

9-27-20 Message
THE UNPROFITABLE SERVANT

Matthew 25:14 For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.

Matthew 25:15 And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.

Matthew 25:16 Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.

Matthew 25:17 And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.

Matthew 25:18 But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.

Matthew 25:19 After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.

Matthew 25:20 And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.

Matthew 25:21 His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Matthew 25:22 He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them.

Matthew 25:23 His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Matthew 25:24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:

Matthew 25:25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.

Matthew 25:26 His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:

Matthew 25:27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.

Matthew 25:28 Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.

Matthew 25:29 For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

Matthew 25:30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Luke 19:12 He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return.

Luke 19:13 And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.

Luke 19:14 But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us.

Luke 19:15 And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.

The Characteristics Of An Unprofitable Servant:

I. THE UNPROFITABLE SERVANT SQUANDERS HIS OPPORTUNITIES TO BE FRUITFUL: He does not lack opportunities he just is neglectful to use them.

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Luke 19:15 And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.

Luke 19:16 Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds.

Luke 19:17 And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.

Luke 19:18 And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds.

Luke 19:19 And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities.

Luke 19:20 And another came, saying, Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin:

There is much in this world that effects the way we view life and the opportunities God has given us to serve him...

Note: In the one parable each servant had received a different amount of talents according to their several abilities. In the other parable each one had received the same amount but traded and gained different amounts according to their abilities.

Application: I believe the talents or pounds is a life invested for the Kingdom of God. Each of us only have one life but each of us produce different amounts of fruit or profit for the kingdom of God. It seems that the Lord doesn't condemn any of his servants except the one that gains no profit.

We each are commanded to invest our lives for the work of God and do the best we can. There is no excuse for being slothful and not doing anything for Christ.

Your life is the talents or pound. In the parable the talents or the pound is symbolic of all that you have and all that you are. These are your earthly assets. The Lord expects us to invest these assets for the Kingdom of God!

Jesus died to redeem us to Himself. When we view this as a small thing, we do God a great injustice.

It is only our reasonable duty and obligation to invest our lives for the cause of Christ.

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

2. The Unprofitable Servant Will Look At What He Has Received From The Lord As A Small Thing:

It may be that is what makes one man's two talents two talents, and another man's 5 talents 5 talents. It is not what they have been given but their ability to invest what has been given. In the other parable they all receive the same amount, one pound! This is why in the other parable each received 1 pound but each invested that pound differently and some gained more and others gained less.

In Luke 19 everyone received the same but gained more or less according to their ability to trade. In Matt. 25 they are all given an amount according to their abilities.

Each of us have but one life. If some gain more than others it is only because some have chosen to invest their lives and make better use of their lives for the Lord.

Ask yourself this question:

As I look at the activities I choose to get involved in every day, how will these activities count for eternity? What long lasting value do these have?

Some people have no time to pray, witness to others, read their Bibles, serve the Lord in Church, attend Church activities.

The same people have time to shop, watch TV, get involved in recreational activities, get involved in hobbies etc. There may not be anything wrong with these things except they will not amount to anything in eternity. The reason some Christians will gain more with their life is because they choose to invest more, for the kingdom of God.

When you stand before God, He is going to judge your life on the basis of fruitfulness. It is not a small thing to be fruitful for the Lord.

We should ask ourselves:

A. What activities did you get involved in that caused others to be affected for eternity?

How many people have you invited to Church?

How many people have you witnessed to?

How influential have you been with family and friends for the Lord?

B. How many people will be in heaven because of you?

C. How many people have gotten right with the Lord because of you?

D. How many people have been influenced to serve God because of you?

E. How much of a blessing has your life been for others?

F. How have you reflected in your life the love of Christ?

G. How many people have been blessed by your faithfulness and commitment to the Lord?

H. How many people have been helped by you and how much good have you done in this life where others have glorified God for your good works and faithfulness to the Lord?

3. Another characteristic of an unprofitable servant is that he is not willing to take responsibility for his negligence:

Matthew 25:24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:

Matthew 25:25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.

Luke 19:20 And another came, saying, Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin:

Luke 19:21 For I feared thee, because thou art an austere man: thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow.

When we stand before the Lord each of us will have to give an account for himself not for another. You alone will stand before God!

Romans 14:12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

People make all kind of excuses for their sin.

