

Jas. 1: 21; 1 Pet. 1: 23. Those who sow it are Christ, the apostles, ministers of the gospel, Sabbath school teachers, and all who try to win others to Christ by word or act. The seed is all good; whether it grows or not depends upon the kind of soil it falls into. **12. Those by the wayside are they that hear**—Matthew adds, "but understand it not" (13: 19), do not "take it in," because they are careless and inattentive. **Then cometh the devil**—The "fowls of the air" which he sends are evil thoughts, foolish and light conversation, —everything which diverts our minds when going out of church or Sabbath school, or after serious words have been spoken to us, and makes us forget so easily what we have heard.

**II. THE ROCKY GROUND. 6. Upon a rock**—Mark says "on stony ground." Where the underlying rock is covered with a thin layer of earth. The rock would become warmed during the day and hasten the sprouting of the grain, while the rainy season lasted, but when the dry weather came it would dry up the moisture all the faster. **13. Receive the Word with joy**—Their emotions are excited but their consciences are not aroused, nor have they any real hatred of sin. **These have no root**—Their hearts are not really changed. They have not given themselves wholly to serve Christ. **In time of temptation**—When anything comes to put their religion to the test they show that they are not willing to sacrifice their pleasure or their gain to the demands of truth and conscience. Ps. 106: 12, 13; Isa. 58: 2.

**III. THE THORNY GROUND. 7. Among**

- 1—What is a parable? (4)
- 2—Why did Jesus teach in parables? (5)
- 3—Describe the "wayside" hearers. (5)
- 4—Describe the "stony ground" hearers (4)
- 5—Describe the "thorny ground" hearers. (4)
- 6—Describe the "good ground" hearers. (4)

**thorns**—On soil full of the strong roots of thistles and thorny shrubs. These grew faster than the grain and choked it. The ears were merely chaff. (Jer. 4: 3.) **14. Choked with cares and riches and pleasures**—They have so much to think about, are so eager to get rich, or are so carried away by pleasure-seeking, that they hear no fruit of holiness in their lives, and are no strength to the church of Christ. 1 Tim. 6: 9, 10; 2 Tim. 4: 10; 1 John 2: 15-17; John 15: 6.

**IV. THE GOOD GROUND. 8. On good ground**—deep, fertile, and free of weeds. **15. An honest and good heart**—a heart like that of Nathanael (John 1: 48), ready to receive the truth in the love of it (Jer. 32: 39). Earnest, simple-minded, humble, teachable people, willing to "receive with meekness the engrafted word." (Jas. 1: 21). **Keep it—hold it fast as a treasure not to be parted with at any price.** Luke 11: 28; John 11: 21; Ps. 119: 11. **Bring forth fruit with patience**—that is with steadfast perseverance in the way of life. Matt. 10: 22; 24: 13; 2 Pet. 1: 5-8. The conclusion of the parable is in the last clause of verse 8. **He that hath ears to hear let him hear**—This was a common expression among the rabbis for calling the attention of their scholars to something important. Christ uses it eight times, Matt. 11: 14, 15; 13: 43; Mark 4: 23; 7: 16 (this one is omitted in the R. V.); Luke 14: 34, 35, and here. Turn up the passages and see what it was that Jesus wished to have remembered in each case. "The parable describes four kinds of Christians: (1) Christians with merely an outward religion; (2) Christians with a shallow religion; (3) Christians with a half religion; (4) Christians with a true religion,"

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Teacher,—Please excuse my absence from Sabbath School to-day, I cannot come because \_\_\_\_\_ I have read the "Daily Portions" and answered the questions as well as I could. I have committed to memory \_\_\_\_\_ verses in addition to the Golden Text, and Questions in the Catechism and have recited them to \_\_\_\_\_ I was at church \_\_\_\_\_ I send with this my Weekly Offering of \_\_\_\_\_ cents.