

## The Christian and Fruitbearing

### Introduction

- A. The Lord Jesus taught that one's fruit (the expression of his life) was an indication of one's character.

Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves . . . Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit . . . Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Matt. 7:15,17,20

- B. To understand the secret and meaning of fruitbearing will enable the Christian to bear more than the minimal crop. God expects us to be fruitful and abundantly **SO**.

### I. The Basis of Fruitfulness.

- A. One must be a branch (a Christian) to bear fruit, John 15:5.

I am the vine, ye are the branches; He that abideth in Me and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without Me ye can do nothing.

Observation: Jesus Christ is the vine. We bear fruit by virtue of our union with Him. He produces fruit through us.

- B. The Christian has been chosen by God to bear fruit, John 15:16.

Ye have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in My Name, He may give it unto you.

Observation: To be a Christian is to bear fruit. Something of the Person, and work of the Lord Jesus Christ will be seen in every true believer.

- C. The work of the Gospel produces fruit. Col. 1:5,6.

For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the Word of the truth of the gospel; which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth.

Observation: The gospel releases a divine power in all who receive its message. The evidence of this is fruitbearing.

### II. The Key to Fruitfulness.

- A. The necessity of a prepared heart, Matthew 12:23.

But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the Word, and understandeth it, which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

- B. The necessity of self-denial, John 12:24.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone; but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

C. The necessity of abiding in Jesus Christ, John 15:2, U.

Every branch in Me that bearing not fruit He taketh away, and every branch that beareth fruit, He purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit ... Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye except ye abide in Me.

D. The necessity of choosing to live free from sin, Romans 6:22.

But now being made free from sin and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

### III. The Explanation of Fruitfulness.

A. Fruit is witness-bearing, winning souls, Romans 1:13.

Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I desired to come unto you . . . that I might have some fruit among you also . . .

B. Fruit is the expression of the Person of Jesus Christ, John 15:5.

I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in Me and I in him the same bringeth forth much fruit . . . .

C. Fruit is the holiness of daily life, Romans 6:22

But now being made free from sin and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness and the end everlasting life.

D. Fruit is the product of the ministry of the Holy Spirit, Gal. 5:22,23.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, and self-control.

E. Fruit is the sacrificial gifts we give to God, Phil. 4:17.

Not because I desire a gift, but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.

F. Fruit is doing that which pleases God, Col. 1:10.

That ye might walk worth of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.

Conclusion: Let's choose and work to produce much fruit.

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