



Fruit Inspecting

Ralph Clevinger

There are a number of people who can identify trees in the wintertime. They observe the type of bark, branch structure and environmental factors. Everyone else relies on the presence of leaves or fruit to draw their conclusions. The leaves and fruit serve as the primary information many people use for the basis of their discernment or judgment.

In a similar manner, our life's fruit serves as an indicator of our faithfulness to God's Word. Jesus informed the crowd that a broad way lies before them and many will be on it by mistake (Matthew 7:13-14, 21-23). How does one find himself or herself on the broad way to destruction, howbeit, by mistake? Jesus gave that answer as well. He warned of false teachers who appear to be God's people but are not (Matthew 7:15). How can one spot the false teacher? Jesus taught, "You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit" (Matthew 7:16-18). One ought to pay attention to the lives of those who lead them in faith to know where he or she is being led. The path may not be leading in the right direction.

Similarly, we ought to inspect our own fruit. The activities we engage ought to be pointing to the cross where one finds God's love and forgiveness (2 Corinthians 2:16). The words we speak ought to be edifying (Ephesians 4:29) and to be characterized as grace seasoned with salt (Colossians 4:6). Paul encouraged, "And whatever you do in word or in deed do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him" (Colossians 3:17). As followers of Christ, we should be bearing fruits in our lives that indicate that we are disciples of Jesus. **Our daily lives cannot be disconnected from the faith that we profess.** Just as we inspect the fruits of those leading us in the faith, we need to inspect our fruits to make sure we are indeed in the faith (2 Corinthians 13:5).

Let us not live passively. Rather, we need to apply the teachings of God to ourselves daily, living it and teaching it to others around us, too. The study of God's Word coupled with the desire to live it produces fruit in our lives. This fruitful life is a detectable indicator of the One Who reigns in our lives. **Beware of those who peddle rotten fruit!**

- Gospel Gazette Online -

We bear fruit when the characteristics of Christ are made evident in our life.

News & Notes

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES: Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m. only and Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. The Covid-19 restrictions apply (masks & distancing).

SYMPATHY: To the family of Doris Dunham who died last Sunday. She was a faithful member here for many years.

CONGRATULATIONS: To our **Latisha Brown** on being chosen Teacher of the Year at Oak Glen Middle School.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION: For Noni Scadden on **Saturday, April 24th, 1-4 p.m.** at the Fellowship Building. Covid-19 restrictions apply (masks & distancing). Sign up sheet in the foyer. **Noni will be 90 on April 28th.**

GRIEF & LOSS WORKSHOP SERIES: April 25-28 at **St. Clair Ave. Church of Christ.** Dean Miller of Villa Rica, GA will conduct this series. Details on the back of our April calendar and posted on the bulletin board. **Services here will be dismissed on Wednesday, April 28th to go to St. Clair Ave. to support this effort.**

PANTRY: Bath/ face soap.

SICK & SHUT-IN: AT HOME: Randy Waite, Shirley Beagle, Randy Beagle, Charlie & Barb Delong, David McCoy, Marlene Evans, Russell Martin, Emma Rine, Alex Harless, Mary Johnson, Rick Beck, Josh Morrison. **FOX of ELO (Rehab Suites):** Marilyn Miller. **CALCUTTA HEALTH CARE:** Sarah Miller (Room 6). **VALLEY OAKS CARE CENTER:** Fred Larrimore (Room 210). **IN TENNESSEE:** Steve Higginbotham. **IN FLORIDA:** Ilene Rayl.

GOSPEL MEETINGS

Weirton Heights ----- April 11-16 ----- Terry Jones
Sunday: 9:30, 10:30 a.m.; 6:30 p.m.; Mon. - Fri.: 7:00 p.m.

Pennsboro ----- May 2-7 ----- Wade Webster
Sunday: 9:30, 10:30 a.m.; 6:00 p.m.; Mon. - Fri.: 7:00 p.m.

On the Existence of God

Robertson L. Whiteside (Deceased)

Disbelief in God is not due to a lack of evidence, but to a desire, for one reason or another, to eliminate God. A belief in God brings with it a feeling of responsibility and a feeling of responsibility stirs the conscience. If a man wants to live as he pleases, he prefers not to be bothered with the idea of God.

Beacon,

Bellview Church of Christ, Pensacola, FL

"Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God." - Psalm 90:2

Without God
our week would be

Sunday
Mournday
Tearsday
Wasteday
Thirstday
Fightday
Shatterday

7 days without God
makes one weak