

“Abounding in Christ”

2 Peter 1: 8-9

2Pe 1:8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make *you that ye shall* neither *be* barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Note:

In verse 18 we have:

1. A question posed.

“If” these things be in you.

Are they in you this morning?

Have you added to your faith;

Virtue, Knowledge, Temperance, Patience, Godliness, Brotherly Kindness and Charity.

We have considered the illustration of a building.

Christ is the Foundation

Faith is the House

These things are the Furniture

Illustration.

We are building at the moment in our back garden.

We have only started and have not even completed the outer shell.

Could you imagine if we left it like that and never did any more work?

What would that say about the workman?

Question:

If your life as a Christian was somehow this morning transformed into a physical structure, what would it look like?

How finished would it be?

We have:

2. A possibility suggested

The possibility that you can be a Christian and not possess these things

Consider:

Satan cannot rob your soul but he can rob your service!

We have

3. God's desire revealed

God wants us as his people to have these qualities in our lives.

People often pose the question; what is God's will for me?

The answer is given to us in scripture.

The phrase "This is the will of God" appears only twice in the Bible.

Both times in 1 Thessalonians

1Th 4:3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification,

1Th 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

We have also:

4. The possibilities stated.

"For if these things be in you, and **"abound"**

Synonyms: crawl, flourish, overflow, swarm, teem

The word "Abound" only appears once in the OT

Pro 28:20 A faithful man shall abound with blessings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent.

Many Christians settle for second best.

Is that what you want to settle for this morning?

Would you settle for second best in business?

We have in verse 8 fifthly

5. The purpose stated

“they make *you*” *that ye shall* neither *be* barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Consider the glorious effect of these Christian qualities.

“they make *you*”

Emphasis is put on the power of the graces.

The word “Make” is the gk word

καθίστημι

kathistēmi

kath-is'-tay-mee

From G2596 and G2476; to *place down* (permanently), that is, (figuratively) to *designate, constitute, convoy*: - appoint, be, conduct, make, ordain, set.

The same gk word is used in Hebrews 2 but is translated into a different English word.

The word “Set”

Speaking of God the Father’s dealings with the Son

We read:

Heb 2:7 *Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst “set” him over the works of thy hands:*

We have sixthly

6. **The awful possibility presented**

that ye shall neither *be* barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

“Barren” in the gk is

ἀργός

argos

ar-gos'

From G1 (as a negative particle) and G2041; *inactive*, that is, *unemployed*; (by implication) *lazy, useless*: - barren, idle, slow.

Probably the clearest scripture on this is found in Matthew 25.

The Parable of the Talents.

Matthew 25: 14-30

“Unfruitful”

In the gk is:

ἄκαρπος

akarpos

ak'-ar-pos

From G1 (as a negative particle) and G2590; *barren* (literally or figuratively): - without fruit, unfruitful.

Read Mark 11: 12-14

“The Barren Fig Tree”

Let me ask you a question this morning:

Have you only got some leaves but no fruit?

Christ is hungry this morning for fruit, not leaves!

Christ is not satisfied with bare appearance.

We have in these verses seventhly:

7. The diagnosis made of those who lack these things.

2Pe 1:9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

3 problems are identified with this sort of person.

They are Blind.

They are shortsighted.

They are forgetful.

Let me ask you this morning;

Are you blind?

Don't be afraid of saying yes!

There is one present in this meeting who gives sight to the blind.

In looking to him sight is given.

When John the Baptist enquired as to the identity of Christ; we read in Matthew 11:

Mat 11:2 Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples,

Mat 11:3 And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?

Mat 11:4 Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see:

Mat 11:5 *The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.*

Mat 11:6 And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.

{Joan parsons}

*“I was once in darkness, now my eyes can see
I was lost but Jesus sought and found me”*

Maybe, you are not quite blind

But;

Are you shortsighted?

Listen to what our Lord says to such people.

Joh 6:27 *Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.*

Pro 23:5 Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.

Isa 55:2 *Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.*

Isa 55:3 Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.

Maybe you are not blind or Shortsighted.

But are you forgetful?

Have you forgotten what your salvation cost?

Isa 53:3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Isa 53:4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

Isa 53:5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

1Co 6:20 *For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*