthew 13: 20, 22, 23 – He who receives,
  - ▶ Mark and Luke identify them as the ones who hear the word
- 

# The Wayside

- ▶ Mat 13: 4 “And he sowed, some seed fell by the way side; and the birds came and devoured”
  - ▶ Mark 4:4 “And it happened, as he sowed, that some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds of the air came and devoured it.”
  - ▶ Luke 9:5: “A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down and the birds of the air devoured it”
- 

# Jesus explanation

- ▶ Mat 13: 19 “When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by wayside.”
- ▶ Mark 4: 15 “And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word, that was sown in their heart.”
- ▶ Luke 8:12 “Those by wayside are the ones who hear, then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts , least they should believe and be saved.”

- ▶ The seed sown by the wayside represents the word of God as it falls upon the heart of an inattentive hearer. Like the hard-beaten path, trodden down by the feet of men and beasts, is the heart that becomes a highway for the world's traffic, its pleasures and sins. Absorbed in selfish aims and sinful indulgences, the soul is "hardened through the deceitfulness of sin." Hebrews 3:13. The spiritual faculties are paralyzed. Men hear the word, but understand it not. They do not discern that it applies to themselves. They do not realize their need or their danger. They do not perceive the love of Christ, and they pass by the message of His grace as something that does not concern them.

- ▶ Satan has many helpers. Many who profess to be Christians are aiding the tempter to catch away the seeds of truth from other hearts. Many who listen to the preaching of the word of God make it the subject of criticism at home. They sit in judgment on the sermon as they would on the words of a lecturer or a political speaker. The message that should be regarded as the word of the Lord to them is dwelt upon with trifling or sarcastic comment. The minister's character, motives, and actions, and the conduct of fellow members of the church, are freely discussed. Severe judgment is pronounced, gossip or slander repeated, and this in the hearing of the unconverted. Often these things are spoken by parents in the hearing of their own children. Thus are destroyed respect for God's messengers, and reverence for their message. And many are taught to regard lightly God's word itself.



# Seed on the stony place

- ▶ Mat 13:5–6 “Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth, and they immediately sprang up because they have no depth of earth, But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away.”
- ▶ Mark 4: 5–6 “ Some fell on the stony ground, where it did not have much earth; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of earth. But when the sun was up it was scorched, and because it had no root it withered away.”
- ▶ Luke 8:6 “Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture.”

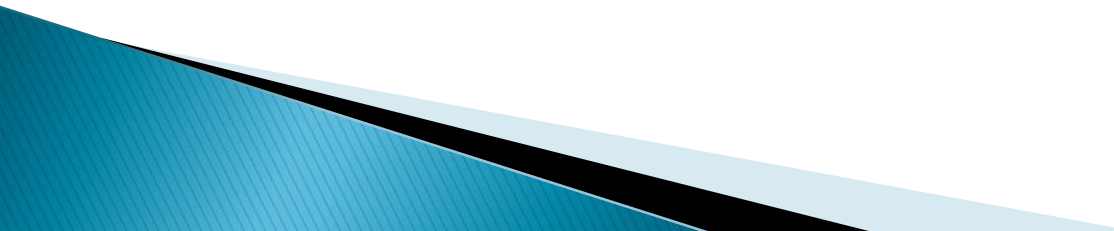
# Jesus Explanation

- ▶ Mat 13: 20–21 “But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecutions arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.”
- ▶ Mark 4: 16–17 “These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; and they have no root in themselves, and endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word’s sake immediately they stumble.
- ▶ Luke 8:13 “But the ones on the rock are those who , when they hear receive the word with joy, and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away.”

- ▶ Many who make a profession of religion are stony-ground hearers. *Like the rock underlying the layer of earth, the selfishness of the natural heart underlies the soil of their good desires and aspirations.* The love of self is not subdued. They have not seen the exceeding sinfulness of sin, and the heart has not been humbled under a sense of its guilt. This class may be easily convinced, and appear to be bright converts, but they have only a superficial religion.

