

Studies in Christianity

S#1.

Christian Living #4

Some Fruit We Must Bear

S#2.

Text : **Col. 1: 3-12** ; **Titus 3: 1-8, 14**

A. We have observed that the scriptures teach that Christian must bear fruit to God's glory.

S#3.

1. It is the nature of man to want to get “credit” for what he
2. A Christian does his good deeds to glorify God.
Matt. 5: 16 – Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

S#4.

B. By a previous lesson we examined some characteristics of fruit bearing

1. From a sincere heart
2. Done consistently – a lifestyle
3. Ever increasing with age and experience
4. Done to benefit others – self not considered
5. Christian good works are to be observable – to glorify God
6. Done to show mercy and make peace.

C. This brief lesson will observe only :

S#5.

1. Knowledge is required to bear fruit
2. Bearing fruit involves meeting needs
3. God considers some of our words as fruit.
4. Doing good deeds is bearing fruit.
5. Making disciples is bearing fruit

I. Knowledge is required to enable a Christian to bear fruit.

S#6.

A. The Christian religion requires knowledge from start to finish.

S#7.

1. **Acts 8** ... The treasurer was reading the O.T., but Philip taught Jesus to him.
2. **Rom. 10: 17**– So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.
3. **Rom. 6: 17** – But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, **18** and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

4. Continued salvation depends upon our continuing in the form of teaching.

I Cor. 15: 1 – Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached **S#8.** to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, **2** by which also you are saved, **IF you hold fast the word** which I preached to you, **unless you believed in vain.**

B. The scriptures link knowledge and wisdom to the ability to live right.

1. Virtue in one's life is fruit of the word of God in his heart.

Col. 1: 5 – because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you **S#9.** previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel 6 which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as it has been doing in you also since the day you heard of it and understood the grace of God in truth;

2. Being filled with a knowledge of the truth and wisdom and understanding will generate a worthy walk in the person of faith.

a. **Col. 1: 9** – For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not **S#10.** ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, **10 so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord,** to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

b. NOTICE : Part of walking worthy is bearing ever more fruit.

c. It is worthy of note that one CAN walk worth if knowledge increases.

NOTE : Knowledge must increase as one matures because the definition of a “worthy walk” is different in H.S. than it was in elementary.

3. Jesus explained the need to develop spiritual discernment.

Matt. 16: 3 – And in the morning, 'There will be a storm today, for the sky is **S#11.** red and threatening.' Do you know how to discern the appearance of the sky, but cannot discern the signs of the times?

II. Bearing fruit involves meeting needs.

S#12.

A. The Christian religion is founded upon the principle of love.

S#13.

1. **Matt. 22: 37** ... Love God with all your heart and your neighbor as yourself.
2. **John 13: 34** ... The love that we have for one another distinguishes us.
3. **Luke 6: 27-36** ... Christians even love their enemies.
4. The God we serve is the personification of love.

I John 4: 16 – We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

B. Love is condition of heart that causes of to focus outward.

1. Part of learning to love is developing a compassionate heart.

Col. 3: 12 – So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, **S#14.**
put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;
13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint
 against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. **14** Beyond
all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

2. Compassion is defined as : sympathetic pity and concern for the sufferings or misfortunes of others.

C. Faith requires that a Christian alleviate the sufferings of others.

1. The definition of faith requires a benevolent response to suffering.

James 2: 14 – What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but **S#15.**
 he has no works? Can that faith save him? **15** If a brother or sister is
 without clothing and in need of daily food, **16** and one of you says to
 them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled." and yet you do not give
 them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? **17** Even so
faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.

2. Every Christian is required to do what he can to help those in need. **S#16.**

Tit. 3: 14 – Our people must also learn to engage in good deeds
 to meet pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.

3. If those who do not meet pressing needs are unfruitful,
 then to meet pressing needs is to bear fruit.

III. God considers some of our words as fruit to His glory.**S#17.****A. Though man is the only one of God's creatures capable of speech we have a tendency not to take that ability very seriously.**

1. God hears ever word we say BEFORE we speak it.

Psa. 139: 3 – You scrutinize my path and my lying down, And are intimately **S#18.**
 acquainted with all my ways. **4** Even before there is a word on my
tongue, Behold, O Lord, You know it all.

