

Tuesday's Touch

...from Pastor Ed

...February 17, 2009

Fruitful Abiding

(please read John 15:1-17)

He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. John 15:5

*But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory... 2 Corinthians 3:18. *NKJV*, as also *ESV*, *NASB*, et al.*

...they shall walk, O LORD, in the light of thy countenance. Psalm 89:15

How quickly we are apt to forget that without Him we can do nothing. As our salvation is all of Him, so is any fruit we may bear to His glory. We are privileged to be, and shall even be rewarded for being, conduits of His grace. But make no mistake, all our crowns will be joyfully cast at His feet, for He alone is worthy. (Rev. 4:10)

Herein lies the great dynamic of the New Covenant victory. Law can only demand conformance, and the flesh quickly finds itself unable to obey, exhausted and condemned. But beholding the glory of Christ we are changed within from glory to glory; and abiding in Christ we bear fruit unto glory.

The new birth brings us into living communion with our Lord, but it never enables us to manufacture fruit on our own. We can do nothing without Him. To try is to be cast back upon the rigor of law, and we either become powerless and frustrated, or worse, we are deceived into thinking that we have actually accomplished something to our own merit. In Christ, it is God who works in us to will and to do of His good pleasure, and that is the impetus that infallibly impels us to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling. (Philippians 2:12-13) But this "working out with fear and trembling" is the joyful occupation of the saints as we behold His beauty, for in [His] presence is fullness of joy; at [His] right hand there are pleasures for evermore. (Psalm 16:11)

This is the great ends for which the means of grace are given. All our praying, and Bible reading, and worshipping and fellowshiping are of no avail if in all these we are not finding His glory "in the mirror," and thereby being changed and made fruitful. This is true sanctification. By no other means than communion with Himself shall we be made like Him.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all, amen. 2 Corinthian 13:14

Our Father,

May each of Your children quickly learn the reality of "not I, but Christ in me." (Gal.2:20). Holy Spirit, magnify the Altogether-Lovely-One before us as we diligently draw near through every means of grace You've given us. Lord Jesus, bear much fruit in us to the glory of the Father and the advancement of Your Kingdom.

Amen

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