

## ***Spiritual Fruitlessness***

### **Ezekiel 15:1-8**

#### Main Point:

Abide in Jesus, the true Vine, so that you bear much fruit and are useful to Him.

1. Spiritual fruitlessness is a problem in the church.
2. Spiritual fruitlessness makes you useless to the LORD.
3. Spiritual fruitlessness leads to the burning fires of God's wrath.
4. Spiritual fruitlessness is overcome by abiding in Jesus, the true Vine.

**Psalms 80:8** 8 You have brought a vine out of Egypt; You have cast out the nations, and planted it. (NKJV)

**Isaiah 5:1-2** 1 ... My Well-beloved has a vineyard On a very fruitful hill. 2 He dug it up and cleared out its stones, And planted it with the choicest vine. He built a tower in its midst, And also made a winepress in it; So He expected *it* to bring forth *good* grapes But it brought forth wild grapes. (NKJV)

**2 Timothy 2:21** 21 ... If anyone cleanses himself ..., he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work. (NKJV)

**Robert Murray McCheyne** "It is not great talents God blesses so much as great likeness to Jesus."

**Matthew Henry** "Professors of religion, if they do not live up to their profession, but contradict it ... are the most unprofitable creatures in the world ..."

**2 Chronicles 36:19** 19 Then they burned the house of God, broke down the wall of Jerusalem, burned all its palaces with fire, and destroyed all its precious possessions. (NKJV)

**John 15:6** 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw *them* into the fire, and they are burned. (NKJV)

**Hebrews 6:7-8** 7 For the earth which drinks in the rain that often comes upon it, and bears herbs useful for those by whom it is cultivated, receives blessing from God; 8 but if it bears thorns and briers, *it is* rejected and near to being cursed, whose end *is* to be burned. (NKJV)

**Matthew Henry** "Those who are not fruitful to the glory of God's grace will be fuel to the fire of his wrath ..."

**John 15:8** 8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. (ESV)

**John 15:1** 1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. (NKJV)

**John 15:4-5** 4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 "I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. (NKJV)

**J.C. Ryle** "Separate from the parent stem, it has no life of its own. The sap and juice that flow from the stem are the origin and maintaining power of all its leaves, buds, blossoms, and fruit."

**John 15:7** 7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. (NKJV)

**J.C. Ryle** "To have his words abiding in us, is to keep his sayings and precepts continually before our memories and minds, and to make them the guide of our actions, and the rule of our daily conduct and behavior."

**Sinclair Ferguson** "Growth in holiness involves our doing what God's Word tells us. But more fundamental than our doing God's Word is what God's Word is doing to us!"

**Richard Phillips** "The fruit that God desired from Israel but did not find, he gained for himself by sending his own Son to be the true vine, from which his new and righteous people would live and bear good fruit."