- ▶ Self is not to be cherished. He who lives to himself is not a Christian.
- ▶ Love must be the principle of action. Love is the underlying principle of God's government in heaven and earth, and it must be the foundation of the Christian's character. This alone can make and keep him steadfast. This alone can enable him to withstand trial and temptation.
- ▶ And love will be revealed in sacrifice. The plan of redemption was laid in sacrifice—a sacrifice so broad and deep and high that it is immeasurable. Christ gave all for us, and those who receive Christ will be ready to sacrifice all for the sake of their Redeemer. The thought of His honor and glory will come before anything else.
- ▶ If we love Jesus, we shall love to live for Him, to present our thank offerings to Him, to labor for Him. The very labor will be light. For His sake we shall covet pain and toil and sacrifice. We shall sympathize with His longing for the salvation of men. We shall feel the same tender craving for souls that He has felt.

# The seed among the thorns

- ▶ Mat 13:7 “And some fell among thorns and the thorns sprang up and choke them.”
  - ▶ Mark 4: 7 “And some fell among the thorns; and the thorns grew up and choked it and it yielded no crop”
  - ▶ Luke 8: 7 “ And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choke it.”
- 

# Jesus explanation

Mat 13:22 “Now he who received seed among thorns is he who hears the word and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word and he becomes unfruitful”

Mark 4:18–19 “Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desire for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.”

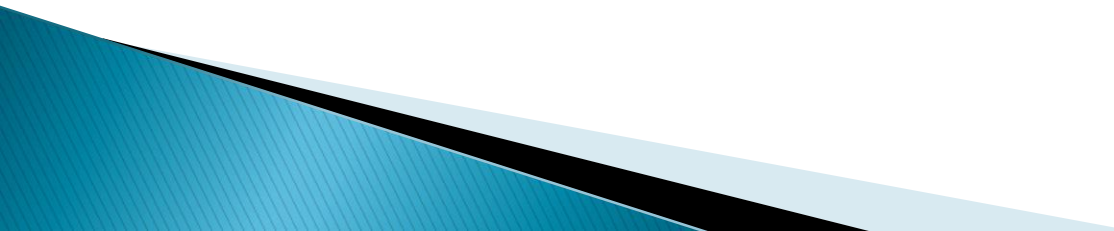
- ▶ Luke 8: 14 “Now the ones who fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life and bring no fruit to maturity”.

- ▶ The gospel seed often falls among thorns and noxious weeds; and *if there is not a moral transformation in the human heart, if old habits and practices and the former life of sin are not left behind, if the attributes of Satan are not expelled from the soul, the wheat crop will be choked.* The thorns will come to be the crop, and will kill out the wheat.

- ▶ Grace can thrive only in the heart that is being constantly prepared for the precious seeds of truth. *The thorns of sin will grow in any soil; they need no cultivation; but grace must be carefully cultivated.* The briars and thorns are always ready to spring up, and the work of purification must advance continually. If the heart is not kept under the control of God, if the Holy Spirit does not work unceasingly to refine and ennoble the character, the old habits will reveal themselves in the life. Men may profess to believe the gospel; but unless they are sanctified by the gospel their profession is of no avail. If they do not gain the victory over sin, then sin is gaining the victory over them. The thorns that have been cut off but not uprooted grow apace, until the soul is overspread with them.



# The good ground

- ▶ Mat 13: 8 “But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundred, some sixty, some thirty.”
  - ▶ Mark 4: 8 “But other seed fell on good ground and yielded a crop that sprang up, increased, and produced: some thirtyfold, some sixty, some a hundred”
  - ▶ Luke 9: 8a “But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold.”
- 

# Jesus Explanantion

- ▶ Mat 13: 23 “But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces some a hundred fold, some sixty, some thirty.”
- ▶ Mark 4: 20 “But these are the ones sown in good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit; some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some hundred”
- ▶ Luke 8:15 “But the ones who fell on good ground are those who having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.”