Some will say, this is the way God made me as they justify their immorality. I've heard people say, "God must not have chosen me for heaven so I don't believe." In essence they blame God for their lack of faith!

God is an austere (hard) man, too great for me to serve Him.

Others will say, God's ways and demands are too great for me, I'm not able to serve Him.

In essence, people blame God for their failures, when the real problem is their own slothfulness and neglect.

Matthew 25:26 His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:

Note the Lord blamed this unprofitable servant, He said it was his wickedness, and neglectfulness, and slothfulness that caused him to be unprofitable. No man will be able to make excuses in that day for why they were unprofitable!

4. Another Characteristic Of An Unprofitable Servant Is That He Is Not Supportive Of Others Who Are Involved In The Work of God:

Matthew 25:26 His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:

Matthew 25:27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.

Matthew 25:28 Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.

Matthew 25:29 For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

Matthew 25:30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Luke 19:22 And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow:

Luke 19:23 Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury?

Luke 19:24 And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds.

Luke 19:25 (And they said unto him, Lord, he hath ten pounds.)

Luke 19:26 For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him.

If a person really lacks confidence in his abilities, than the least he could do if he is sincere and desirous of seeing the advancement of the kingdom of God is to support those who are doing and working and sacrificing and producing fruit.

He could have at least invested his money in the bank to gain some interest.

What is the spiritual bank? It is the church and its ministers of the gospel.

Full time servants those who specialize in preaching the gospel around the world.

This I believe is the supporting of missionaries, supporting your local church supporting ministers of the gospel.

Missions giving, in the spiritual realm, is like investing in the stock market. Spiritually it is a way to gain interest and invest in those who are spreading the Word of God around the world.

The difference between God's bank and the world's bank is that the world's bank is risky. The stocks could crash, but God's bank will never crash. It is a sure investment.

A few years back I was tuning a piano for a client who lost 200,000 dollars in her retirement fund because of that Enron scandal. The Bible says,

Matthew 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

Matthew 6:20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

Matthew 6:21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

In this world you have Enrons and people like Bernie Madoff who are the thieves of this world. But investing in God's work will bring sure dividends.

Jesus used an earthly illustration to try and explain Heavenly truths. Just as you put your money in a bank and give your money to investors to gain interest, so too, when

you support God's church, when you support missionaries and God's ministers, this is God's bank. This is one way of bearing fruit for the Lord.

If you were to go to a professional money broker and you wanted to invest your money to safely bring as much interest as possible he would suggest different types of investment:

Annuities
Mutual Stocks
Money Market Insured Accounts
Blue Chip Stocks
High Risk Stocks

The Lord is suggesting that there is a way you can gain fruit and rewards by proxy simply by supporting others who are doing the work of the Lord. When you support others monetarily who are producing fruit, you in turn gain reward.

II Corinthians 9:9 (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever.

II Corinthians 9:10 Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;)

II Corinthians 9:11 Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.

These verses are talking about giving to ministers of God who are sowing the seed of the gospel. By doing so the Bible says there is an increase in the fruits of righteousness that will be laid to your account. Paul also says that this form of giving produces fruit that is placed on our heavenly accounts. This is the gain that our Lord talks about in the parable of the slothful servant. This is giving our money to the money changers, so to speak.

Philippians 4:15 Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.

Philippians 4:16 For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity.

Philippians 4:17 Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.

Their giving to Paul was fruit that was was put to their account.

I Timothy 6:17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

I Timothy 6:18 That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

I Timothy 6:19 Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

Hebrews 13:16 But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

How hard is it to get fruit by this means of giving? As we give of our earthly goods to God's people and servants, such giving produces fruit for eternal rewards and ultimately eternal life. Not that we are saved by this form of giving, but we show forth our good works that prove our faith and show that we are indeed His redeemed and His good and faithful servants.

How hard is it to put your money in the bank? You just deposit it and if it is a savings account, at the end of the year you will make some gain. In today's economy the average interest that you can gain with a savings account is about annual rate of 1% per year. That means if you invest \$1000.00 dollars at the end of the year you would have gained \$10.00. The Lord said, that is all that it would have taken for this unprofitable servant to have not received condemnation. The difference is as simple as taking what he was given and placing it in a bank rather than digging a hole and burying it in the earth. How hard was it to take it to the bank? The point is simple, the command was to invest it and get gain. Don't just hide it, don't just bury it.

