

“Evidence You Are Pleasing God”

Colossians 1:9-12

James 5:13,14

Is anyone among you suffering? Then he must pray.... Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him...

Ephesians 6:18,19

With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel

I. Bearing Fruit in Every Good Work

A. A Recurring Theme in the Bible

Matthew 7:15-20

Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits.

Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit.

A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. So then, you will know them by their fruits.

John 15:1,2

I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit.

Vs. 8 - My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and *so* prove to be My disciples.

I. Bearing Fruit in Every Good Work

A. A Recurring Theme in the Bible

B. Fruit Defined

C. The Fruit of Good Works

1 Timothy 5:9,10

A widow is to be put on the list only if she is not less than sixty years old, having been the wife of one man, having a reputation for good works; and if she has brought up children, if she has shown hospitality to strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has assisted those in distress, and if she has devoted herself to every good work.

I. Bearing Fruit in Every Good Work

A. A Recurring Theme in the Bible

B. Fruit Defined

C. The Fruit of Good Works

1. Good Works Defined

“Good works are only such as God hath commanded in his holy word, and not such as, without the warrant thereof, are devised by men out of blind zeal or upon any pretense of good intention.” - Westminster Confession of Faith

The good works of the unsaved may indeed benefit their fellow-creatures; but until life in Christ has been received, they cannot please God.

- Hudson Taylor

Romans 8:8

and those who are in the flesh cannot please God

Romans 3:12

There is none who does good, There is not even one.

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1. Good Works Defined

2. Importance of Good Works

Ephesians 2:8,9

For by grace you have been saved through faith;
and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;
not as a result of works, so that no one may
boast.

“Good works are indispensable to salvation - not as its ground or means, however, but as its consequence and evidence.” - John Stott

Ephesians 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.

Matthew 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.

1 Timothy 6:17,18

Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share...

I. Bearing Fruit in Every Good Work

A. A Recurring Theme in the Bible

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1. Good Works Defined

2. Importance of Good Works

3. Cultivating The Fruit of Good Works

2 Timothy 3:16,17

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

so that

the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

I. Bearing Fruit in Every Good Work

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1. Good Works Defined

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3. Cultivating The Fruit of Good Works

II. Increasing in the Knowledge of God

A. Experiential Knowledge

B. How to Increase this Knowledge

C. Examples from Scripture

Genesis 22:11-14

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” He said, “Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.” Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him a ram caught in the thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram and offered him up for a burnt offering in the place of his son. Abraham called the name of that place The Lord Will Provide, as it is said to this day, “In the mount of the Lord it will be provided.”

Exodus 17:14,15

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Write this in a book as a memorial and recite it to Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven.” Moses built an altar and named it The Lord is My Banner

