

WORKING FOR THE FUTURE

-Ryan Parsons-

In 1 Corinthians 3, Paul describes himself and his colleagues as fellow workers. Their efforts are described as a united agricultural pursuit in which they only plant seeds and nurture them. It is actually God who brings about growth (vs. 5-8).

If you have done any seeds planting, you know that there is much effort in the beginning and even more waiting after the seeds are in the ground. You can check the progress daily, but you might be disappointed when some do not germinate. You may also be frustrated when the germination doesn't occur and produce a plant in the time stated on the seed packet. The right conditions must be present for things to move forward. One can simulate the right atmosphere and provide the right inputs, but the seed's growth is entirely outside the control of the planter. Moreover, the clock and time frame are between the creator and the seed. Therefore you may be waiting an indefinite amount of time. You may never know the outcome. Are you ok with that?

I am reminded of the prophets' work in prophesying about the coming of Christ. Peter tells us that they planted their given seeds, knowing that they were serving someone else in the future. Therefore, they would not get to experience the fruits of their labor in their lifetime. What a faithful example of selfless ministry!

1Peter 1:10-12

10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, 11 inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. 12 It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

So many times, we crave the fruits of our labors. However, as we plant seeds and nurture souls, we are serving someone else rather than ourselves. Consequently, we may never get to see the fruits. Therefore, we must plant and water faithfully and leave the future outcomes to God. He knows what he is doing!

To the Future,

Ryan