

TAKE ROOT DOWNWARD AND BEAR FRUIT UPWARD

(II Kings 19:30)

- Introduction:
1. Bearing fruit for God is essential to salvation (John 15:1-5).
 2. But in order to bear fruit, we must take root.
 3. We need a strong foundation (Matthew 7:24-27).
 4. We need to be reminded of foundational matters in the following areas.

I. Doctrinal Roots

- A. The church is to be the pillar and ground of the truth (II Timothy 3:15).
- B. "To whom shall we go" if Christ's church will not uphold doctrinal purity.
- C. Doctrinal purity is important.
 1. (II John 9-11).
 2. (Galatians 1:6-9).
- D. Areas in which the church is being challenged today.
 1. The necessity of biblical authority (Colossians 3:17).
 2. The role of women in the church (II Timothy 2:11-12).
 3. The worship of the church (John 4:24).
 4. The organization of the church (Philippians 1:1).
 5. The biblical doctrine of salvation (Ephesians 2:8).
- E. Will you take root downward that the doctrine of Christ will not be perverted or overturned in our generation?

II. Moral Roots

- A. The world beckons us to conform ourselves to it.
- B. (Romans 12:2) We must not be conformed to the world.
- C. Morally, much of our nation is bankrupt.
- D. Note the moral decline of our nation.
 1. Abortion.
 2. Homosexuality.
 3. Alcohol.
 4. Sensuality.
 5. Lack of integrity (lying, stealing, cheating...).
- E. God's grace demands moral living (Titus 2:11-12). Are you willing to take root downward that the moral standards of God not be shaken?

III. Attitudinal Roots

- A. Sins of the attitude are more often than not, "*secret sins*", unknown to those around you.
- B. This is what makes them so dangerous.
- C. Be assured that one's relationship with God can be defiled by attitude (Mark 7:14-23) just as surely as his relationship can be defiled by actions.
- D. Attitudes we need to beware:
 1. Rejoicing over another's misfortune (Romans 12:15).
 2. Arrogance (Romans 12:3).
 3. Judgmental (I Corinthians 13:7).
 4. Hatred (Matthew 5:20-26).
 5. Apathy (Revelation 2:16).
- E. Are you willing to wrestle with your carnal nature, take root downward, and bring every thought into captivity (II Corinthians 10:5)?

- Conclusion:
1. We must take root doctrinally, morally, and with our attitude.
 2. Without roots, we will die.
 3. A branch or flower that has been severed from its roots may appear healthy and may even blossom for a while, but soon it will wither and die for it has no roots.
 4. The church today is preoccupied with appearances (results, growth, success...) and has neglected the "out of sight" roots that give it life.
 5. A church that has forgotten its roots may survive for a while, but given time, no money, no beautiful building, no dynamic preacher can bring a rootless church back to life.
 6. On the other hand, a church that is deeply rooted cannot be destroyed and can weather any storm that rages upon it.