

### LOOK HOW BEAUTIFUL THE FRUIT

**"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly... he shall be like a tree planted by the waters of life that bringeth forth his fruit in his season," Psalm 1:1, 3.**

It's great to see fruit of any kind growing. Where I live, there are fruitful trees, everywhere. Fruit is especially viewable when Lavon and I travel on hwy. 99. Trees line the road and, when its the season, fruit is abundantly displayed all over the productive San Joaquin Valley.

*"Look at the oranges grow,"* I remark, over and over. When we go north, olive trees and all kinds of nut trees abound. I'm am always amazed when I look at God's wonderful creation that was given to mankind. Even after the Fall of Genesis, we still live in God's creation of wonder and productivity.

Yes, fruit - any fruit - is beautiful no matter where it grows. Thus, one doesn't have to live in California (or Hawaii) to appreciate or, enjoy a fruitful experience. I remember many Pear orchards all around the mission field of Grand Junction, Colorado in the mid 70's.

And, all kinds of other fruitful crops have the same attractiveness, too. Here, in Sacramento and surrounding areas, fields of alfalfa, rice and tomatoes grow in abundance. Walnuts are a big item here, as well. It's just a good feeling to see what skilled growers are capable of producing out of this creation; even, a Fallen one. Just think about the new earth that's a-comin'.

Whether, the fruit is hanging on the tree or growing on the ground, man is going to eat good! All that he has to do is reach out and pick what variety of fruit he wants to enjoy.

What a gift the Lord has given to mankind. And, there's more to fruit than what grows out of the ground. The LORD uses His creation in another way that is profitable to man.

God uses "FRUIT" to impart spiritual truth to us. Although, many call it, **"Spiritualizing,"** it is God's method of teaching us things that go beyond what we see, naturally.

The Bible instructs us to go beyond the physical creation. What we may know in the physical, is to be applied to Spiritual truth - in order to get the spiritual message of who God is and how He redeems His people.

Many such explanations of "FRUIT" can be cited; for, the Bible is loaded with that term. We see trees, fruit and mountains, etc., to represent nations and events, at times.

And, when we come to the New Covenant, the word "**fruit**" is used to explain lifestyles; which, may be either, acceptable or unacceptable to the Lord. Look at the words of John, the Baptist, for example: "**Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance,**" Matthew 3:8.

John was not going to baptize the religious sects of the Jews without some **fruit** in their lives. **Fruit** was needed for one to be "**worthy**" and fitting (Lk 3:8) of baptism in John's day.

And, worthiness is needed in our day. We don't baptize babies; for they are - first of all, innocent and secondly, they cannot show any fruit of the Holy Spirit in their lives. They are innocent.

We do see the New Covenant truths about fruit expressed in the New Covenant Church in many places. Letters to churches (saved & baptized believers) explain spiritual truths with the word, "FRUIT," in Paul's teachings. There's, "**fruit**" of **the Spirit: love, joy, etc.** (Gal5:22). "**Goodness**" is of the "**FRUIT**" of the Holy Spirit in Eph. 5:9. Then, there's being **filled** with "FRUIT" of righteousness, found in Phil. 1:11. So, we find that fruit needs to be produced in a believer's life.

While, just about everyone knows of "Tree of Life" that was blocked off from Adam and Eve; as well as, "The Forbidden Fruit" they were commanded not to eat in the beginning, we should also be aware of other "fruitful" subjects in God's Word.

John, the Baptist - no one greater born of woman (Mt 11:11) - demanded true repentance before he administered baptism. The demand hasn't changed, since.

Further, Jesus taught many lessons concerning fruit; especially, how we are able to produce it within our lives. Nothing grows spiritually without Jesus. "**I am the true vine,**" He stated in John 15:1.

While, man is incapable of producing fruit unless he is in Jesus, we therefore, see **every saved person in Christ**. We base this on what Jesus said in verse 3: "**Now ye are clean through the word.**"

To me, the "True Vine" statement is a general declaration of who Christ was; but, I also think that there is no possibility to be a branch or, to be clean or, even abide in Christ unless a transformation has been granted by the Father.

Thus, once one is a clean branch by believing in Jesus, the declarative statement gives way to a spiritual reality. Now, as a clean branch, one must abide in order to bring forth fruit.

We want the "**FRUIT**" teaching to continue to represent a spiritual truth. That is, as one may bear fruit, one may also not abide. "Not abiding" leads to withering, having a person's work (s) burned up.

This was Paul's thought in I Corinthians 3:15, I think; for, Paul was a once-saved-always-saved, kind of servant. Nevertheless, "If a man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: **but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.**"

I trust that this article produces the required "**fruit**" of interest and study within your heart. There's so many passages, that when one studies them; such as, "**The Parable of the Sower**" in Matthew 13, he comes away with a different view than merely, saved and lost. He sees that Jesus expects fruit to be produced in every believer's life.

Fruitful growth is in the teachings of Jesus, everywhere. Fruit shows that the Holy Spirit is working, honoring Jesus and His work. And, listening Paul, we learn that producing fruit may prove not to be easy: "**which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer,**" 2Thess. 1:5.