

The Harvest We Will Never See  
Revive Us Again 2021  
Chris Swinford

There are 2 reasons why we may not see a harvest.

1. Maybe we don't see the harvest because we never planted the seed.
  2. Maybe we don't see the harvest because seeds take time to grow.
1. Maybe we don't see the harvest because we never planted the seed.
  - If they are not told, they have no hope!
  - Due to COVID – 19, we know what it's like to crave a cure, don't we?
  - What if I had the cure and didn't share it?
  - There is something worse than COVID-19.
  - There is sin and spiritual death.
  - Romans 3:23: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
  - Romans 6:23: For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
  - What is the cure? The Gospel!
  - Romans 1:16: For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.
  - We just need to tell somebody!
  - We are a commissioned people. Matthew 28:19
  - We are a commanded people.
  - We are a committed people.
  - Matthew 28:19-20: Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in<sup>(b)</sup> the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."
  - What if we don't share it? No hope.
  - We will never see a harvest. Can we live with that?
2. Maybe we don't see the harvest because seeds take time to grow.
  - It can seem to take forever!
  - Abraham was told his descendants would be many and would live in a land promised by God. He believed it, but never saw it with his eyes. Genesis 12 and 15.
  - David was told there would be a King on his throne forever. He never saw Jesus walk this earth. 2 Samuel 7:8-16, Psalm 89:3-4
  - Will I live to see those I love won to Christ? Will I live to see the harvest?
  - Like Abraham and David, I may never live to see it.
  - Jesus came to save people from their sins.

- Jesus didn't see his brothers follow him before his death.
- James and Jude became church leaders and wrote book of the Bible!
- We need to focus on planting seed.
- The Lord of Harvest has chosen the right seed.
- The Lord of Harvest has chosen two kinds of seed that work together.
- The seed of the message: Luke 8:11 - Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.
- The seed of the messenger: Matthew 13:38 - The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one,
- We need to plant the message. We need to live the message.
- The example of Paul and his co-workers in 1 Thess. 2:1-12 – For you yourselves know, brothers that our coming to you was not in vain. But though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the midst of much conflict. For our appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts. For we never came with words of flattery, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness. Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others, though we could have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle<sup>□</sup> among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us. For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers. For you know how, like a father with his children, we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.
- We need to plant the message. We need to live the message.
- We must sow the seed and then tend the seed.
- 1 Cor. 3:6-7: I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.
- God will give the increase.
- We have to trust in his plan.

Five things that give us hope:

1. God's Word is powerful.

- Isaiah 55:11: so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

- Hebrews 4:12: For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.
2. God is at work within us. Ephesians 3:20-21: Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.
  3. Things aren't always as they seem.
    - Elijah in 1 Kings 19
    - Elisha's servant in 2 Kings 6
  4. There will be a chain reaction of souls saved by those we influence in this world.
  5. "And behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age". Matthew 28:20