

Sermon Notes

Things That Matter

#1 – “Beautiful Produce in an Age of Crop Failure”

I. Introduction

A. Distinctions between Christians and non-Christians.

1. Doctrine is important.
2. Moral transformation – Matthew 7:16-20
3. Knowing Fruit – Steve Mattson of Sojourners
4. Christianity Today magazine
5. “Character determines destiny,” John Murray
 - a. Definition – mental and moral qualities distinctive to the individual
 - b. Pastor Don’s definition – What we are all a_____.

B. Where does Christian character come from?

1. II Peter 2:1-4
 - a. A work of God
2. The model for fruitfulness harks back to the creation ordinances – Genesis 1:28
3. Adam made in God’s image – Genesis 1:27
 - a. To Rule, yes, but also produce the likeness of God within creation.
4. The fall diminished the character of God in man, but remnants of the communicable attributes remain.
 - a. Love, holiness, justice, goodness, kindness

C. Transformation of our attitudes and actions is expected.

1. Colossians 3:10; Ephesians 4:23-24
2. Work of the Holy Spirit
3. Evan Howard of Christianity Today magazine
4. “All true Christian grace tends to holy practice,” Jonathan Edwards.

D. John Owen’s point on the fruit of the spirit

1. “Not of human origin.”
2. Galatians 5:19-25

II. Transformation of our image matters

A. Key text – II Corinthians 3:18

1. We are to become godlike

2. Galatians is a starting place while other qualities may be added.

- a. Holiness, humility, compassion, sincerity, forbearance, contentment, thankfulness, perseverance

B. A case study from the life of Joseph

1. Genesis 39:1-9

- a. Note distinction between appearance and motive.

2. Jerry Bridges of the Navigators

3. Joseph had a **godly motivation** – Matthew 22:37-40

4. Key thought – Fear of consequence is good, but love of God is better.

5. Note Joseph’s reasons

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

6. Alexander MacLaren

7. The source for motivation for Joseph is the same for us – Godward motivation

- a. I Cor. 10:31; Col. 3:22; I Peter 2:13; Eph. 5:21

III. What is the source of power?

A. God alone

1. Monergistic

- a. II Cor. 3:5; Col. 1:29; Phil 4:13

- b. We have the responsibility, but God receives all of the credit for change.

2. Holy Spirit transforms

- a. Phil. 3:12-14; I Timothy 4:7b

B. Paul emphasizes both.

1. Philippians 2:12-13

2. We must use the grace God provides.

- a. George Bethune

IV. Call to be faithful

A. This series will be focused upon the Fruit of the Spirit

1. Galatians 5:22-23

B. Admonition to meditate

1. I Timothy 4:7; Hebrews 12:11