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FRUIT BEARING

Phi 2:15 "In order that you yourselves may become blameless and not diluted by evil..." the apostle Paul informs us that we can become blameless but this is not a reference to being without sin, since that is impossible according to 1Jo 1:10. Blameless and innocent, as used in this verse, refer to NOT being influenced by evil. It is the mature believer who has his spiritual senses trained to discern between good and evil and not fall under the thinking of the evil one.

Evil is quite different from sin. Sin is an isolated incident which can thereafter be confessed, 1Jo 1:9, and the believer can again move forward. Since sin was judged on the Cross, the solution to sin is immediate, but the solution to evil is a much more time consuming since evil is a system of thinking that has not yet been judged. Anything not judged at the cross does not have an immediate solution. And though human good and evil were rejected at the cross they were not yet judged. All human good will be judged for the believer at the Judgment Seat of Christ, 2Co 5:10, and for the unbeliever at the Great White Throne Judgment, Rev 20:13. The solution to evil is therefore a complete renovation of the mind, Rom 12:2. Sin originates with the old sin nature whereas evil originates in the right lobe, one's system of thinking. And it is much more involved to change one's system of thinking than to change one's mind concerning a sinful decision.

In view of this warning from Paul in Phi 2:15 we have been noting the Doctrine of Evil. Evil is the policy and viewpoint of Satan as the ruler of this world, Joh 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; 2Co 4:4; Eph 2:2. The whole world lies in the power of the evil one, 1Jo 5:19. But our Lord Jesus Christ's kingdom is not of this world, Joh 18:36. Wherein grace is God's policy, evil is Satan's counter-policy. Remember Isa 16:16 in which Satan makes known his desire to be like the Most High. And to be like God he must come up with some similar system of what appears to be good. This system is what is known as human good. God's system is based on divine good, the antithesis of human good. Divine good is wrought through the filling of the Spirit, Bible doctrine, and residence in predestination. It is by Spirit and Truth that God is worshipped, Joh 4:24.

Human good is empowered by a system known as arrogance. Human good is man's attempt at pleasing God. Human good is self-help. It is man helping to better himself and then seeking God's blessing on it. Divine good is God's effort and God's power with man benefiting in the transaction. Ignorant believers are huge suckers for human good. The self-help principle is utter folly since God must demand a quality which no human can present. This is not reason for discouragement or thinking that God's requirements are

unreasonable since God also proposes to bestow, in grace, all that He ever demands. Satan's policy substitutes God's divine provisions for divine requirements with human provisions for humanly idealistic requirements.

Human good appeals to the old sin nature and man's approbation lust. Satan is the inspirer of high ideals to the unregenerate world as well as the inspirer of human good to the regenerate world. Satan himself is so filled with arrogance that he actually thinks he still has a chance at being like God. If he can bring in a harmonious environment now then he would have succeeded in beating Christ to the Millennium. You may ask, well doesn't he remember the judgment of Joh 16? And doesn't he know his Scripture and see the coming execution of that judgment according to Rev 20:10? Oh sure, but again arrogance blinds the creature to truth. Deception means, living in a lie. Satan has actually lowered his creator in his own mind to a level where he supposes himself to be in legitimate competition with Him! And he produces this same independence and/or competition between man and God. Man in his vanity carries Satan's torch in assigning to himself that which is God's alone... the power of good, i.e., true good as opposed to human good. And yet, as misguided as he is to attempt to be like the Most High, Satan cannot protect his followers from the judgment which follows the result of their loyalty to him, so he must keep them blind, ignorant, and working for the betterment of the world.

Satan knows that only through a separation of humanity from its God can he claim authority over them and secure the worship from them that he so craves. The whole world lies at his disposal so he can use anything to deceive us. He will offer each person whatever it takes, whatever they desire, in order to distract them from God's plan for their lives. It is not God's plan for the human race to clean up the devil's world but to offer salvation to the unbelievers and offer knowledge of doctrine to believers, 1Ti 2:4.

All evil has two sources,

- sin and erroneous thinking
- human good and erroneous thinking.