So too, our salvation is not something that we hide and keep to ourselves. It is not a private thing like so many would suggest. The command is simple, spread the word, preach the gospel, tell others about the Lord. This is our commission, this is our purpose in this life. God did not save you to keep it to yourself.

Each of us have our own personalities, and abilities and gifts. The Lord was not so hard on this unprofitable servant. He said to be accepted all you needed to do was take what I gave you and give it to others who know how to invest and when I returned you would have had gain. Let's say the Lord gave you \$1000.00 and let's say you live to be 70. That means you would have 50 years to invest what the Lord gave you. Instead of hiding your talent in the dirt by just giving it over to the bank at the end of your life in this parable, this servant could have shown a profit of \$644.63. So in judgment day this unprofitable servant could have said here is your talent and I have gained another 1/2 talent! This is not quite doubling his money, but it is close to it. So even by doing nothing this unprofitable servant could have come close to doubling his talent or pound that was given to him when his Lord returned.

In other words just by being faithful to church and tithing, you will produce fruit for the Lord. How much more if you support missions, other preachers, through our faith promise missions program.

Someday, we will all have to give an account for our lives.

II Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

II Corinthians 5:11 Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.

How will you fare in that day? I wonder how many people are going to hear these words.

Matthew 25:26 His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:

Matthew 25:27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.

Matthew 25:30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

I do not believe that there will be any fruitless Christians in heaven.

Jesus said, by their fruits ye shall know them.

Matthew 7:16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

Matthew 7:17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

Matthew 7:18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

Matthew 7:19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

Matthew 7:20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

Matthew 21:19 And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away.

What good is a fruit tree with leaves only? It is good for nothing.

It is not possible to be a true believer and be fruitless.

II Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

PART II A WARNING TO EVERY SERVANT EVENING SERVICE

IV. A Warning To Every Servant:

1. Work hard to please your Lord.

Matthew 25:26 His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:

Matthew 25:27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.

Matthew 25:28 Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.

Matthew 25:29 For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

Matthew 25:30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Be not slothful:

This fellow hid his talent in the dirt.

This is a worldly Christian. When you invest your life in this world you are hiding your talent in the dirt.

II Corinthians 5:11 Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.

Let me suggest that the earth is symbolic of this world.

I John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

I John 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

I John 2:17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Jesus called this man a wicked and slothful servant.

A wicked person is a person who is unrighteous and worldly. So let me suggest his life was wrapped up somehow in the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes and the pride of life. All these things passed away.

What I would like to do tonight is to persuade you to live for the Lord and not the world.

I want to do my best to persuade you to live for the Lord, to serve the Lord, to invest in eternity.

I believe that this person was like the tares amongst the wheat.

This person was like that fig tree that had leaves but no fruit.

This person was like the wandering star mentioned in mentioned in Jude 1:13

They are the raging waves of the sea.

They are like clouds without rain. Prov. 25:14

Jude 1:13 Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.

A. Consider that the Bible is clear that each of us some day will face judgement day.

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

II Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

Solomon the wisest man that ever lived said,

Ecclesiastes 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

Ecclesiastes 12:14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

How is it that we live as if there will be no judgment day when the Bible is clear that one day we will all be judged.

The command to the unprofitable servant was clear, occupy till I come, and take what I gave you and bring gain for your Lord!

Luke 19:12 He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return.

Luke 19:13 And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.

Luke 19:15 And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.

4231 [\[?\]](#)pragmateuomai, prag-mat-yoo'-om-ahee; from 4229; to busy oneself with, i.e. to trade:-occupy.

----- Dictionary Trace -----
4229[?]pragma, prag'-mah; from 4238; a deed; by impl. an affair; by extens. an object (material):-business, matter, thing, work.

The Greek word occupy means to trade or do business, work get gain.

We get the word occupation, from this idea. Your occupation is your trade, your business, your work.

The Christian's occupation is to take the gift that the Lord has given us, which is our salvation, and to use it to get gain, to multiply it, to get other people to receive this same gift. So we should busy ourselves in this endeavor.

This is the command that our Lord gave to every one of His disciples.

2. *Make Preparation For That Day.*

By getting your eyes off of the other servants.

