

The Harvest Times is an outreach ministry of the Susquehanna Valley Baptist Church in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

The Harvest Times

...He that soweth, receiveth wages... unto eternal life — John 4:36

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Fruits of the Spirit or Works of the Flesh?

Most Christians today would accept the thought that a Christian should resemble Christ. This resemblance would not only entail following after his commands, but also mimicking his actions. It is noteworthy that many today who call themselves Christians do not resemble the Savior in either their actions or attitudes. Many Christians today are given over to fleshly or carnal desires. How can we as Christians be more like Christ in 2010 and the coming New Year?

In the fifth chapter of Galatians we observe, "Now the works of the flesh are manifest...*but the fruit of the Spirit is....*" Let us differentiate between works and fruit. The word "works" is in the plural tense and implies that there is more than one labor of the flesh. In fact, Paul lists seventeen different works of the flesh. Work is defined as

"exertion or effort directed to produce something."

Interestingly enough, the word *work* is used three times in Genesis (2:2; 2:3; 5:29), and each time it is associated with the words *rest* or *toil*. Just as we work to earn a living and grow weary from our labor, so our flesh works. Our flesh works long and toilsome hours. But the point is, our flesh is working to pursue its own carnal lusts and desires. It would seem that at every corner and turn in life our flesh manifests itself – often to our shame. Just when we think we've gotten one sinful habit under control, another work of the flesh emerges. Now before we deal with the "fruit of the Spirit," we would do well to investigate the statement that is made in Galatians 5:17. *For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the*



one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. The works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit are against or contrary to each other. This use of the word *against* has the idea of suppression, meaning the flesh will suppress the Spirit OR the Spirit will suppress the flesh. The two cannot peacefully co-exist in the life of a believer because they are contrary and lie at opposite extremes.

Notice that the word *fruit* is used in the singular. Implied here is a yielding, receiving, and accepting. It is as if someone else has already done the work. This fruit

Upcoming Events:

- **Thanksgiving Service** (November 23, 2010)
- **Missionary Dave Loop** (November 28, 2010)
- **Christmas Program** (December 11, 2010)
- **Cookies & Carols** (December 26, 2010)
- **Sanctity of Life Sunday** (January 23, 2011)

Pastor's Corner

We have just celebrated the one month anniversary of Susquehanna Valley Baptist Church. Time, it seems, continues to move more quickly with each passing day. The Lord has sent us many visitors in the last month. Nearly all of them were a result of canvassing. We are planning on having a "Strengthening Campaign" in the Spring where we will attempt to distribute 7,000 more

kits to the community over a period of two weeks. We will continue to sow the seed and trust God to bring a harvest.

In our adult Sunday School class, we have been dealing with the matter of missions. Sometimes, we in America overlook the need for home missions and focus only on the "foreign" field, but in God's economy, all missions is foreign (we are just pilgrims and strangers). We

hope to start Faith Promise giving in the New Year.

Please be in prayer for our Christmas Cantata that will be held on Saturday, December 11, 2010, at 2:00 pm. If you are in the area, we would invite you to plan to be in attendance.

As we look to the New Year, may your eyes look upward, your heart reach outward, and your feet plod onward!

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Susquehanna Valley

BAPTIST CHURCH

We are a friendly church that still believes.... If you are able, we invite you to visit us at one of our services. Our Sunday Morning service starts at 10 am with Sunday School and is followed at 11 AM with the morning worship. We meet Sunday evenings at 6 PM and Thursdays for Bible Study at 7:00 PM. We would love to have you present!

Serving God With Gladness,

W. Brandon Starnes, Pastor

Preaching a life worth living...

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(Fruits or Works continued)

Notice that the word *fruit* is used in the singular. Implied here is a yielding, receiving, and accepting. It is as if someone else has already done the work. This fruit does not proceed from the labors of man, but is rather the outworking of the work that **Christ** has done.

There are three parts to this fruit of the Spirit. (1) Personal fruit - love, joy, and peace (2) Out-reaching fruit - longsuffering, gentleness, and goodness (3) Up-reaching fruit (toward God) - faith, meekness, and temperance. These nine singular graces are characterized as one fruit.

So then how can we resemble Christ more? Galatians



5:24 tells us. "And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts." This is the simplicity of the matter. To closer resemble Christ we do not try to act better, or do better, but rather to die to our fleshly (carnal) man. After all, the flesh and the Spirit are contrary one to another. If we would exhibit the fruit of the Spirit and ultimately resemble our Savior, we must crucify our flesh daily, and live in newness of life. (WBS)

Thoughts for the Traveler

As we conclude this Thanksgiving Season, might we urge you to truly be thankful in all things. I recently read an article regarding the tribulations that the pilgrims endured. "The Pilgrims made seven times more graves than huts. No Americans have been more impoverished than these who, nevertheless, set aside a day of thanksgiving." Our perception of difficulty often limits our ability to be thankful. The Scriptures command us, "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. (1 Thess. 5:18) May we be thankful for all that we have!

Susquehanna Valley
BAPTIST CHURCH

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