Again sin and evil are two different forces each with its own solution, the solution to sin is immediate (1Jo 1:9), the solution to evil is lengthy in that it requires a renovation of the system of thinking (Rom 12:2). Though all sin is evil, not all evil is sin. Evil is the adverse trends of society, hence the destruction of society. Of course this destruction is presented with an appealing and enticing exterior. Satan's plan appeals to many human ideals and endeavors, all secretly leading to Satan's control. Satan does not like man having the freedom to choose or reject his authority. Unlike God, who offers freedom of choice, Satan is totally red, in the communistic sense. Never underestimate Satan's cunning in that he controls the human race by good, that is, human good. He does not control the human race by sin. Sin and its resultant chaos is actually an insult to Satan in that he cannot control his own world. Satan promises glory to man but can he deliver it? We see that he can and does deliver temporary glory and power to his worshippers. He offered such power to our Lord Jesus Christ if Jesus would bow down and worship him, Luk 4:4-9. Of course we know that Jesus did not succumb to this temptation as many men do.

The Satanic method for life prompts man to attempt to become a god by a process of self-help and self-development of finite resources. Satan told the woman in the garden of Eden that if she ate of the tree of good and evil she would become like God, Gen 3. Under such pretense it is possible to introduce much of religious form into the world system of self-help/human good. This is a great field for religious exercise for the one who is attempting to make himself God-like. (Notice the wording... make himself.) In Satan's evil policy there is no room for God doing any of the work. Evil is the human panacea which attempts to solve the problems of life apart from the word of God for the believer and apart from divine establishment and the salvation of Jesus Christ for the unbeliever. Satan can easily beguile untaught saints to limit their work to the likeness of his highest ideals. It is possible to fight against sin all your vain life and yet not present the Savior. There is a strange fascination about these undertakings which are humanitarian and are religious only in form and title. Rev 13:3-4 warns us, Woe to the untaught soul who stands wondering today at the marvels of this evil age, if he be without sense of the importance and value of the priceless blood of the cross.

Satan's evil system sets up a different gospel, 2Co 4:3-4, a different righteousness, Mat 19:16-28, different ministers (teaching morality rather than spirituality), 2Co 11:12-15, a different communion table, 1Co 10:19-21, a different system of spirituality, Gal 3:2-3, different gods, 2Th 2:3-4; a different power and dynamics of predestination, 2Th 2:8-10, and different functions in the cosmic system to "please" God, Mat 23:13-26. Evil involves the reconstruction of human freedom for the greater good. Evil hence becomes what one thinks as an apostate, as a reversionist, as a liberal, or as a bleeding-heart guilty type. Such types are easily manipulated by Satan's evil policies. And remember in using the term evil, we know it to be so, but the untaught see it as good. Evil is Satan's genius to install a system of thinking which is good but is against God's system of thinking. For example, it is no longer good form in society to be without church relationships, yet the one and only true basis for salvation may never be comprehended or accepted by a multitude of its members. It's a very subtle system of good, but not the good of God. Pseudo prayers are offered up, imploring the Almighty to aid humanity in its attempt to commend itself to Him by a more or less faithful practice of religion. Isa 64:6!

In Satan and in his policy of evil there is a wonderful, magnificent, attractive, beguiling personality BUT, when you flip the coin there lies the dark, destructive, oppressive, evil side. And once evil becomes the system of thinking, it controls its host. Satan has devised a system whereby people can be nice, lovely, sweet and wonderful as far as society is concerned, but its strength and power is arrogance. Of course this is unbeknown to its host since they are deceived. And being deceived means not having a clue. Also note that being deceived is always a choice. The truth is available to whoever desires it, that is whoever truly desires to know it. Many desire a form of good, a form of truth but only if it comes easy and fits into their little box called reality, not causing any ripples. A convenient religious expression is basically what most are looking for and that is just what Satan is selling.

Why does God allow Satan to continue in such power? Because it pleases God to permit the satanic ambition to come to its own destruction and to demonstrate its own weakness and wicked folly God's perfect plan for the ages, God's perfect rebuttal in the historic angelic conflict will prove, without a doubt, God's perfect justice. God's plan and policy will prove the righteousness of Christ, the righteous judgment upon the sin of unbelief in Christ as Savior, as God who died and is resurrected, and will prove His righteous judgment of Satan and his followers.

