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**Weekly Letter - 23 July 2023**

**Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43**

**'God's enormous confidence in you'**

If after the winter you desire a 'lush' green lawn, you can use 'weed and feed', which simply kills the weeds, eradicates the moss, and this allows the grass to fill the gaps, and so create a greener and healthier lawn. Or, you can use a relatively new product (I think!) called, 'Natural lawn feed'. This product does not kill the weeds, but instead strengthens the grass to out compete the weeds and moss. In addition, the slow release of nutrients provides continuous support for the grass, and produces a greener and healthier lawn.

God does not aim to kill the weeds (destroy evil), but chooses to act in a similar way to the 'Natural lawn feed'. For God sees the good seeds in you, and trusts that they will grow, and out compete the weeds (the evil in our lives). In addition, he has sent his Holy Spirit to provide continuous support for the good growth in our lives.

This parable reminds us of God's confidence in the good you can do – ('can' equals 'ought'), and as proven by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, evil does not, nor will it ever, have the last word. God has an indestructible trust in the good, the good in you! He trusts that you will continue to welcome truth into your life, and that you have a glorious destiny. This will not happen (as you know) through self-assertion, but by knowing you are dependent upon God and his 'natural lawn feed' – it is He that strengthens you to 'out compete' your destructive side, and he provides the 'nutrients' you need to grow, and become the person you were destined to be.

This in itself will not eliminate all evil, that is why there is a final judgement in which the weeds of life will be burnt.

This parable also has a very important message for the way we look at people and treat them. For God requires that we do not become 'self-righteous', and so act like the man in Luke 18.11 (do look it up!). Christ's message is both liberating and challenging. How could it be other wise!?

**Stephen**

**PLEASE NOTE:** there will be no weekly letter delivery for the next two weeks due to holidays.

Sunday Morning Worship in Christ Well, and on Zoom at 10.30 am will be led by Rev Lewis Rees  
Bible Reading: Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43

Cycle of Prayer in the Swansea Region – Hall Street, Llanelli

Prayers for every household – we will pray for Cecil Street nos. 66-100

## On going to bed

(Lectionary Readings: Genesis 28.10-19a: Psalm 139.1-12, 23-24: Romans 8.12-25: Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43)

God of all the places there are,  
I ask your blessing now on my own bed  
and on this place I call home.

As I lay my head on my pillow,  
I set down the troubles of the day,  
to rest in your loving arms.

I give myself to you, my Abba,  
the source of my life and the hope of my days.  
I trust you for the hours of night  
and pray that sleep will restore me  
and dreams bring healing and peace.  
May this ordinary space,  
and these unremarkable hours,  
be yet holy and awesome.  
Let my pillow and my life  
be sacred to you,  
and this room and my home  
welcome your presence.

Stay with me if sleep does not come.  
Receive any anxieties that interrupt my rest.  
Bless all who have no bed and little sleep,  
and may the morning bring new hope  
to all your children and every place.

Susan Durber (URC Prayer Handbook 2023)

