

## Fruit – Pt 1 Evil fruit from corrupt trees

Today we begin a new study on fruit. In this teaching we establish three points – (1) There are good trees and corrupt trees, (2) by their fruits you will know them, and (3) Israel had become the vine of Sodom bearing evil fruit.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded

### 1, There are good trees and corrupt trees.

“Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit” (Matt.7: 17).

Men are like trees – Mk.8: 24.

### 2. You will know a tree by their fruit.

“Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them” (Matt.7: 20) – Lk.6:44 “For every tree is known by his own fruit.”

It is physically impossible for a fig tree to “bear olive berries” or for a fountain to “both yield salt water and fresh” (Jam.3: 12).

### 3. Israel became the vine of Sodom bearing evil fruit.

“For their vine is of the vine of Sodom, and of the fields of Gomorrah: their grapes are grapes of gall, their clusters are bitter: Their wine is the poison of dragons, and the cruel venom of asps” (Deut.32: 32 & 33).

Illustration to help apply our teaching to our life.

In an email exchange with a Roman Catholic (RC) from Nelson there were glimpses of Christian truths mixed with blasphemy. During our discussions he always defended his church’s doctrines even when shown that they were contrary to scripture. His actions proved he was an evil tree that bears fruit of his father the devil.

Question to think about.

- i) Can an evil tree bring forth good fruit?
- ii) If we think we see good fruit in a person that is a child of Satan how can that be?

Our answer from the scriptures.

i) “A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit” (Matt.7:18). “For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness” (Rom.6: 20).

ii) If we think we see good fruit in a person that is an evil tree, that is an “enemy of all righteousness” that seeks “to pervert the right ways of the Lord” (Acts 13: 10), then we show (a) something of the subtly of the devil (2 Cor.11: 3) and (b) we show we too have a level of spiritual blindness. But if we truly seek truth and earnestly prove all things (1 Thes.5: 21) then eventually the type of tree a person is will be evident.

The devil bears fruit of deception, deviousness, delay, destruction and discouragement. There is no biblical repentance with evil trees and there is no desire for truth. And remember – “the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness” (Rom.1: 18).

Be skilful in proving those who “honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me” (Mk.7: 6). “Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them” (Matt.7: 20). And remember – a corrupt tree will not bring “forth good fruit” (Lk.6: 43) but evil.