

"SECRETS OF THE ABUNDANT LIFE" (1)

S. R. John 10:7-18

The Secret Of Living Is Bearing Fruit

INTRODUCTION

- A. Suppose I could offer you a life that is guaranteed to give you...A "joy" that is greater than any other; A "blessedness" that is happiness in its fullest measure; An "assurance" of entering the everlasting kingdom of our Lord; A "peace" that surpasses understanding – Would you be interested?
- B. Of course, I cannot offer such a life; but Jesus can and does! Jhn 10:10
- C. Jesus offers this "abundant life" not only by His sacrificial death on the cross, but also by His teachings recorded by apostles; Jhn 15:11
- D. Through His teachings, then, we can learn the "secrets of the abundant life". Many of which are found in Jhn 15, Where Jesus pictures Himself as the Vine and His disciples as branches Jhn 15:1-5
- E. As "branches" we are to bear "fruit", and this leads us to the first of several "secrets of the abundant life"
- F. "The Secret Of Living Is Bearing Fruit" (Title)

DISCUSSION:

I. DIFFERENT KINDS OF FRUIT WE ARE TO BEAR

- A. Winning souls to Christ & helping them grow Rom 1:13
 1. One of the characteristics of a branch bearing fruit is that it produces a product identical to itself
 2. Therefore, one way a disciple bears fruit is by producing another disciple!
- B. Sharing with those in need Rom 15:25-28
 1. Jesus gave His very life for others 2Cor 8:9
 2. So, if the "Vine" did this, we should expect His "branches" to do the same Jhn 3:16-18
- C. Developing Christ-like character...
 1. "Fruit" of Spirit is development of certain graces Gal 5:22-23
 2. Abounding in such qualities is growing in the "knowledge of Jesus Christ" 2Pet 1:5-8
 3. By putting on new man one is renewed Col 3:9-11
- D. Praising God and giving thanks Heb 13:15
- E. How does bearing fruit provide "abundant life" Jesus promised?

II. THE BENEFITS OF BEARING SUCH FRUIT

- A. Great "joy" for those who win souls
 1. There is "no greater joy" 3Jhn 3-4

2. Converts Paul's "glory and joy" 1Thess 2:19-20
3. Winning and confirming souls for Christ affords great joy to Christians as they see the fruits of their labors

- B. Great "happiness" for those who share possessions
 1. Christians learn by experience the truthfulness of Jesus' teachings Acts 20:35
 2. The word "blessed" can be translated "O how very happy", so there is greater happiness in giving than in receiving
- C. Great "assurance" for ones who develop Christ-like character
 1. Those in whom "the fruit of the Spirit" is produced are free from any condemnation of law Gal 5:23b; Rom 8:1
 2. Those who abound in "knowledge of Christ" have the assurance of an "abundant entrance" into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord 2Pet 1:8-11
 3. Those who love in deed and truth have an assurance of their salvation 1Jhn 3:18-19
- D. Great "peace" for those given to thanksgiving
 1. For those with the "attitude of gratitude", there is the "peace of God" Phil 4:6-7
 2. A peace which passes all understanding and will guard our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus"

CONCLUSION

- A. Life filled with Joy; Happiness; Assurance; Peace surely is the "abundant life"!
- B. Thus "the secret of living is bearing fruit", and this "abundant life" is available only to those who will "bear fruit" as "branches" of the "True Vine" (Jesus Christ)!
- C. But is there a secret to bearing fruit? Indeed, there is, and our next lesson will learn from Jhn 15 what it is.
- D. However, for now, if you have not yet become a "branch" of the "True Vine", will you give serious consideration to becoming one.

(adapted from an outline by Mark Copeland, to which he appended the following) NOTE: The general idea for this series of lessons was taken from "Five Secrets Of Living", a small booklet written by Warren W. Wiersbe