

"GOOD FOR NOTHING" CHRISTIANS #2

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Christians special people with special purpose 1Pet 2:9
- B. Yet, can become unfaithful in duty Gal 5:4
- C. Scripture reveals several different pictures of those who have by choice become ineffective in Gods kingdom.
- D. Today we want to look at two more in addition to the two we looked at previously.
- E. They are shown to be "good for nothing" concerning glorifying God and influencing others for good.

DISCUSSION:

III. AN UNFRUITFUL BRANCH (John 15:1-8)

- A. God created & demands fruit Gen 1:11,12,22,28
- B. Our responsibility (every branch) bear fruit Jhn 15:2 but cannot bear fruit of itself Jhn 15:4
- C. Fruit: Any product of plant growth useful to man or animal as grain, vegetables, cotton etc. also product or result, as of work, training, idleness, etc. reward; outcome; consequences
- D. Christians bear fruit by:
 1. winning others to Christ Rom 1:13
 2. Living holy lives Rom 6:22 (fruit of spirit Gal 5:22,23)
 3. Praising God Heb 13:15
 4. Sharing what we have Rom 15:26-28
 5. Good works Col 1:10
- E. Jesus didn't just say bear fruit but bear MUCH fruit. v. 8
 1. Unfruitful branch is not fulfilling its inherent purpose.
 2. Becomes detrimental to the other branches because it saps the nourishment from them.
 3. Good for nothing but to be cast out and burned. Jhn 15:2,6
- F. Christian can, with God's help, become fruitful again Rev 2:4-5 (Ephesus)

IV. A SOLDIER DERELICT IN HIS DUTY 2Tim 2:4

- A. Soldier "enlist" in the army through obedience Chosen by Christ 2Tim 2:4; by Gospel 2Thes 2:14
- B. A soldier is subject completely to rule, training & discipline of army Matt 28:19,20; 2Jhn 1:9
- C. Fight the good fight of faith 1Tim 6:12; Eph 6:12
 1. Persecuted 2Tim 3:12
 2. Endure hardships 2Tim 2:3
- D. Does not fraternize with the enemy 2Tim 2:4
 1. Can't be "soldier" and "civilian" at same time Phil. 3:18-20; Jas. 4:4; 1Jhn. 2:15-17

2. Can't be cowardly, must "stand his post" and fight enemy Eph 6:10-18 Traits inherent in being a soldier.
3. An insubordinate or coward is good for nothing.
- E. Unfaithful soldier, with God's help, can regain his effectiveness Gal 2:11-14; 2Pet 3:15

CONCLUSION:

- A. It becomes obvious that one can become "good for nothing" as a child of God.
- B. Reaching that point God will "spue us out" Rev 3:16
- C. It takes work to be of use, i.e. bear fruit and fight against the Devil.
- D. Are you and am I "good for nothing"? 2Cor 13:5
(idea for lesson from Dan Richardson)