

# Good News

*From Getwell*

Published by  
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#### SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY ACTIVITY

##### SUNDAY

Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.

Worship.....10:20 a.m.

Worship.....5:00 p.m.

##### WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

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## ON THE HOME FRONT

We were saddened by the unexpected passing of Mary Sharp this past Lord's day. Mary was on her way home from services when a tree limb fell on her vehicle due to the snow and ice. Mary was the daughter-in-law of our late beloved Pearl Sharp. Mary was a beloved mother and wife who I held in high regard.

In other news, the elders request your prayers as we contemplate the hiring of a new preacher at Getwell. You might ask yourselves what qualities do we look for in a man to fill our pulpit and assume the vigorous responsibilities associated with that position.

First we need a man who loves God above all else, who will seek first the kingdom of God.

Secondly, a man who has a love for lost souls. The fields are white unto harvest. The preacher and all of us have a responsibility to tell others about Jesus and his saving grace.

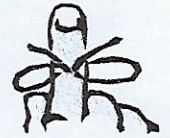
We need a man who will be dedicated to expanding the borders of the kingdom not for the glory of Getwell but to the glory of our Lord.

We need a man who will work well with the congregation and work well with us, the elders.

So you see why I ask for your prayers as we face this challenge before us and before Getwell. I am confident God will bless Getwell in 2022.

Ron Wallace

# RON'S REMINDERS



## What the Thorns Do

My summers were spent working for farmers in the New Union community. One farm owner employed me for virtually anything that needed attention on his farm. Al D. Kendrick was most often my employer, and he grew up near many of my family members in the Beech Grove area.

Most of the time, I hauled hay for Al. It was not unheard of to put up around five hundred bales of hay in an afternoon for the registered angus cattle that he owned. However, there were a few different jobs that Al would have me to do on his farm. One of the most memorable was pulling thistles out of the ground with leather welding gloves.

These thistles were an invasive plant that would sometimes take over entire fields. If a thistle was bailed up in the hay, it could not be consumed by a cow. It was an important part of the labor on the farm to remove the thistles as they grew. To effectively eradicate the thistle, it needed to be pulled up root and all, thus the leather welding gloves.

To be even more effective in making sure that the plant did not further populate the farm, Al would sometimes place plastic bags over the purple flowers that grew on the thistle before they were plucked from the ground. If left unconstrained, this purple flower would erupt into hundreds of seeds that would take flight like a dandelion and impregnate the land with plants newly delivered by the wind. Pulling thistles always reminded me of the parable of the Sower.

The seeds that the Sower broadcast over his plot of land fell upon four types of ground – wayside, stony, thorny, and the good ground (Matthew 13:3-9). Per our discussion, we are going to focus on what the thorns do to the tender seed that is sown.

In the discourse Jesus offered to the multitudes, He simply said in Matthew 13:7, "And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them." This simple concept was left unexplained to most of His followers, but it contained a very deep spiritual message.

Since the Apostles were allowed to understand the mysteries of the kingdom, Jesus explained the parable to them. Matthew 13:10-11 says, "And the disciples came and said to Him, 'Why do You speak to them in parables?' He answered and said to them, 'Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of Heaven, but to them it has not been given.'

According to the words of Jesus, the meaning of the "thorns" in this parable are as follows. Matthew 13:22 says, "Now he who received seed among the 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." The thorns represent the "cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches." Any person who has inquired as to why some have left the church understands that oftentimes people are pulled away by the allurements of the world.

The Bible specifically mentions individuals who became apostate and in doing so left behind Christianity and, in some instances, the Apostle Paul. 2 Timothy 4: 10 says, "For Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica – Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia." Lest we believe that this happens only to those who are spiritually weak, Demas seems to have had a significant role in Paul's work for he is mentioned in two other places

(Colossians 4:14 and Philemon 1:24). Assuming this is the same "Demas" it appears that any person—even one influenced by an Apostle—can be allured by "this present world."

While working on the farm, pulling thistles taught me about the ubiquitous nature of the thorns. For one thing, the thistles killed every form of vegetation underneath where they were growing. It was amazing to see the bare, dead ground that could be found when a large circle of thistles was pulled up. If something was not done, the thistles would take over entire fields.

**Spiritually speaking, the world cancels out the tender seeds of God's Word in one's life.** No wonder that James speaks of a friendship of the world as being likened unto an adulterous relationship. James 4:4 says, and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God." One who calls himself a Christian cannot carry on an affair with the world and pretend to be a faithful to God at the same time. God cannot be fooled!

Furthermore, as Al and I pulled thistles on his farm, he would always look upon the neighbor's farm in wonder as no attempt was made to remove the thistles. Even though he fought to keep these parasitic plants from taking over his farm, the inactivity of the adjoining farms caused seeds to be dispersed over his property. This same wonderment happens when the faithful bewail the fact that formerly faithful brethren have departed from the straight and narrow pathway (Matthew 7:13-14).

**Spiritually speaking, the worldliness of others can have an influence upon God's people.** The friendships that Christians make can exert pressure upon them to conform to the standards of world. Second Corinthians 6:14 says, "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?" Suffice it to say, we should not give into any ungodliness that characterizes the world in which we live.

**Spiritually speaking, worldliness keeps one from receiving nourishment from the Word.** The tall, gangly thistles would capture sunlight, nutrients, and rain before the other tender plants underneath could receive the sustenance they needed for survival. The cares of the world—ball games, after school events, movies, etc.—sometimes take precedent over the activities of the church. Our devotion to God should be foremost in our minds. 2 Timothy 2:4 says, "No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier."

**Spiritually speaking, the thorns that grow in a person's life can be a byproduct of spiritual apathy.** All that must happen for an invasive species to take over is for one to allow the situation to grow unchecked. This is true of spiritual matters too (cf. Revelation 3:1). That is, many who have been restored after a long period of absence will say, "We just got out of the habit of coming to church and participating in the work." Inactivity leads to decline and decay.

If worldliness has choked the tender seed out of one's life, a restoration needs to be effectuated. Revelation 2:4-5 says, "Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent."