

INTRODUCTION

1. Agricultural metaphor.
 - i. Parable of soils
 - ii. Jn 15 Jesus = vine & we are branches
 - iii. Pastoral ministry: soldier; athlete, farmer [2T 2:3-7].
 - iv. Plant - water - God causes growth [1C 3:5-9].
 - v. Mt 15:13 Father's plants
2. The importance of climate.
3. Rom 5:1-2 Review. Climate of grace.

1st: The Climate of Grace

1. Inclusio [brackets, bookends] of epistles: *grace to you & grace with you.*
 - i. Rom 1:7 & 16:20 _____ viii. 1Thes 1:1 & 5:28
 - ii. 1C 1:3 & 16:23 _____ ix. 2Thes 1:2 & 3:18
 - iii. 2C 1:2 & 13:14 _____ x. 1T 1:2 & 6:21b
 - iv. Gal 1:3 & 6:18 _____ xi. 2T 1:2 & 4:22
 - v. Eph 1:2 & 6:24 _____ xii. Tit 1:4 & 3:15
 - vi. Phil 1:2 & 4:23 _____ xiii. Phile 3 & 25
 - vii. Col 1:2 & 4:18

2. Throughout Scripture, God is speaking to us in grace. [2T 3:16-17].

Applic #1: Let Us Cultivate Fruitful Hearts in the Climate of Grace

1. Planter & waterer each rewarded - glory to God who causes growth.
2. Use "means of grace".
3. Lk 8:5-15 *those who have heard: lesson?* v18a *take care how you listen*
4. What makes the difference? The depth of the seed in the heart.
 - i. Roadside
 - ii. Rocky
 - iii. Thorny
 - iv. Fruitful [Col 3:16-17].
5. Stand in grace, live in grace, walk in grace, bear fruit in grace - in, by & for Christ.