

Fruitless Apostates Jude 12-13

These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots; 13 raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever. NKJV

For Jude these false teachers have very few redeeming values. And primarily they are fruitless.

There is a similar passage in 2 Peter 2:12-22

But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption,¹³ and will receive the wages of unrighteousness, as those who count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime. They are spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you,¹⁴ having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices, and are accursed children.¹⁵ They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;¹⁶ but he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man's voice restrained the madness of the prophet.

¹⁷ These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.

¹⁸ For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error.¹⁹ While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.²⁰ For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning.²¹ For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.²² But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire." NKJV

Now someone might ask how these false teachers would be able to fool anyone since they are so wrong. Well notice how they have appearances that would be easy to not read correctly.

For they appear as clouds but it is only later that you see that there is no rain in them.

They are trees but it is only later that you find no fruit on them.

Or as Peter describes them they are wells, but it is only after you have let down your

bucket that it comes up empty time after time.

PAUL'S PRAYER FOR THE COLOSSIANS

Col 1:9-14 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. NKJV

- I. God has brought us into His family to bear fruit.
 - A. Matthew 3:8 (NKJV) 8 Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance,
 - B. Luke 3:8 (NKJV) 8 Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.
 - C. 2 Corinthians 9:10 (NKJV) 10 Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness,
 - D. Philipians 1:11 (NKJV) 11 being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.
 - E. In John 15 Jesus speaks at length of this fruitfulness.
 1. John 15:2 (NKJV) 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.
 2. John 15:5 (NKJV) 5 I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.
 3. John 15:16 (NKJV) 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 remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.
- II. How can we know the nature of these false teachers if we must wait till fall as it were to see if they are fruitful.
 - A. Examine what they teach.
 - B. Examine how they live.

- C. Examine who they serve.
 - 1. Is it themselves?
 - a. These false teachers have much to gain from their “ministry”
 - b.
 - 2. Or is it Jesus Christ?
 - a. Who gets the credit?
 - b. Gal 4:19 My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you, NKJV

III. Who are these false teachers.

- A. There are so many that we could not even get a good start on them.
 - 1. There are dozens of “cults”
 - 2. A cult is defined as one that departs from the basic tenants of the Christian faith.
 - a. The deity of Jesus Christ.
 - (1) Jesus said that if people do not believe that He is He that they will die in their sins.
 - (2) John 8:24 Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins." NKJV
 - b. The doctrine of the trinity.
 - c. Salvation by grace alone through faith alone.
 - d. There are a host of other things but if they are wrong on these there is no need of looking further.

Notice how Paul draws these conclusions in his letter to the Galatians.

Gal 5:16-26

I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.¹⁷ For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,²¹ envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past,

that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.²⁴ And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another. NKJV