

For Our Information

Joyce Venable is still not doing well. Bill Venable is doing better.

Annette Gray is recovering from eye surgery.

John LaValla spent a couple of days in the hospital last week. He is back home now and doing better.

Adene Gray is visiting in Oklahoma for a couple weeks. Ruben & Brenda Keisler are vacationing in Mexico this week. Jonathan & Jon Ross Simpson are out of town.

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about our work in the Lord's Kingdom.

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We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

All sunshine makes a desert. The eternal God, whom we serve, knew that long before men "...for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust" (**Matthew 5:45**). God sends both sunshine and rain, there must be a balance.

Is it possible that in spiritual matters some brethren do not understand this principle? Many seem to think they should be able to go to worship feeling good and leave worship feeling good. The "spiritual fur" must always be rubbed the right way.

Is it possible that some preachers feel it ought to be that way? When preachers always know how to approach every subject in a way that will never make anyone unhappy or when they never deal with subjects on which there are differing positions, one wonders.

How did the Holy Spirit view this matter? The young preacher, Timothy, was commanded, "*Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine...*" (**2Timothy 4:2-3**). The Holy Spirit wants a balance in preaching -- reproving, rebuking, and exhorting.

While we do not want any preacher to be a wet blanket, we are thankful that some preachers believe All sunshine makes a desert.

Seeking His Righteousness

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Fruit As Evidence

Ron Lloyd

There is some value in being able to counter the pseudo-scientific attacks upon the Genesis record of creation. This helps us be stronger in our faith and thereby to teach others. However, we may become expert (I am not) in this field and lose our souls. Jesus has something to say about fruit bearing. Saints need to recognize and produce fruit pleasing to the Lord. Our faith must be "—in the power of God."

Jesus said, in **Matthew 7:17** that "*every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth*



A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit.

Matthew 7:18



Meet With Us

Worship Services

Sunday 10:20 am & 5:00 pm

Bible Classes

Sunday 9:30 AM

Wednesday 7:00 PM

1512 Tanner St. Malvern, AR

TannerSt.com

evil fruit." By the Lord's own words we recognize two types of fruit or produce. One is good. It is good in every respect. It not only looks good but is in fact nutritious. On the other hand there is an evil fruit. A literal rending of "evil" is "rotten." Nothing is more distasteful than rotten fruit!

In the early stages one must take care concerning the produce or fruit of the harvest. A variety of plants may grow in the same environment. This well known fact is the basis of the parable of the tares in **Matthew 13:24-30,36-43**. The seed sown is all important. Different seeds produce different plants. In the parable both the wheat and tares flourished. In the harvest the tares were separated and burned.

In the context of our first passage we hear the defense, in **Matthew 7:22**, of those the Lord rejects, *"—have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?"* Twice, in verses **16** and **20** Jesus has made the point that fruits identify the false teacher and those who follow them. Their fruit, not appearance, manner or deportment, identifies them. They claimed what they had done was *"—in thy name."* Still, like Simon of **Acts 8:22** their hearts were not right with God. They *"worked iniquity."* Literally they acted outside of or without law! Jesus, knowing all things, reveals them as they are inwardly, *"—ravening wolves."* They called Jesus *"Lord, Lord."* Jesus does not question their zeal or fervor which are marks of sincerity, he rather identifies the basis of their actions. They were without law, consequently; their fruits were evil. Fruits can be identified.

Christ's ambassador, the apostle Paul, wrote in

Store In My Heart

Galatians 1:6-8

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel-- not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.

There is only one Gospel. It is the good news of the Savior, Jesus the Christ. Accept nothing else.

Make sure you are following the Gospel as delivered by God through His inspired messengers. Test the teaching you are receiving against the Word of God. Any errors in teaching will be revealed when exposed to the Truth.

Galatians 5:22-23 that *"the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."* Here is fruit that is within law. There is no law prohibiting it. Like the false teacher they have said *"Lord, Lord."* The difference is that they loved and obeyed the Lord. Love for God is inseparable from obedience. Consider **Exodus 20:6**. Moses wrote that God shows *"--mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments."* Reading of **2Peter 1:5-10** is helpful in examining our fruits. Our faith or belief in God derived from the scriptures is shown in virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and charity or love. This list does not put love last. Indeed the order is not of particular significance for all of these descriptions of character and behavior are a consequence of faith. Love for God and his word results in an active, saving faith.

Luke writes, in **Acts 2:41-47** that saints were identified as being different. They lived lives of praise. They had greater concerns for one another than their concerns for financial security. Their lives of praise caused them to have *"favor with all the people."* Leaving Jerusalem *"they went everywhere preaching the word."* Our religious friends are taken aback because we insist upon a strict accounting according to the scriptures. They think we put love at a lower level. Disciples must be at once *"set for the defense of the gospel,"* and demonstrate patience and brotherly kindness. It is not an either or option.

(Consider Glenn Melton's article on the back page dealing with the imbalance of concern for good feelings as opposed to faithful gospel preaching. DLH)