2. God holds us into account for every word we speak.

Matt. 12: 26 – But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they **S#19.**
 shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment. **37** "For by your
 words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

B. God requires that we keep our speech pure.**S#20.**

1. Our speech paints a portrait of our hearts.

Luke 6: 45 – The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth
 what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth
 what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.

2. By God's direction Christianity teaches a set of values that include :

II Tim. 1: 7 – For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, S#21.
but of power and love and discipline.

3. We are instructed to use this self-discipline to control our thoughts :

II Cor. 10:5 – We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,

C. By taking every thought captive we are enabled to produce good fruit. S#22.

1. Good speech draws unbelievers to Christ.

Col. 4: 5 – Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. **6** Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.

2. A heart of love produces good speech which edifies the hearer.

Eph. 4: 29 – Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear. S#23.

D. The fruit of thankful lips is praise which is a pleasing sacrifice to God.

Heb. 13: 15 – Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise S#24.
to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name. **16** And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

IV. Generally speaking, doing good and sharing is bearing fruit. S#25.

A. My favorite description of Jesus is :

Acts 10:38 – You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with S#26.
the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good
and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

B. We are instructed to follow in His footsteps.

1. **Gal. 6: 9** – Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if S#27.
we do not grow weary. **10** So then, while we have opportunity,
let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are
of the household of the faith.

2. Special instructions for those who are rich; that includes ALL Americans..

I Tim. 6: 17 – Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be S#28.
conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly
supplies us with all things to enjoy. **18** Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good
works, to be generous and ready to share, **19** storing up for themselves the treasure of
a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.

C. Even the giving of money is considered a good fruit IF to God's glory.

1. **Rom. 15: 25** – But now I am going to Jerusalem serving the saints **26** For **S#29.**
Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make a contribution
for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem. **27 ... 28** Therefore,
when I have finished this, and have put my seal on this fruit of theirs,
I will go on by way of you to Spain.
2. Sometimes the fastest way to meet pressing needs (**Tit. 3:14**) is to send money.

V. Making disciples is bearing fruit to God's glory.

S#30.

A. The Lord's Apostle referred to those converted to Christ as "fruit."

S#31.

Rom. 1: 13 – I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that often I have planned
to come to you (and have been prevented so far) so that I may obtain
some fruit among you also, even as among the rest of the Gentiles.

**B. The act of Jesus being raised from the dead it was fruit to the glory of God
and made it possible for Christians to be fruit and to bear fruit.**

1. **Rom. 7: 4** – Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law **S#32.**
through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him
who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.
2. Jesus died in order to save us, but He saved us TO bear fruit .. do things.
Eph. 2: 10 – For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

CONCLUSION :

A. We have seen some examples of fruit we can bear to glorify God.

S#33.

1. Knowledge is required to bear fruit
2. Bearing fruit involves meeting needs
3. God considers some of our words as fruit.
4. Doing good is bearing fruit.
5. Making disciples is bearing fruit

B. We can glorify God in these ways and many more.

S#34.

Matt. 5: 16 – Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may
see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

C. God's challenge is before us. S#35.

II Thes. 3: 31 – But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of doing good.

S36. ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**Colossians 1: 3-12**

3 We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, **4** since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints; **5** because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel **6** which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as it has been doing in you also since the day you heard of it and understood the grace of God in truth; **7** just as you learned it from Epaphras, our beloved fellow bond-servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf, **8** and he also informed us of your love in the Spirit.

9 For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, **10** so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; **11** strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously **12** giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.

Titus 3: 1-8, 14

Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed, **2** to malign no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men. **3** For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another. **4** But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, **5** He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, **6** whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, **7** so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. **8** This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men. **9** But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and strife and disputes about the Law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. **10** Reject a factious man after a first and second warning, **11** knowing that such a man is perverted and is sinning, being self-condemned. **14** Our people must also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.