

## Fruit – Pt 3 How do we bear more good fruit?

This our third teaching on the subject of fruit. Last week we established three points – (1) Seed that falls on good ground hears the word, understands it – bears good fruit, (2) we are to bring forth fruit unto God, and (3) we are to go and bring forth fruit that remains. This week we establish– (1) we bring forth fruit when we abide in Jesus and He in us, ii) when the gospel is preached it brings forth fruit, iii) God purges those who bring forth fruit to bear more fruit, and iv) God chastises our sin that we might bear the peaceable fruit of righteousness.

According to the scriptures.

### 1. We bring forth fruit when we abide in Jesus and He in us.

“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” (Jn.15: 5).

### 2. When the gospel is preached it brings forth fruit.

“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” (Col 1:5 & 6).

### 3. God purges those who bring forth fruit to bear more fruit.

“Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit” (Jn.15: 2).

### 4. God chastises our sin– to bear the peaceable fruit of righteousness.

“If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons...Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness.” (Heb.12: 7 & 11) c.f – 1 Cor.11: 32 “But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord”.

Illustration to help apply our teaching to our life.

Have you ever pruned a tree and afterwards thought – Oh my God, I think I have killed it...I think I pruned it back too far? Is it ever going to grow back?

Only to find that after you water it, feed it and the sun shines it brings forth new growth, new branches, and eventually bears 100 fold more fruit than ever before.

Our God is precise in His pruning – imagine the fruit when He prunes you back!

Question to think about.

Why do some Christians stop bearing fruit?

Our answer from the scriptures.

\* The lusts of the world strangle them and they neglect their time with the Lord, they abide less and less in Him, in His word, and in prayer and worship to Him.

\* They harden their hearts to God when He calls them to preach the gospel.

\* When God prunes their branches – they seek to understand why and never accept His purging, hence their growth is stunted, and they bear less and less fruit.

\* When they sin and God chastises them they do not accept or endure His chastisement and so do not bear the peaceable fruit of righteousness (Heb.12: 11).

Let us remember to abide in Jesus, preach Christ when given the opportunity, accept God’s pruning, and His chastisement when we sin that we may bear much good fruit!