

## MY TREE FOR HIS TREE

### I. [Genesis 2:8-17](#) [Luke 6:43-45](#) [1 Peter 2:24](#) [Galatians 3:10-14](#)

**A. Genesis 2:8-17 (ESV) says: 8** *And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there He put the man whom He had formed. 9* *And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. 10* *A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. 11* *The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. 12* *And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. 13* *The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. 14* *And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates. 15* *The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. 16* *And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17* *but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."* **(God then makes Eve. Satan tempts the couple to eat fruit from the forbidden tree. Their rebellion results in the fall of man. Every war, all pain, every malady, all death and misfortune can be traced to this event.)**

**B.** In 1981 Barbara Walters was interviewing Katharine Hepburn and she infamously asked the actress what kind of tree she was. Walters was derided and teased for the question the rest of her career, from Johnny Carson to spoofs on Saturday Night Live. But Hepburn actually gave an answer. She said she hoped she was an oak and not a Dutch elm with Dutch elm disease. If we dared to compare our BC days to trees, the diseased version fits us best...

**C.** Once Jesus passed by a fig tree looking for some fruit. Finding none, He cursed it. Shortly thereafter when the disciples passed by the tree again, it had withered and died. While this certainly was a forecast of Israel's demise, fruit remains the telltale sign of what kind of tree we are and what truly lies within our hearts.

**D. [Luke 6:43-45](#) (ESV) is from Jesus' the *Sermon on the Plain*: 43** *For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, 44* *for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thornbushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. 45* *The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks. (John Piper sheds valuable insight: "Fruit does not make a tree good. A good tree bears good fruit. It shows that the tree is good.")*

**E.** Back to Dutch Elms with Dutch Elm Disease; Is there hope for diseased trees? Can a Dutch Elm start producing acorns and make itself an Oak? Or can a maple tree make itself an apple tree by producing apples? Can a thornbush start producing figs and therefore make itself a fig tree? Can a bramble bush transform itself into a grape-bearing vine? Can a blind man will himself to see? Can a dead man will himself to live? Can a person with the terminal disease of sin cure himself? Or Is there Someone outside of us who can regenerate us, recreate us, heal us, and transform from the inside out? Are we doomed or is there Hope?

**F. 1 Peter 2:24 (ESV) says a tree was utilized for our conversion: 24 He Himself (Jesus, God the Son) bore our sins in His body on the tree, (Gk. Xulon) that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed. (Behold the Gospel!)**

**G. Galatians 3:10-14 (ESV) Paul elaborates about the tree for the sake of the self-righteous law-keepers. He quotes the OT while pointing to the New: 10 For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them." (Deut. 27:26) 11 Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for "The righteous shall live by faith." (Hab. 2:4) 12 But the law is not of faith, rather "The one who does them shall live by them." (Lev. 18:5) (But here's Good News): 13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us--for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"--(Deut. 21:23) 14 so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith. (The Gospel: My disease for His cure! My sin for His righteousness! My curse for His eternal blessing! Now that should produce some fruit!)**

**H. Psalm 52:8-9 (NKJV) becomes for us a fitting song of thanksgiving! 8 But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God; I trust in the mercy (Hb. Hessed: steadfast love i.e. God's loyal love) of God forever and ever. 9 I will praise You forever, because You have done it; and in the presence of Your saints I will wait on Your name, for it is good.**

**I. Last week we talked about Levi (a.k.a Matthew) the tax collector whom Jesus called. He left his tax booth and became one of the Twelve. Another famous tax collector was a short man named Zacchaeus. As Jesus passed through Jericho bound for Jerusalem, Zacchaeus climbed a sycamore tree to get a better view of the Messiah as He passed by. Stopping underneath the tree, Jesus called Zach down and welcomed Him into eternal fellowship. Jesus' love and forgiveness produced repentance and faith and the little man was never the same. He forsook the tree that only let him see Jesus from a distance so that He could meet his Savior personally. He gave up a mere glimpse for a face-to-face, heart-to-heart encounter. He gave up his sycamore for the cross that impaled our Lord so that his sins might be wiped out. Have you forsaken your tree for the cross of Christ?**

**J. We began with Paradise lost; we'll end with Paradise restored. What kind of trees might we expect there? Revelation 22:1-5 (ESV) reveals the heavenly arboretum, the botanical garden of glory: 1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2 through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. 3 No longer will there be anything accursed, ("No more let sin or sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground!") but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His servants will worship Him. 4 They will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. 5 And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.**