Satan is the central antagonist of the angelic conflict, he is a great organizer and a genius at luring in the unsuspecting. That is why we are commanded not to be ignorant of his schemes and devises, 2Co 2:11. For he certainly does wander about as a lion seeking whom he may devour, 1Pe 5:8. Satan's goal is related to beating Christ to the Millennium with his own production of a perfect world. Satan has an evil strategy which needs to be identified and exposed. He has a strategy for the nations, Rev 12:9, which consists of deception. He has a strategy for unbelievers, Luk 8:12; 2Co 4:4, i.e., pressures and troubles which rob them of the seed of the gospel of Jesus Christ which was planted with them. He has a strategy for believers, 2Co 2:11, his plan being - ignorance, and accusations, Job 1:6-11; Zec 3:1-2; Rev 12:9-10; 1Jo 2:1-2.

Satan seeks to frustrate the will of God with every believer regarding what the believer thinks, Eph 4:14, regarding where we are located, 1Th 2:18, and regarding what we do, Jam 4:7-8. In other words, Satan seeks to distract believers from the operational will of God, the geographical will of God and the functional will of God their lives. Satan seeks to destroy the believer's focus. He does so by getting the believers eyes on people, self, or things. Where ever there is a believer moving forward there will be satanic opposition! Therefore we must buckle down and reject all evil which furthers the work of Satan. The merits of man can neither attain nor maintain our eternal position with God. This self-help/human power system must be totally rejected. Our exalted position in Christ is accompanied by great responsibility. To whom much is given, much is required, Luk 12:48. We are to walk in a manner worthy of our calling, Eph 4:1-3. We are to abstain from evil, 1Th 5:16-18,22, and grieve not the Holy Spirit, Gal 5:22-23. This of course is all beyond human strength.

Such human impossibilities demand the power of God, Phi 2:13; 2Co 3:5; 1Co 15:10; Gal 3:3; Eph 6:10. No one can contemplate these impossible responsibilities without a sense of utter helplessness and insufficiency. And, relief from this dilemma is found only in the power of the Spirit. God has provided a complete deliverance from the dominion and power of evil, which is a real victory; the only victory for the believer in this present life and conflict. God offers to supply the believer with all that He requires to the measure even of complete victory. Yet so many settle for Satan's substitute policy, while thinking they are doing God's work.

We are completely incapable of meeting the demands of our heavenly citizenship. Any system of human good, regardless of how grand it appears, is worthless in God's system of thinking. This is exactly why Satan must keep his worshippers ignorant of God's system of thinking. Again, God's two-fold plan as presented in 1Ti 2:4 is salvation for the

unbeliever and knowledge of truth for the believer. Note that salvation does not solve the problem with evil since many believers are involved with evil. This is due to the rules of the angelic conflict in that man must be free to express his volition toward not only salvation but toward sin and evil after salvation. Man must be free to express his volition in the same way Christ did on the cross when He rejected, separated from, and divorced Himself from all human good and evil.

It takes a wealth of doctrine to understand experientially what evil is all about. If the changes in your life are not made through the power of God the Holy Spirit evil is present with you. The characteristics of evil are based on human good. Do not be fooled, do not be influenced by evil, but by doctrine, 3Jo 11.

PRODUCTIVE RIGHTEOUSNESS

Our study in Philippians 1 verse 11 brought us to the doctrine of Productive Righteousness as Paul continued his prayer for the Philippians to, after having been filled with the highest possible quality of life, produce fruit (karpos) of righteousness (diakaiosunes). Paul is referring to their total fulfillment of the spiritual progress or what we will call productive righteousness. Productive righteousness equals the believer living in that which he claims to believe. It brings to light the perfect righteousness of God in you being used by you to fulfill the plan of God for your life. Before we go on, the difference must be emphasized between positional righteousness and imputed righteousness and productive righteousness. At the moment of salvation each believer is gifted the imputed righteousness of God the Father and the positional righteousness of God the Son, i.e., a double blessing!

