

20200813 – THE FRUITFULNESS OF A SERVANT

The Calvary Road – Romans 12:9-21

Challenge: Keep our humble brokenness, filled with Him, walking in fellowship to produce fruit!

Points: Not Conformed, New Creature, Next Choice, (it's) Never Clearer, (that we) Need Christ

I. NOT CONFORMED

A. These are often referred to as the “Marks of a True Christian”

1. This is a message for everyone – but particularly those who sit here
 - a. On the threshold of (shall we say) agency
 - b. I won't say adulthood or majority – the world has a definition
 - c. In our nation, we enjoy the sovereign franchise at 18 years old
 - d. But agency... an individual actor, morally responsible to God
 - e. No longer under Parents in exactly the same way as before
 - f. Soon to start a life perhaps in marriage - AGENCY
2. Just look at vs. 11 and think about how much of life that touches
 - a. Not slothful in business
 - b. Fervent in spirit
 - c. Serving the Lord
3. That's what a servant does: Serves
4. Isn't He worthy of all honor and praise?
 - a. He came to Earth for you
 - b. He died on a cross for you
 - c. He rose from the grave for you
 - d. He's coming again for you!
5. 1 Corinthians 15:20 – “But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.”

B. Romans 12 often preached to young people – but notice 2 parts!

1. First – see vs. 1 – your BODY (physical)
 - a. 1 Corinthians 9:27 – “But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.”
 - b. That flesh has WAR in its members
 - i. James 4:1 – “From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?”
 - ii. Even in your little toe
2. Second – see vs. 2 – your mind (soul)
 - a. Not conformed but transformed
 - i. Not pressed into their mold!
 - ii. Transformed means “altered completely”
 - b. The transformational part relates to the renewing of the mind
 - c. Not the sacrifice of the body – isn't that interesting

3. That renewing of the mind is called “sanctification”
 - a. That that is the transformational process that PROVES
 - b. Good / Acceptable / Perfect will of God

C. Profitable Servants

1. Matthew 25:20 – Gained 5 more
 - a. This was what is called “profit”
 - b. Profit is the gain over the required costs
 - i. It is the difference between cost and price
 - ii. Somebody explain to me again Christ was a communist.
 - iii. Looks like capitalism to me!
 - c. He was congratulated (vs. 21) for the PROFIT
2. But there was one who was NOT congratulated (vs. 24-26)
 - a. There’s that word “slothful” again
 - b. You know, the world is run by tired people
 - c. There’s darkness again too (vs. 30) – fellowship with the Light
3. There’s an economic parallel to cost / overhead in servanthood
 - a. Remember – anything above overhead is profit?
 - b. We have a word for “overhead” – we call it “duty”
 - c. Duty is our “reasonable service”
 - d. IN OTHER WORDS – to present our body a living sacrifice
 - i. That’s just reasonable service in God’s eyes
 - ii. May I say: That’s the bare minimum of what He expects
 - iii. Oh! He’s worthy of so much more!
4. Let’s be not conformed because He made us into a New Creature

II. NEW CREATURE

- A. 2 Corinthians 5:17 – “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”
 1. We’ve covered a lot of ground so far
 - a. We are to walk in the Light
 - b. We are to be ruled by Peace
 - c. We are broken and humble
 - d. We have a constant choice to have an overflowing cup
 - e. And now – we are to be profitable servants – FRUITFUL!
 2. It’s all about the NEXT choice we make... and the next one... and the next
 3. John 15:4 – “Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. (5) I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.”
 4. Ever see cut an apple tree branch off? Grow any fruit?
 5. No, because it wasn’t connected to the tree

- a. Maybe we could say it wasn't in FELLOWSHIP to the tree
 - b. See what I did there? It's all coming together!
- B. If we are new creatures, then we should do new things
 - 1. Testimony
 - 2. When I was lost, a different person (DWI, rebellion, drugs, rock, etc.)
 - 3. After I got Saved, things began to change (new job, new haircut, mouth)
- C. And now I want to be a profitable servant for Him – to produce FRUIT
- D. But I have to make the next choice