**\* Close with Prayer...**

**[Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff](#)**

### **Genesis 2:8-17 (ESV)**

**8** And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there He put the man whom He had formed. **9** And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. **10** A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. **11** The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. **12** And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. **13** The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. **14** And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates. **15** The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. **16** And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, **17** but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

### **Luke 6:43-45 (ESV)**

**43** For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, **44** for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thornbushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. **45** The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

### **1 Peter 2:24 (ESV)**

**24** He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed.

### **Galatians 3:10-14 (ESV)**

**10** For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them."  
**11** Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for "The righteous shall live by faith."  
**12** But the law is not of faith, rather "The one who does them shall live by them."  
**13** Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us--for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"--  
**14** so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

### **Deuteronomy 27:26 (ESV)**

**26** Cursed be anyone who does not confirm the words of this law by doing them. And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'

### **Habakkuk 2:4 (NASB)**

**4** Behold, as for the proud one, his soul is not right within him; but the righteous will live by his faith.

### **Leviticus 18:5 (ESV)**

**5** You shall therefore keep My statutes and My rules; if a person does them, he shall live by them: I am the LORD.

### **Deuteronomy 21:22-23 (ESV)**

**22** And if a man has committed a crime punishable by death and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, **23** his body shall not remain all night on the tree, but you shall bury him the same day, for a hanged man is cursed by God. You shall not defile your land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance.

### **Psalms 52:8-9 (NKJV)**

**8** But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God; I trust in the mercy of God forever and ever. **9** I will praise You forever, because You have done it; and in the presence of Your saints I will wait on Your name, for it is good.

### **Revelation 22:1-5 (ESV)**

**1** Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb **2** through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. **3** No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His servants will worship Him. **4** They will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. **5** And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

### **Bonus Stuff**

**Like Trees That Bear Fruit- John Piper**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m4-c0gNG-JU>

**George Whitefield Sermon--The Conversion of Zacchaeus**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lnRfixfthtc>

**The Pharisee and the Tax Collector (The Bible Mini Series) Powerful!**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kLCSVjHKQjk>

**Katharine Hepburn Interview with Barbara Walters ("What Kind of Tree Are You?")**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M\\_X2Xd1iOmM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M_X2Xd1iOmM)

### **Matthew 3:7-10 (ESV)**

**4** Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. **5** Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, **6** and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. **7** But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned

you to flee from the wrath to come? **8** Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. **9** And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. **10** Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

### **Luke 19:1-10 (ESV)**

**1** He entered Jericho and was passing through. **2** And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. **3** And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. **4** So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was about to pass that way. **5** And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." **6** So he hurried and came down and received Him joyfully. **7** And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." **8** And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." **9** And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. **10** For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

### **John 15:1-17 (ESV)**

**1** I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. **2** Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. **3** Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. **4** Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. **5** I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in Him, He it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. **6** If anyone does not abide in Me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. **7** If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. **8** By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be My disciples. **9** As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Abide in My love. **10** If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. **11** These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. **12** This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. **13** Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. **14** You are My friends if you do what I command you. **15** No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. **16** You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He may give it to you. **17** These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

### **Acts 5:30-32 (ESV)**

**30** The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging Him on a tree.  
**31** God exalted Him at His right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. **32** And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.

### **Romans 7:4 (AMPC)**

**4** Likewise, my brethren, you have undergone death as to the Law through the [crucified] body of Christ, so that now you may belong to Another, to Him Who was raised from the dead in order that we may bear fruit for God.

### **Psalms 1:1-3 (ESV)**

**1** Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; **2** but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on His law he meditates day and night. **3** He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

### **Jeremiah 17:7-8 (ESV)**

**7** Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. **8** He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.

### **Revelation 2:7 (ESV)**

**7** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.

### **Quote by John Piper**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4LnIYEaL3zw>

"When Romans 2:6 says, "God will render to each one according to his works," he means just what he says, everybody. God will render to every Christian and non-Christian according to (which is a very big difference than on the basis of) his works. It doesn't mean your works save you. It does mean your works confirm you are saved. I'll say that again, when he says God will judge everyone according to their works, he doesn't mean the works become the ground of their salvation, he means the works are the fruit of their salvation... Fruit does not make a tree good. A good tree bears good fruit. It shows that the tree is good."

- John Piper, Youtube sermon clip, "*How Will God Judge Us?*"

### **Quote by John Newton**

"Remember, the growth of a believer is not like a mushroom, but like an oak, which increases slowly indeed but surely. Many suns, showers, and frosts, pass upon it before it comes to perfection; and in winter, when it seems dead, it is gathering strength at the root. Be humble, watchful, and diligent in the means, and endeavor to look through all, and fix your eye upon Jesus, and all shall be well."

