**R817 - Rumination for Sept. 27, 2020 by K.C. Ung**

The **T**heme: **Be Fruitful**[berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com/)

The **T**ext: *Herein is My Father glorified, that ye bear much* ***fruit****; so shall ye be My disciples.* Jn. 15:8

The **T**hots:

What constitutes Fruit in the Christian life?

Intro. ***F****ruit* is used in Scripture literally (Gen. 30:2 cf. 1:12) and **F**iguratively (Psa. 127:3 cf. Mt. 7:17)

 **F**our types of **F**igurative **F**ruits are mentioned in the New Testament, viz.

1. **The Fruit of Winning souls for Christ.**

*The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that* ***W****inneth souls is* ***W****ise.* Pro. 11:30

1. We are **C**hosen to bear fruit for **C**hrist. Jn. 15:16 *I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit…*
2. Paul was **B**urdened to visit the Roman **B**elievers to **B**ear some fruit from among them.

*…oftentimes I purposed to come unto you…that I might have some fruit among you also.* Rom. 1:13

1. The **C**olossian **C**hristians were the fruits of the **G**ospel and of **G**od’s **G**race.

*Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you,*

*since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth:* Col. 1:6

1. **The Fruit of Worshipping God**
2. Bring **F**orth the **F**ruit of your **L**ips unto God. Heb. 13:15

*By Him therefore* ***L****et us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually,*

*the fruit of our* ***L****ips giving thanks to His name.*

1. ***T****ake with you words, and* ***T****urn to the LORD:* Hos. 14:2
2. ***S****ay unto Him, Take away all iniquity, and* ***R****eceive us graciously:*

***S****o will we* ***R****ender the calves* [*fruit*, NRSV] *of our lips.*

Note:"*calves*" is Heb. *par*, used figuratively for “*fruit*".

1. Show **F**orth the **F**ruit of the **G**ospel from the **G**race of **G**od in your **L**ife: Col. 1:5, 6

*…ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel…and bringeth forth fruit,*

*as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth:*

1. **The Fruit of the Workings of the Holy Spirit in us:** **Gal. 5:22-23**
2. *The* ***F****ruit of the Holy Spirit is* the bearing in our life of*:*
3. His Intern**al** Fruit of *love, joy, peace*
4. His Extern**al** Fruit of *longsuffering, gentleness, goodness*
5. His Person**al** Fruit of *faith, meekness* (gentleness), *temperance* (self-control)
6. Contrast the **F**ruit of the **F**lesh - *which are these…* Gal.5:19-21, NKJV
7. Immoral Impurities as *adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness*
8. **I**dolatrous and evil **I**niquitous practices as *idolatry, sorcery*
9. **I**ndividual, **I**nter-personal and **S**ocial **S**ins as *hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath,*

*selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries*

*…those who practice such things will not* ***I****nherit the kingdom of God.*

1. Compare the **F**ruits of a Life **F**ree **F**rom Sin: Rom. 6:22
2. It **H**olds up the Fruit of **H**oliness -

*But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God,*

*ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.*

1. It is a ***W****alk* ***W****orthy of the Lord unto all pleasing,*

*being fruitful in every good* ***W****ork, and increasing in the knowledge of God.* Col. 1:10

1. It **L**ives a **W**holesome **L**ife **W**ithout causing **O**ffence to **O**thers Phil. 1:10

 *That ye may approve things that are excellent…be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;*

*being* ***F****illed with the* ***F****ruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ…* Phil.1:10-11

1. **The Fruit of sharing Wealth with others.** **II Cor. 8:4-5, HCSB**
2. The **S**inceri**ty** to **S**hare with others:

*They begged us insistently for the privilege of sharing in the ministry to the saints…*

1. The Priori**ty** to **S**acrifice **S**elf first: *and not just as we had hoped.*

*Instead, they gave themselves especially to the Lord, then to us by God’s will.*

1. The Generosi**ty** of the **P**hilippian Christians to Share with **P**aul their Blessings: [Phil. 4:16, 17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Php+4%3A16-17)
*And you Philippians know that in the early days of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving except you alone. For even in Thessalonica you sent ⌊gifts⌋ for my need several times.*

For today, let us **R**emember to participate in the **Fruit of the Vine** and **R**evere our Lord: Matt. 26:26-29

*Jesus took* ***B****read, and* ***B****lessed it, and* ***B****rake it…and said, Take, eat; this is My* ***B****ody.*

*And He took the cup…saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is My* ***B****lood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this* ***fruit of the vine****, until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom.*

*Is He a vine? His heav’nly root Supplies the boughs with life and fruit:*

 *O let a lasting union join My soul the branch to Christ the vine!* Isaac Watts

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R.817**

1. Witnessing to and Winning Souls for Christ is a Winsome needful activity for all Christians and it is a Wise decision to make in seeking to obey the Commission of Christ to *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.* (Matt 28:19, 20)

Just before Jesus ascended to heaven, He specifically told His disciples “*after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you…ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*” Acts 1:8

Indeed, the Wisdom of Solomon is declared in Proverbs 11:30 – *The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.*

This is so because the value of the soul in indeed invaluable as the Lord Himself stated:

*For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?*

*Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?* (Mk. 8:36, 37)

Hence, the challenge comes to all Christians based on the invitation to the Gospel of Jesus:
*For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.
How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?
And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! (*Rom. 10:13-15)

From the above we see that many people are involved in the process of winning souls to build up the church. Paul puts it very succinctly: (I Cor. 3:5-10)

*Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.*

*So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.*

Let us each one therefore be faithful to the area of ministry that God has given to us to work together with others to win and build up precious souls for the Lord’s household.

Are you a partner with God and His servants in this building process? **REFLECT**

1. Someone has pointed out that it is not merely winning souls for Christ that it is counted fruitful, but more so when one seeks to witness for Christ. Sometimes one may not even see much fruit though the servant tries his very best to witness. Consider I Cor. 4:2 –

*Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.* Noah preached for 120 years (cf. Gen. 6:3) yet in the end, only he and his family responded to God’s call to go into the ark. Seemly he did not see much fruit from his preaching (II Pet. 2:5). Today, some evangelists keen to boast of fruits in their so-called “creative” ministry fake fruits. The Fruit of Faithfulness to God’s Word and God’s Ways is all important in the Work of Winning souls for Christ. Let us therefore not fake fruits to seek fame for ourselves but work together with God in His team (I Cor. 3:5-10) to bear fruits to His Glory. **REFLECT**.

**Points To Ponder: *F****aking Fruits is not Bearing* ***F****ruit for God!*

*Faithfulness to Him and His* ***W****ord and* ***W****ork is.*