By working for the advancement and prosperity of the kingdom of God.

By putting your hand to the plow.

By avoiding time wasting activities.

By putting God's work first.

By investing your life in the work of the Lord.

Jesus gives another parable in Luke 16 to encourage God's people to make preparation for the day of judgment.

Luke 16:1 And he said also unto his disciples, There was a certain rich man, which had a steward; and the same was accused unto him that he had wasted his goods.

Luke 16:2 And he called him, and said unto him, How is it that I hear this of thee? give an account of thy stewardship; for thou mayest be no longer steward.

Luke 16:3 Then the steward said within himself, What shall I do? for my lord taketh away from me the stewardship: I cannot dig; to beg I am ashamed.

Luke 16:4 I am resolved what to do, that, when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses.

Luke 16:5 So he called every one of his lord's debtors unto him, and said unto the first, How much owest thou unto my lord?

Luke 16:6 And he said, An hundred measures of oil. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and sit down quickly, and write fifty.

Luke 16:7 Then said he to another, And how much owest thou? And he said, An hundred measures of wheat. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and write fourscore.

Luke 16:8 And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.

Luke 16:9 And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations.

Luke 16:10 He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

Luke 16:11 If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?

Luke 16:12 And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?

Luke 16:13 No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

The lesson we should learn from this unjust steward was that he woke up at the end, and did all he could to make up for lost time and make preparation for his judgment day. He hurried up and did something to ensure that he had a place to live in this world. How much more should we make sure our eternal abode. That unprofitable servant was cast out because he was unprofitable. He was slothful and wasteful.

It is never too late to start living for the Lord. Never too late to make preparation for eternity.

Invest your time for the Lord.
Invest your money for the Lord.

Get busy. Do it right away, don't delay!

3. MAKE PREPARATION FOR THAT DAY BY HAVING A HEALTHY FEAR OF GOD:

Luke 19:22 And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow:

Luke 19:23 Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury?

Matthew 25:24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:

Matthew 25:25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.

Matthew 25:26 His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:

Matthew 25:27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.

There is a fear that causes you to do nothing and there is a fear that causes you to work harder. Which do you have?

This unprofitable servant had an unhealthy fear for the Lord. That fear led him to do nothing! This is not good!

I John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

A healthy fear is to work harder, to do more, to seek greater investments, greater opportunities, to work harder, to not waste time!

OCCUPY, BE BUSY, INVEST, DO YOUR BEST.

4. *The Greatest Way To Prepare For that day is To Make Sure Of Your Salvation.*

II Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

Titus 1:16 They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

There is the parable of the wheat amongst the tares. Do you think the tare knows it is a tare?

A. *THERE ARE WAYS YOU CAN TEST AND PROVE YOURSELF.*

II Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

Galatians 6:4 But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.

A true Christian has certain characteristics that testify that they are indeed children of God.

a. *A DESIRE FOR THE WORD OF GOD.*

I Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

b. *A LOVE FOR THE BRETHREN AND TO BE WITH THE BRETHREN.*

I John 3:14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

c. A DEEP INNER RELATION WITH GOD THROUGH PRAYER AND SPIRITUAL ONES.

Romans 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

d. AN ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND SPIRITUAL THINGS.

I Corinthians 2:11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

I Corinthians 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

I Corinthians 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

I Corinthians 2:15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

I Corinthians 2:16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

e. THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Romans 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

Galatians 5:17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

Galatians 5:18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

Galatians 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

Galatians 5:20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

Galatians 5:21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

Galatians 5:23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

f. A CONVERSION AND A CHANGED LIFE..

II Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

I Corinthians 6:9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

I Corinthians 6:10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

I Corinthians 6:11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

Conclusion:

Now examine yourself to make sure you are indeed a child of God, and if you are let me encourage you to get busy for God!

The Lord gave you this commission, OCCUPY TILL I COME. Being a Christian is to be your primary occupation.

I am issuing a warning to those who are unprofitable servants. Get busy for God! Serve the Lord! You are to be busy about your most important occupation of all! God has called you to be a Christian, a witness for Him.

This is your primary occupation, your secondary occupation, is what you do to make a living in this world.

Paul the Apostle was a tent maker but his primary occupation was that he was an apostle of the Lord!

Let us never forget what our primary occupation is!