- John Newton, *The Works of John Newton*, Vol. 2. p. 141.

## **The Term, "Fruit"**

Keith H. Essex

The term "fruit" is widespread in Scripture. It is introduced in Genesis 1 and its final use is found in Revelation 22. In both of those passages it refers to the edible produce of trees ([Gen 1:11–12](#); [Rev 22:1–2](#)). This basic meaning of "fruit," the edible product of a tree, is found throughout the OT and NT ([Lev 23:40](#); [26:4](#), [20](#); [27:30](#); [Neh 10:35](#), [37](#); [Ps 1:3](#); [148:9](#); [Eccl 2:5](#); [Ezek 36:20](#); [Matt 7:17–19](#); [21:19](#); [Rev 22:2](#)).

Three derived meanings of "fruit" occur from its basic, essential meaning of the produce from a tree and/or the ground. First, "fruit" is used often in the OT in the phrase "fruit of the womb," i.e., children ([Gen 30:2](#); [Deut 7:13](#); [28:4](#), [11](#); [30:9](#); [Ps 127:3](#); [Isa 13:18](#)). The noun "fruit" can refer to both human ([Ps 21:10](#); [Hos 9:16](#); [Luke 1:42](#)) and animal ([Deut 28:4](#); [30:9](#)) offspring. Thus, from its basic meaning of produce from the tree or the ground, "fruit" came to be used in the Bible of the produce from the womb.

Second, beginning in the OT and becoming its predominant usage in the NT, particularly in the NT letters, "fruit" is used metaphorically to refer to the actions produced by a person, the fruit of one's life, i.e., behavior, conduct. This concept, introduced in the OT ([Prov 1:31](#); [11:30](#); [Isa 10:12](#); [Jer 21:14](#); [32:19](#)), is picked up and developed by NT authors ([Matt 3:8](#); [7:16-20](#); [Rom 6:21–22](#); [7:4](#); [Gal 5:22](#); [Eph 5:9](#); [Phil 1:11](#); [Heb 12:11](#)).

Third, in the NT, "fruit" can also refer to the outcome or result of one's actions ([Rom 1:13](#); [Phil 1:22](#)) or the wages earned (i.e., produced) by those actions ([1 Cor 9:7](#); [Phil 4:17](#); [2 Tim 2:6](#)).

- Keith H. Essex, Assoc. Professor of Biblical Exposition, The Master's Seminary, Article titled, "*The Fruit of Sanctification*," Nov. 3, 2015. To read full article, go to: <http://www.tms.edu/preachersandpreaching/the-fruit-of-sanctification/>

## **What is Fruit?**

By Charles Ryrie

What is fruit? Actually the question ought to be phrased in the plural: What are fruits which a Christian can bear? The N.T. gives several answers to the question.

ONE, a developing Christian character is fruit. If the goal of the Christian life may be stated as Christlikeness, then surely every trait developed in us that reflects His character must be fruit that is very pleasing to Him. Paul describes the fruit of the Spirit in nine terms in Galatians 5:22-23, and Peter urges the development of seven accompaniments to faith in order that we might be fruitful (2 Peter 1:5-8). Two of these terms are common to both lists: love and self-control. The others are joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, virtue, knowledge, endurance, piety, and brotherly love. To show these character traits is to bear fruit in one's life.

TWO, right character will result in right conduct, and as we live a life of good works we produce fruit (Colossians 1:10). This goes hand in hand with increasing in the

knowledge of God, for as we learn what pleases Him, our fruitful works become more and more conformed to that knowledge. When Paul expressed how torn he was between the two possibilities of either dying and being with Christ or living on in this life, he said that living on would mean fruitful labor or work (Philippians 1:22). This phrase could mean that (1) his work itself was fruit, or (2) fruit would result from his work. In either case, his life and work were fruit. So may ours be.

THREE, those who come to Christ through our witness are fruit. Paul longed to go to Rome to have some fruit from his ministry there (Romans 1:13), and he characterized the conversion of the household of Stephanas as the first fruits of Achaia (I Corinthians 16:15).

FOUR, we may also bear fruit with our lips by giving praise to God and thankfully confessing His name (Hebrews 13:15). In other words, our lips bear fruit when we offer thankful acknowledgement to the name of God. And this is something we should do continually.

FIVE, we bear fruit when we give money. Paul designated the collection of money for the poorer saints in Jerusalem as fruit (Romans 15:28). Too, when he thanked the Philippians for their financial support of his ministry, he said that their act of giving brought fruit to their account (Philippians 4:17, KJV).

- Charles Ryrie, *So Great Salvation*, Victor Books, 1989, pp. 49-50.