

Sermon at All Saints' Cathedral, Kampala on 10th Jan 2016

Theme: Taking Root, bearing fruit

By: Rev Canon Diana M Nkesiga

INTRODUCTION

Last Sunday Rev. Hilary spoke about being rooted in Christ.

He reminded us that at the time of writing there was a heresy in Colossae in which believers claimed to receive special knowledge (secret knowledge from God) but that knowledge was hostile to the purpose of the gospel. If contradicted the gospel, the fruit it bore had no semblance to the fruit of the spirit. It was based on false doctrine which was based on Greek philosophy (unscriptural), it was based on a lie.

They believed there were two gods: a spiritual god who was the source of all good things and an evil god who was responsible for things material and evil including the human body.

The result was, some subjected their bodies to punishment in order to subdue them, while others gave their bodies up to immorality --- they said it was the soul that God wanted to redeem

Some even gave themselves up to death in order to escape this evil body, creating confusion and uprooting the faith which they first heard and received, and which had been established in Colosae.

Paul in his letter to the Colossians sets out to correct this false doctrine which was uprooting the faith that had been passed down to them.

So Paul begins his by saying, what we have been hearing about you has been good.

We have heard about your faith in Christ and there is evidence of fruit that matches the good teaching Epaphras passed on to you.

“The same gospel is bearing fruit all over the world. This is the good fruit that shows or is a result of your understanding the gospel of grace in all its fullness, in all its truth.”

Paul says, this is what I have heard, and this is what I pray for :-

1. Vs 4 Your faith in Jesus and love for all saints is evident (love being an essential aspect of fruitfulness)
2. Vs. 10 Another proof of fruitfulness being, a life pleasing to the lord
3. Vs 7 Faithfulness, (as Epaphras is a faithful minister)
4. Vs 10 Bearing fruit in every good work because God is good
5. Vs. 11 endurance and patience because you are assured of your faith. I know...
6. Vs.11 Joyfully giving thanks to the father vs.12 a joyfully and thankful life evidence of the fruit of the Spirit.

- Definition Fruitfulness is fruit in abundance or a useful or desired result or Productivity and abundance
 - Fruit can be good or bad
 - Fruitfulness or fruitlessness is a direct result of our beliefs (thoughts) a good god or indifferent god.
 - Sexual immorality or the fruit of the spirit
- If you are born of the Spirit you will bear the fruit of the Spirit a fruit that lasts (endures). "If you remain in me and I in you..... You will bear much fruit that lasts(endures)" John 15:5

Fruit that lasts or endures can be identified by any regular shopper

- Firm (establish in prayer)
 - Right color of skin, joyful color (peel)
 - Taste- not sour
 - Juicy- not dry
 - Consistency – attractive
- Fragrance-(fene or apple or pineapple , appealing (gospel))

Matthew 7:15-20 watch out for false prophets

By their fruit you will recognize them

Identity of true prophets

- Transformed lives
- Humility
- Repentance Matthew 3:8 produce fruit in keeping the repentance
- True fruitfulness is that fruitfulness which glorifies God

Today the gospels preached glorify and point to the messenger (man/woman) and not God who is the MESSAGE

Fruitfulness is when we grow and others are drawn to Christ by the witness of our lives.

Psalms 1:

'Blessed is the one who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked,
Walk not with the wicked
Sit not with mockers
Stands not in the way of sinners
But delights in the law of the Lord, He meditates upon it day and night
He is like the tree planted by the streams of water.
Which yields its fruit in season whatever he does prospers.' (paraphrased)

The opposite of fruitfulness is Fruitlessness or barrenness
By not bearing good fruit you are not fulfilling your purpose in the world.
For the Lord plants you with the sole purpose of producing fruit

The bible says every tree that does not bear fruit will be cut down or every branch is cut off.
But there is hope yet for the fruitless tree.

The parable in Luke 13:8

The fig tree planted in a vineyard.

Three years with no fruit, cut it down why should we waste the soil

But the care taker begs the owner saying, please give a chance, only one year and I will

Dig it

Dung it (manure it)

Dig it- open up the soil

Dung it- fertilizer- lesson learnt for some stinky situation

Drip it- irrigate it

Dress it- prune it

If it bears fruit fine BUT If not cut it down

Those of us who have been living fruitless lives

God gives us an opportunity to repent but also calls us to bear the fruit of repentance

Conclusion Jeremiah 17:7

Romans 12:12 joyful in our hope patient in affliction

Psalms 127

Psalms 100

Joshua 24:15

Proverbs 3:33 bless the house of the righteous

Hebrew 3:5

1Timothy 3:12