

Fruit – Pt 4 & final The result of bearing good fruit

This is our fourth & final teaching on the subject of fruit. Last week we established four points – (1) Abide in Jesus & He in you (ii) preach the gospel and you will bring forth fruit, (iii) God purges those who bring forth fruit to bear more fruit, and (iv) God chastises us for our sin and we bear the peaceable fruit of righteousness. This week we establish the result of bearing good fruit – (1) on earth we glorify God the Father and the Son, and (2) in heaven we receive rewards!

According to the scriptures – .

1. On earth the result of us bearing fruit is –

i) we glorify God the Father

“Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit” (Jn.15: 8).

Others glorify the Father when they see our works, our fruit – “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Matt. 5:16).

All men are called to glorify the Father – “Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened” (Rom 1:21).

ii) we glorify the Son when we preach the glorious gospel of Christ crucified

“Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Thes.2: 14).

2. In heaven the result of us bearing fruit on earth is –

i) we receive rewards at the judgment seat of Christ for the fruit that remain.

“Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward” (1Cor 3:13 & 14), c.f.– 2 Cor.5: 10 “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad”.

Illustration to help apply our teaching to our life.

One of my many struggles has been pride. As a heathen man I struggled wanting people to like me, and since salvation it is a weakness that the devil uses against me. For the apostle Paul – “there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure” (2 Co.12: 7).

Questions to think about.

i) What happens when we desire the glory of the fruit that the Spirit bears in us?

ii) What are the scriptural remedies God has given to help us give Him the glory?

Our answers from the scriptures.

i) When we desire the glory we disobey God – “For who maketh thee to differ from another ? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?” (1 Cor.4: 7). Hence we take the glory which is due the Father and His Son and knowingly or unknowingly we encourage others to glorify us. And the Lord says – “my glory will I not give to another” (Isa.42: 8).

ii) Scriptural remedies – give the glory to God, edify the body of Christ, do all things with humility of heart and desire fruit to your brethren's account (Phil.4: 17). Amen!