

“The Work of the Lord (Part II)”
“Our Fruit Remains”
By Jesse Rairdon
September 20th, 2009

Jesse started out with a review from Part I, the message which Parrish Lee brought two weeks ago: Abraham and Lot faced battles; we have to contend for the faith; sometimes you feel lonely, but God gives us victory through Christ; battles happen because there is darkness and unrighteousness in the world. Psalms 34:17 tells us that God delivers the righteous.

John 15:16 I have chosen you ... that your fruit should remain.

This message has three parts: (based on the definition of the word “fruit.”)

- I Supporting the Seed
- II Being Useful
- III Producing Pleasant Results

Supporting the Seed

Luke 8:11-15 The explanation of the parable of the sower.

The seed is the Word of God. There are a lot of different reasons that people don't let the Word take root in their hearts given in the parable. One in particular: The people represented by thorny ground let the cares of this life distract them from the Word; but we are commanded to cast our cares upon Him, for He careth for us.

Philippians 1:3-11 ... being filled with the fruits of righteousness.

Being Useful

John 15:1-9 the parable of the vine and the branches

You can't bear fruit unless you abide in Jesus. You don't see branches lying on the ground bearing fruit, do you?

Jesse shared that one of the hardest times in his life was going with his sister to bury their brother. Jesse's siblings were in a car accident many years ago, but his brother suffered brain damage which very slowly killed him. Even as hard as that was, though, he still recognized that he needed to be that light, that testimony, of God's love.

Psalms 1:2-3 ... And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season ...

This passage also talks about sitting in the seat of the scornful. The scornful person is always complaining, always knows a better way to do things, but never offers to actually help. The righteous says, "Here am I, send me."

Producing Pleasant Results

Isaiah 5:1-4 God expects pleasant results from us. He has given us a fruitful hill (in this ministry); He fenced it (He protects us); He took out the stones (so that our hearts would not be the stony ground in the parable of the sower); He planted the choicest vine (He gave us great seed); He built a winepress (that doesn't sound like it would feel good, but it's necessary); and, after all that, He got wild grapes. What do you suppose wild grapes taste like? Bitter? Maybe frustrated?

Jeremiah 17:7-8 more about the tree planted by the water, that shall not cease yielding fruit (as opposed to the tree in Matthew 21:29, that *looked like* it was fruitful, but it wasn't. Don't just look like a Christian, *be* a Christian).

Galatians 5:22-23 the fruits of the Spirit

Keep in mind that love is an action. You can tell somebody that you love them as often as you like, but if there are no actions to go with what you say, eventually they are going to realize that you don't mean it. When it talks about peace as being a fruit of the Spirit, it isn't talking about peace as the world gives. Sometimes it can be tempting to just stamp out a problem, but there may be a tender plant close to that problem that will get stamped out, too.

John 15:16 I have chosen you ... that your fruit should remain.

Jesse also gave us some homework: To go to the International website and look over the sermon notes for "The Lord Is My Shepherd" by General Pastor Peter F. Paine from August 2nd, 2009, and "He Cares for You" by Pastor Hubert Ulysse the previous week, July 26th, 2009.