Three categories of righteousness:

- positional
- functional
- productive

Whereas, productive righteousness is an experiential righteousness which takes place in the believer's spiritual life through the utilization of one's spiritual gift and the 3 spiritual skills Therefore, spiritual growth is the only way to enter into productive righteousness. In 2Ti 2:22 Paul instructs us to pursue righteousness. Now, since the imputed +R of God the Father and the positional +R of God the Son are freely given to the believer at the point of salvation these righteousness are not to be pursued per se, but rather acted upon for the further function of experiential productive +R/ righteousness in time. Productive +R is primarily the production of the mature or growing believer. Mechanically, productive righteousness is produced by the balance of residency between the filling of the Spirit and metabolized Bible doctrine applied from the soul, Heb 13:10. Or as Joh 4:24 words it "in Spirit and in Truth...".

Out of metabolized doctrine is extrapolated the ten problem solving devices which is the basis for developing productive righteousness for perfect happiness. It is not your circumstances which cause you unhappiness; it's the lack of proper information resident in your soul which causes unhappiness! Failure in the realm of true happiness always

stems from the soul which is why we must be careful of that which holds influence over our soul. The production of righteousness refers to what the +R of God in you can accomplish if you fulfill the plan of God for your life. There is no true happiness in life without the capacity for it and that comes only through some form of God-given righteousness, Rom 3:22; 2Co 5:21. God-given righteousness also offers the church age believer the capacity for blessing and doctrinal aptitude in order to appreciate the blessings from God. Again our positional +R is different from our productive +R. In productive righteousness the believer makes decisions based on metabolized doctrine, i.e., application of doctrine!

In productive righteousness the three spiritual skills are necessary:

- 1) The filling of the Holy Spirit
- 2) Metabolization of Bible doctrine in the soul
- 3) Execution of God's pre-designed plan by way of application of doctrine and attainment of the three stages of spiritual adulthood.

God did not make us perfectly righteous only to save us but also that we might produce divine good so He can bless us and in blessing us He is glorified. So, it is not our knowledge, but our utilization of that knowledge which produces functional righteousness.

There are four keys to productive righteousness:

- Status quo (which is the directive will of God via the filling of the Spirit and residence in the PPOG).
- Momentum from B.D. being more important than anything else in life.
- Attainment of spiritual adulthood via execution of the PPOG.
- Impact, being the function of the mature believer as an invisible hero in the church age.

It is important to note that Christian service can be fulfilled in the power of one's own ability, i.e., human energy and personality rather than the power of God. Of course such energy only adds up to dead works but it sure impresses people. What is important in the believer's production is one's mental attitude. The believer must be guided by metabolized doctrine and the filling of the Spirit in order to produce experiential righteousness of good works, which mandate blessings and rewards from God.

Three conditions allows the production of fruit in the believer's life:

- Consistent perception, metabolization and application of B.D. under the filling of the H.S.
- Followed by the resultant spiritual growth
- The correct mental attitude John 15:1-8 deals with productive righteousness and the bearing of fruit.

It is our fruit which proves we are disciples (students) of the Lord. The only production which counts as +R which is based on something in your soul and that which is in your soul is there based on GRACE! God only rewards one system of belief... FAITH. At salvation the imputed righteousness of God the Father to the believer justifies the

believer, Rom 5:1. Under justification we are +R and are no longer guilty before God. We are justified as complete before the Father, Eph 2:10; Col 1:24. Due to our justification we are also the beneficiaries of God's personal love, 1Jo 4:10-11 and logistical grace blessings, 2Co 9:8. Once we are justified God the Father can bless us without compromising His essence. Also at salvation comes the gift of positional righteousness from our positional sanctification in Christ, 1Co 12:13; 2Co 5:21. It is at this moment in time God the Holy Spirit places the believer in union with Christ also known as the Baptism of the Spirit.

These two righteousnesses are unique only to the church age believer. The O.T. saints only received the imputation of God the Father's +R, they were not positioned in Christ. When the church age believer does not take full advantage of the equal opportunities these 2 righteousnesses offer that believer becomes a loser in time and eternity, losing out on his rewards but not his salvation. After salvation every believer has the option of getting with the plan of God and growing in grace... or not. Productive righteousness is an option in the spiritual life depending on the use of the three spiritual skills. It's called experiential righteousness because it's the result of a continuous process related to your very own spiritual life. We do not need to be trained in imputed or positional +R but we do need to be trained in experiential/productive +R. And this takes work and devotion, 1Pe 1:5-7, which is why many fall back into the three arrogant skills rather than the spiritual skills. The three arrogant skills are:

- Self justification
- Self deception
- Self absorption

When productive skills become a substitute for spiritual skills there is no spiritual growth and not execution of the PPOG. Most believers are not fruit bearers because they have no spiritual skills with which to work with. Spiritual skills are by-passed by negative volition and negated by sloppiness in the application of doctrine. Spiritual skills are often abandoned to carnality in which there is no filling of the Spirit hence the believer's good deeds become dead works due to the motivation of arrogance. Dead works are good deeds and Christian service which do not meet the standards of God simply because there is no fellowship with God.

