

## WHERE IS THE HARVEST?

A gentleman of a growing church told my wife that there was no conflict within his church because their eyes were focused on the lost who needed to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Without changing the gospel message he said if what they did differently would bring people to Jesus, then they needed to do it, no matter what it cost in money or opinion.

Can you agree with that? Is that the philosophy of your church family? If it will bring people to Jesus? If not, then I don't believe your philosophy is in agreement with Jesus'. The goal of the church is to win the lost. Not tomorrow or next week, but today. We call this the harvest of souls for Jesus.

Anyone who has had or does have cancer can realize the desperate need for a cure. If you were to find a cure that worked for you, would you keep it to yourself? If you had a friend, or if anybody you met had cancer too, wouldn't you want to tell them about how you were cured, in case it might work for them too?

Christians, we are living in the most exciting time of human history. There are more people alive today than there ever have been. There is the potential of literally millions of souls that can be harvested into the kingdom. Are we looking for prospective good members for our church family, or are we looking for lost souls that desperately need Jesus as their Savior? There is a difference, and it needs to be the latter.

Know that now is the time. John 4:35a, "Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest?'" The natural thing for any farmer to think is that the harvest was coming, if it was four months before time for the crops to come in. But Jesus is saying that the harvest for souls is not four months away. It is now.

*Roy Goodlet is a retired minister and a member of Murphy Church of Christ. Email him @ royfcc@yahoo.com.*