

Fruitful or Fruitless

Introduction:

1. The Christian must bear fruit (John 15:2, 8).
 - a. Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)
 - b. Fruit of evangelism (Philippians 4:17)
2. What are the causes of fruitlessness?
 - I. Faulty Hearing (Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23)
 - A. Not taking it in
 - B. Not taking it seriously
 - C. Not taking it far enough
 - II. Feigning Obedience (Matthew 3:8-10)
 - A. Christianity is about doing, not just saying.
 - B. Men are known by their fruits (Matt. 7:15-20; 12:33).
 - C. The fruit of sin is death (Rom. 6:21-23).
 - III. Forgetting Faithfulness (John 15:1-8)
 - A. We must abide in Christ, the Vine.
 - B. We must endure pruning (Heb. 12:11-13).
 - C. We must not give up (Heb. 3:12 – 4:2; Rev. 2:10).
 - IV. Failure in Growing (Matthew 21:19; Mark 11:12-14)
 - A. Full of promise, but produce no fruit
 - B. God is patient, but we must grow (Luke 13:6-9; 2 Peter 1:5-8).
 - C. We must grow with patience (James 5:7-8).
 - D. We must grow in understanding (1 Cor. 14:13-15).
 - V. Forsaking Evangelism (John 4:34-38)
 - A. Teaching the Gospel was Jesus' work and meat.
 - B. It must be ours as well (Rom. 1:13; 1 Cor. 16:15).
 - VI. False Teaching (Jude 1:3-19)
 - A. The Gospel produces fruit (Col. 1:5-12).
 - B. Error is unfruitful (Ephesians 5:11).
 - C. We must stand and defend against false doctrine.

Conclusion: ***The fruitful inherit eternal life (Rev. 22:1-5)!***