There is a direct relationship to dead works and self righteousness in the Bible. What the believer can do apart from the grace provided by God is all dead works. It's productive righteousness which brings glory to God and it is the only system of good accepted by God. Productive righteousness can have a harvest and that harvest is your reward for living in productive +R in time. Your time, treasure, and talent invested in the kingdom of God in time reap a harvest of blessings in time and fantastic rewards for all eternity. The challenge to produce experiential righteousness is found in the vine and branch metaphor of Joh 15:1-8 in that the branch (believer) that does not bear fruit is the believer who does not reveal productive righteousness.

To abide in Christ is a command and an experience after salvation. And, I in you is a command for you to learn and metabolize B.D., the "I" being the mind of Christ/His

thinking! This is why the believer should avoid Christian service until he knows the basic spiritual skills and the following problem solving devices: God wants to do three things,

- glorify Himself
- resolve the historic angelic conflict and
- Give His highest and best to every elect member of the human race.

But His sovereign will can not line up with man's free will until the function of the spiritual skills are in line.

There are 9 principles related to spiritual fruit bearing:

- Fruit bearing is never a means but always the result of spiritual growth
- Spiritual growth occurs through the combination of the filling of the Spirit and cognition of B.D., the first two spiritual skills.
- Productive righteousness is the result of spiritual skills preceding production skills.
- Production skills do not bear fruit apart from the spiritual skills.
- Spiritual skills occur in three progressive categories
- When fruit bearing is the result of our God-given spiritual skills then God is glorified.
- In His matchless grace God provided the means of compliance with his perfect divine standards through the spiritual skills in order to afford us with productive righteousness to the glory of Him and the benefit of us.
- The greater part of fruit bearing is hindered from the view of other Christians but seen by God who is glorified by these invisible works.
- In the Christian life when production skills replace spiritual skills there are disastrous results, such as legalism and self righteousness.

Productive righteousness is the key to integrity and perfect happiness. When we love, serve, and worship in productive righteousness rather than self righteousness we produce divine good as a monument to the grace and glory of God in time and for all eternity. Col 1:10 tells us it is the fruit of productive righteousness which brings glory to God. This fruit is not based on knowledge per se but execution of that which we know and believe. Productive righteousness is application of doctrine which comes through Jesus Christ. The believer must realize that no matter what he goes through in life God has a plan for him and His plan is that we will NOT be ashamed at the Judgment Seat of Christ. God has, in grace, provided all we need to produce divine righteousness but it takes effort and devotion to learn and use. It's one thing to be +R, but quite another thing to live in that +R (spiritual life) and lack of productive righteousness equal shame when faced with the Lord. There are no excuses!

Human viewpoint such as worry and fear actually blaspheme the character and nature of God. What we need is the perspective of grace and truth and that comes only one way... through the consistent study of God's word. There are many areas which cause worry in the believer's life. For example, human security is a great cause for worry. Those who obsess over their future security do so due to ignorance concerning their "future". This is not to say we can look into the crystal ball and know what tomorrow holds but yes, we do

know what our future holds. For the believer in Christ the future is "eternity" with God!! What more could you "strive" for??

When the believer has enough doctrine in his soul and opts to apply that doctrine to his life experiences, is when his worrying is kept in check, 1Sa 17:47; Psa 55:22; Isa 26:3-4; 1Pe 5:7. And... when truth is present with the believer Satan sends even more of his messengers to distract the believer and cause worry. Satan always tries to twist our motivation in order to neutralize our effectiveness in the spiritual realm thereby robbing us of our peace. The last things our enemy wants to see is the believer operating in faith-rest while leaving all concerns in God's hands.