III. NEXT CHOICE – I CORINTHIANS 3:10-15 (GO FAST)

- A. Gold, Silver, and Precious Stones
 - 1. Obviously not talking about Salvation here (vs. 15)
 - 2. What if this will make up the crowns we may cast at His feet?
 - a. Will these be the many crowns on His head when He comes?
 - b. What sort of crown am I making Him? Or WILL I make Him?
 - c. Our service MATTERS! Our heart MATTERS!
 - 3. This is the treasure in heaven that will endure!
 - 4. Send it on ahead! Ship it now!
- B. Wood, Hay, and Stubble
 - 1. Let me disabuse you of one notion: These are not sin (vs. 12)
 - 2. We don't build sinful works on the Foundation of Jesus Christ
 - a. There is no need for a judgement of sinful work
 - b. Romans 8 says that God has ALREADY condemned sin in the flesh!
 - 3. What if not the needs of life? God says any who won't provide for his own has denied the faith and is worse than an infidel
 - 4. What are these? Wood. Hay. Stubble.
 - 5. May I call them Time Wasters?
 - a. You know what they are in YOUR life, no need to start naming...
 - b. Let this be your measure: What will it mean in eternity?
 - c. Time is short!
 - d. VERY short!
- C. Use this precious time – don't wait – I Corinthians 7:29-35 (GO FAST)
 - 1. Time is short (vs. 29)
 - 2. This world is passing away (vs. 31)
 - 3. This is not a snare (vs. 35) or an indictment – this is an OPPORTUNITY!
 - a. You say, but I'm single – God knows that.
 - b. Go to sleep like Adam did and wait for God (I did)
 - c. Distraction is not a bad word – simply means dividing of attention
 - d. So - Attend the Lord without distraction now
 - e. And serve the Lord with your family later!
 - 4. And drop those time wasters like a hot rock!
 - 5. The need was NEVER more clear!

IV. NEVER CLEARER

A. WWII Paratroopers

1. Standing at ready positions – Green light! Go!
 - a. The young person today is dropping into one of the most deadly spiritual battlefields that the world has ever known
 - b. Evil men and seducers....
 - c. As the time of Noah...
2. The contrast between the Bible and World has never been more clear
 - a. At least not in my lifetime or (I daresay) my parents' lifetimes
 - b. This world will not be getting any better until the Rapture
 - c. And I don't believe we have much time left
3. I am no profit of doom – but my prayers have changed of late
 - a. When I see my nation, my AMERICA, flying apart at the seams
 - b. When I see my flag called racist, military racist, police racist
 - i. My dad was a highway patrolman – a weight inspector
 - ii. He served with some of the first integrated Marine (Korea)
 - iii. I grew up with his graduation photos on the wall
 - c. It breaks my heart to see the America left to you
 - d. And I've begun to pray "how long?"

B. Shine His Light

1. We should shine brighter the darker the night
2. We should walk in the light, as HE is in the light
3. Lord increase my burden for souls!
4. I long to be fruitful servant!
 - a. We read stories of Jonathan Edwards, Moody, and the like
 - b. I'm not commenting on their doctrine, but their hearts
 - c. There was a day that they sat on the threshold of agency
 - d. What did THEY choose to do with it?

C. To be a servant, we need a master

D. To be a Christian, we need Christ

V. NEED CHRIST

A. Profit is above the cost? What was the cost He paid?

1. Could I ever repay Him?
2. No more than if I could have purchased my own Salvation
 - a. Is there anything too large He could ask me to give up?
 - b. Is there anything too great He could ask me to do?
 - c. Is there anything too much He could ask me to give?

B. He is such a great Lord

1. He calls us His friends
2. He calls us His sheep
3. He calls us joint heirs with Him

4. He engrafts us into the commonwealth of Israel
 5. He gives us the power to become the sons of God
 6. He calls us to SERVE Him
 7. The servant is not greater than the master
 - a. Matthew 10:24 – “The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord.”
 - b. Philippians 2:8 – “And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”
- C. Will you fellowship with Him as a servant?
- D. Are you ready to say Amen to God in whatever He is asking today?