

## Hebrews 6.7-8

### The Purpose of Fruit

God does not need us. It is a fact that either frustrates or comforts us in our labors. The truth is evident from scripture and is self-evident as we see how little our time and efforts on the earth actually are... and yet God calls us to join Him in the work, He demands that we follow, that we obey... and still we know He does not need us. So it does beg the question... why? Why does God demand fruit when that fruit cannot fulfill His righteousness in any meaningful way? Or can it? This morning we will think together about our fruit and just what exactly is accomplished when God's people are faithful to obey, to live out the nature of Christ which has been implanted in our souls.

#### I. CARE DEMANDS FRUIT

God has a right to expect, to demand a good return on His gracious providence.

- a. Not merely outward fruit, designed to make our life a little easier here. False Christianity for the sake of popularity, notoriety, money, power, votes...
- b. God's business is to make men holy. To make men humble, self-denying, righteous, useful, upright, pure in heart and pure in life, abounding in good works, in other words; to make men to be like unto Christ in every way.
- c. If these things are not produced, then the labor and care that God has lavished upon us, poured INTO us, is good only as evidence that we need to be destroyed.
- d. This means that whenever we are under the work of the gospel, we need to be actively participating to have every advantage manifested to us. To be seeking what needs to be changed in us to make us more like Christ. We need to be asking "how is this going to produce my best good and God's greatest glory through my life?"

## II. THE FRUIT IS SPECIFIC

### a. Conversion

Romans 15:16 (NKJV)

16 that I might be a minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

### b. True Holiness, the fruit of the spirit

Galatians 5:22–23 (NKJV)

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

c. Outward testimony of true heart transformation, charity and obedience to God's righteous commands.

2 Corinthians 9:10 (NKJV)

10 Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness,

Philippians 1:11 (NKJV)

11 being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

### III. OUR OBEDIENCE IS GRACIOUSLY ACCEPTED

a. God does not need our fruit to declare His glory, it is all His anyway!

Romans 11.34-36

Job 35:7 (NKJV)

7 If you are righteous, what do you give Him?  
Or what does He receive from your hand?

Job 41:11 (NKJV)

11 Who has preceded Me, that I should pay him?  
Everything under heaven is Mine.

1 Corinthians 4:7 (NKJV)

7 For who makes you differ from another?  
And what do you have that you did not receive?  
Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you  
boast as if you had not received it?

- b. They are not adequate, as if we could satisfy the demands of His actual righteousness. Our best good is STILL but filthy rags in the truth of reality. But God sees our fruit through the eyes of grace. He looks on us with the eyes of a loving father and sees the glorious reaching out of His precious child as beautiful. It is grace unbounded, matchless and wild in its limitless love for us!
- c. They absolutely do not DESERVE reward. You cannot ever blackmail God or bargain from a strength against His will. There is no contract of works for blessing.

#### **IV. IT IS ONLY THROUGH CHRIST**

- a. Jesus makes our persons accepted through faith in Him. It praises His glorious grace.

Ephesians 1:6 (NKJV)

6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

b. He bears our iniquity and takes it away, so that God sees our lives, our hearts, our works through the blood of Christ that covers and cleanses us. –

2Corinthians 5.21

c. He adds the beauty of His own personal mediation to our works. –

John 17.6-26

1 Timothy 2:5–6 (NKJV)

5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,

## V. GOD GLORIFIES HIMSELF IN OUR WORKS

a. The outward, revealed will of God is honored and God is glorified in us as we obey.

Matthew 6:10 (NKJV)

10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.

b. We demonstrate the nature, power and efficacy of the grace of God in our works.

i. In our sin we demonstrate that we hate God from the depths of our being. It dishonors Him

Ezekiel 36:20 (NKJV)

When they came to the nations, wherever they went, they profaned My holy name— when they said of them, ‘These are the people of the LORD, and yet they have gone out of His land.’

ii. When we obey from the passion of our hearts we demonstrate that God has transformed that rebel heart and He is glorified in that work.

Philippians 2:13 (NKJV)

13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

c. They express the power of the mediation of Christ. His death, His wisdom, His love.

- i. We declare the praises of Him who called us
  - ii. We declare the excellence of the things taught (and the One who taught them to us)
  - iii. We demonstrate the power and efficacy of His blood and of His intercession
  - iv. For nothing else can ever overcome our natural sin and evil.
- d. God extends His love and care to others through our fruit.
- i. They see the works, but also God demonstrates the reason WHY these things are done.
  - ii. We see and praise God for the things that he allows us to do.
  - iii. They are like the first fruits unto God from His creation.

James 1:18 (NKJV)

18 Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.



1. We are the promise of the redemption of the creation from the bondage of futility which it has been placed under.

### Romans 8.20-23

VI. God Delights in our Fruit - whenever there is any real fruit, no matter how small, no matter how preliminary, God delights in that fruit. He is pleased to accept it and is pleased to reward the fruit that He has caused us to bear.

a. God is pleased to honor His children's work

- i. Nothing is so small that God does not see and bless it.
- ii. Nothing shall ever be lost that is done from love for God
- iii. Not even a cup of water –

### Mark 9:41 (NKJV)

For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink in My name, because you belong to Christ, assuredly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.

- iv. To deny this is to defame God, to besmirch His character and to deny what He tells us in His Word.
  
- b. This gracious response excludes all works righteousness
  - i. It excludes all expectation of strict judgment. God is the judge, but He is also a loving father!
    - 1. The flavor of the covenant is such
    - 2. The old could not take away sin
    - 3. The old could not be pleased with the imperfect obedience which is our best.
  
  - ii. The work of Jesus Christ demands it
    - 1. He has taken away our evil and paid for our iniquity
    - 2. He has blessed our weakness and crowned our frailty with glory.

- iii. This wondrous truth keeps us and God in our proper respective places in our minds and hearts. For the sin of self-love is hard to kill.
  - 1. Excludes all human merit and boasting
  - 2. Makes us love and adore God's grace and condescension toward us
  - 3. Makes us continually thankful for Christ and His mediation
  
- iv. Allows us to have comfort in our duties, encouragement in them and hope from them as they show us the change and transformation of our hearts.