



Season 8 Podcasts

The Fruit of the Gospel

By

Mark McGee

So far in my 8th Season Podcast series I've shared thoughts with you about:

- 8 Rules for Bible Study
- 40 Rules for Ministry
- The Heart of the Gospel
- Defending and Confirming the Gospel
- Your Fellowship in the Gospel
- The Completion of the Gospel
- The Affection of the Gospel
- The Discernment of the Gospel
- The Excellence of the Gospel
- The Sincerity of the Gospel

The next aspect I'd like to share with you is the 'fruit' of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Paul continued his letter to the Christians in Philippi by writing:

“... being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.” Philippians 1:11

The words ‘being filled’ come from one Greek word – *pléroó*. It means ‘to completely fill, to accomplish, be complete, make full, fill to capacity.’

The word for ‘fruits’ is *karpos* and means ‘a crop, produce, fruit as plucked.’ It can be used literally for fruit from a tree or figuratively as we see here in Philippians 1:11. The fruit that Paul is praying for the Philippians is the fruits of ‘righteousness.’ The Greek for ‘righteousness’ is *dikaíosuné* and means ‘just, justification, righteous, judicial approval, equity of act or character.’

Paul used the same idea in Ephesians 5:

“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.”

Ephesians 5:8-10

Paul wrote his letters to the Ephesians and the Philippians during the same prison period in Rome, so it was apparently an important topic on his mind – a topic I’m sure the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to consider and share with churches.

Christians are supposed to bear ‘spiritual fruit,’ but that fruit should be of a certain ‘kind.’ It should be ‘righteous’ fruit – fruit that God approves. That’s what makes the ‘fruit’ of our lives – what we ‘produce’ during our time on Earth – ‘approved’ in God’s sight. That’s why Paul wrote – ‘to the glory and praise of God.’ Christians do not bear spiritual fruit to glorify themselves. If they do, then that fruit did not come from Jesus Christ. Look again at what Paul wrote – ‘which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.’

This ‘fruit of righteousness’ comes from Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

The word ‘glory’ is *doxa* and means ‘dignity, honor, worship.’ The word ‘praise’ is *epainos* and means ‘laudation, recognition, appropriate commendation, deep admiration.’ God deserves honor and praise from His people because of who He is and what He has done.

I can always tell what kind of fruit I and other Christians are bearing through a variety of observations. One of them is ‘who gets the credit,’ ‘who gets the praise,’ ‘who gets the adulation and attention, who gets the glory?’ Is it me or is it God? That’s one of the best ways we can ‘test’ the source of our ‘fruits of righteousness.’ If I walk away from some type of ‘ministry’ event – whether it be writing or speaking – and my first thoughts are about how well I did – I have my answer. I took praise away from God. God must always receive the credit, the praise, the honor, the adulation, the commendation. No matter what you and I do in service to and for God, He must be praised – not us. If someone praises us for something we’ve done in ministering for God,

we should point them to God immediately. Don't pause for a second to bathe in their praise. That can be the beginning of our ruin in ministry. Always praise God for everything He empowers you to do for Him and others.

As Paul wrote to the Galatians many years earlier, the 'fruit' of the Holy Spirit is 'love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.' That's what comes from bearing the 'fruits of righteousness,' and it's what Paul wanted the Philippians to live out in their families, in their church, and in their community. It's the 'fruit' of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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In Christ's Love and Grace,

Mark McGee

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