

## ***SPRING PLANTING***

Yesterday was the first day of spring. It still seems a bit cold, but July will take care of that! Some trees have already bloomed, as have early flowers. I heard last night on the television that in some parts of the state the bluebonnets are blooming.

We think of spring as the time when dormant plants, be they trees, flowers, or whatever, start growing again. Generally, spring is a season for planting. As an eastern Colorado farm boy, I know about planting wheat in the fall, but again, it's in the spring that the wheat comes out of dormancy and grows.

Right after the flood, as Noah sacrificed burnt offerings, the Lord said, "While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease" (Genesis 8:22). We think of seedtime and harvest as references to spring and fall.

Jesus spoke the parable of the sower in Luke 8, dealing with the planting of His word into the hearts of people. We usually focus on the four different kinds of soil that characterize the human heart, but right now let's think instead about the very first sentence: "A sower went out to sow his seed" (v. 5). Until and unless the sower sows the seed, there can be no growth and no harvest. Jesus identified the seed in v. 11 – "The seed is the word of God." Once the seed is planted (that is, once the word of God has been communicated to a person), the condition of that person's heart determines whether there will be a harvest (that is, whether that person will be saved). But don't forget step one – the seed must be planted!

Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase" (1 Corinthians 3:6). Paul had initially evangelized in Corinth. Later, he sent Apollos to work with the church there. Apollos followed up on the work Paul had begun. The harvest of souls occurred as a result of God using the power of His

word which had been taught to the Corinthians by men such as Paul and Apollos. Remember, the Gospel of Christ is God's power unto salvation (Romans 1:16).

It's officially spring! But as it relates to the planting of the seed of God's word, it's always spring. There is no wrong time to teach others the word of God. Until and unless we do so, there can be no harvest.