

FIGURES IN TIMOTHY #3 - THE FARMER

2 TIMOTHY 2:1-6

The owner of the farm is God, the Christian is SHARECROPPING.
Sharecroppers rent land and pay with a part of the harvest.

I. THE FRUIT

- A. Both the flesh and the spirit have fruit GAL. 5:19-23
 - 1. A field left to itself will grow weeds
 - 2. A field to produce crops must be tilled!
- B. Clear out (reprove) unfruitful "weeds" EPH. 5:8-11
- C. Break up the "clods" that choke the crops HOSEA 10:12
- D. You will reap what/after/more than you sew GAL. 6:7:8

II. THE HUSBANDMAN

- A. Stewards (managers) over what God entrusts 1 COR. 4:2
- B. Time is the most valuable substance in life!
 - 1. Buy it back (redeem) out of oblivion! EPH. 5:16
 - 2. Live for God like today is your last PROV.27:1
- C. Talents given by God to glorify God (sing, work, etc.)
- D. Treasure to be used for God - will give account to God
 - 1. Honor the Lord with substance PROV. 3:9-10
 - 2. No guarantee of WEALTH! Only PLENTY (enough)

III. THE LANDOWNER

- A. He owns all - PSA. 24:1, 50:10-12, HAGGAI 2:8
- B. He controls all: Oceans, rivers, forests, etc.
 - 1. We are allowed USE of His property DEUT. 8:11-18
 - 2. Not because of our ability/shrewdness/intellect
- C. Be THANKFUL: He gives the strength to work (vs. 18)

IV. THE LABOR

- A. Must be first (already) a "partaker" - Saved 2 TIM 2:6
 - 1. Most Bible lists contain seven items / $3 \times 3 = 9$
 - 2. Love, Joy, Peace - as a Child of the Father
 - 3. Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness - like Jesus
 - 4. Faith, Meekness, Temperance - from our Comforter
- B. Sluggard farmers never reap bountifully - PROV 13:4
- C. Diligent farmers receive manifold blessing - MARK 4:8

CONCLUSION: Sowing to the flesh reaps corruption, but if we so DILIGENTLY to the Sprit, we reap a Spiritual harvest for God!