

- I. Intro: what does it mean for people to flourish?
- II. The context of a fruitful life: a community and leaders based in the gospel (rephrase?)
 - A. Not only when I'm there, but much more when I'm not: obey the Lord.
 - B. People save each other. (Romans 11:14; 1 Corinthians 7:16; 9:22; 1 Timothy 4:16; James 5:20; Jude 23)
 - C. We need to be cross-pollinated (like an apple tree) in order to bear fruit.
- III. The shape of a fruitful life: obedience
 - A. Distasteful word!
 - B. The accomplishment of salvation is not open-ended
- IV. The goal of a fruitful life: (final) salvation
 - A. Work out your own salvation
 - B. Paul is calling us to be and do what we were redeemed for. (Ephesians 2:8-10; Titus 2:11-14)
 - C. True obedience to Christ is good fruit; good fruit brings holiness; holiness leads us into eternal life
- V. The power of a fruitful life: God within us
 - A. How can we live in such a way that we can meet God with confidence? Only on the basis of a prior and ongoing reality.
 - B. The prior and ongoing reality: what has already happened to us through union with Christ by faith. (Romans 6:2-6; 8:1-2, 9; Colossians 2:12, 20; 3:1-4, 9; Galatians 2:20; 3:27; 4:6-7; Ephesians 2:5-6; 4:24)
 - C. Not cooperation (as in 50/50 split): 100% of credit goes to God.
 - D. Obedience to God's voice *within* us (1 Thess. 5:19; Eph. 4:30)
 - E. Notes on practice:
 - i. God alone gets the credit – even for the good works we do
 - ii. Christianity is an incredible active and interactive thing
 - iii. Listen.
 - iv. Obey.
- VI. Why we bear fruit
 - A. There is no sacrifice he cannot ask of us.
 - B. There is no loss he will not reward beyond what we could ask. (Mark 10:29-30)
 - C. Branches of the true Vine (John 15:1-8)