Satan especially increases his onslaught after we have had some type of spiritual victory. It is after success that we are most vulnerable to failure because our guard is down. We need to always keep in mind that we are never beyond being "human". Satan will cause doubts to enter into our minds concerning the wisdom of our decisions. And even the mature believer will at times entertain these doubts but it is important to quickly rebound and advance forward.

We often turn and look back to our own demise. Condemnation, guilt, worry and doubt about past decisions will only serve to consume and destroy our present stand. Prolonged stress and anxiety can even lead to mental illness! This is why the word of God commands us not to worry! "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be know to God. And the peace of God which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Phi 4:6-7 When we worry our Christian testimony is clouded. Worry is simply the perpetuation of self induced misery. Worry, anxiety, and stress are all self-inflicted. Remember, adversity in life is inevitable, but the conversion of that adversity into stress in the soul is optional. We are the ones who convert problems into stress through walking by sight. "Sight" being, what human viewpoint conceptualizes as true.

We have over seven thousand promises in the Bible! You'd think perhaps a few of them might be taken seriously. To continue to view things from human viewpoint equals misery. To believe in the promises and doctrines of God's word brings confidence, peace, and power. The question is, do you believe that God is able to accomplish that which He promises? And, are you willing to wait on His (perfect) timing? We must let God come through for us in His time. The problem is, man insists on getting in God's way by helping things along in accordance with man's timing and man's power.

Abraham was 85 years old when God promised that he would have an heir. Abraham believed God's promise and continued to do so. But as his age advanced as well as the age of his wife, he began to grow concerned. And, as he approached the age of 99 and his wife, Sarah, the age of 90 he knew that they were both sexually incapable of fulfilling this promise which God had spoken of 15 years prior to this point. Perfect!

Just when the situation seem utterly hopeless is when God can really work His promises with no question to where it has come from! At the ripe age of 99 Abraham's son, Isaac

was born to him by his 90 year old wife, who by the way, had already gone through menopause. This proves that when God promises a thing, it does not matter what sight dictates! What matters is what God's word claims to be so. Sure, there were many times Abraham doubted and failed but he continued to pick himself up and carry on in faith and patience, waiting for God to come through in his life. The problem most people have is "their own schedule or agenda". They will wait, but only so long. Things must move along at "their" own pace. They enter into the attitude that God is taking too long so I will just help Him along by marrying this one or accepting this (premature) blessing, and so on.

We must keep alert to the fact that Satan also has the power to bless man. This is shown to us in Luk 4:5-8 when Satan offers the kingdoms of the world to our Lord Jesus Christ if Christ would just worship him. Many today are in effect worshipping Satan for the power and riches that they could have had even greater of if they had only waited for God.

God never fails us. It's a nice statement and one which many Christians murmur, but in their hearts they do not stand firm in such faith. We insist on worrying as if such an insertion will effectively help to remedy matters. Abraham kept worrying about his heir to the point where God literally spelled it out for him in three object lessons found in Genesis 15:5-7. This again caused Abraham to rebound and get back into fellowship with God but his faith was weak and when the sun went down again he worried. After he rebounded Satan sent a counter attack noted in Gen 5:11 as "the birds of prey", Abraham cleared them away but it didn't last too long, he again doubted. We see these "birds of prey" or messengers of the devil also noted for us in Matthew chapter 13, verses 4, 19, and 32. When these messengers or temptations come, most fall prey to the inducement of doubt and worry.

Many Christians, through worry, find themselves in the lions mouth, 1Pe 5:7-10; 2Ti 4:16-17. This is why we are commanded to keep on the alert. We have been delivered from the power of the lion which is representative of the devil, but it takes knowledge and faith to appropriate this power. It is only when we are no longer worried that we will drive away the birds of prey. The enemy stands no chance against the believer who stands firm in his faith and utilizes the power of God!

The knowledge of the future, i.e., our eternal state with God, gives us the assurance for the present. This knowledge even offers sweet sleep to the believer, Pro 3:21-26; 6:20-22; 19:23. So, the cure for worry is to learn more Bible doctrine and to believe what God's word claims and then apply the word of God to one's life experiences! Otherwise you will flounder from worry to worry to doubt to fear, wasting away your opportunity to glorify God in this life and never receiving what God has for you... His highest and very best! What a chance to pass up by worrying.

