

# THE BEREAN

"...EXAMINING THE SCRIPTURES DAILY..." (Acts 17:11)

## **THE FRUIT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**

*A STUDY OF THE EPISTLE OF JAMES*

*PART FORTY OF SIXTY FOUR*

Differing patterns of life produce different fruits. "The good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth that which is evil" (Luke 6:45). The teaching of Jesus produces "the fruit of righteousness" (James 3:17,18; Phil. 1:11). When the word of God comes into the hearts of men it bears fruit every day (Col. 1:6). The fruit of righteousness is brought forth unto God (Rom. 7:4) and is pleasing to God (I John 2:29). Paul enumerates the qualities produced by the gospel as the fruit of the Spirit: "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control" (Galatians 5:22,23).

One of the strongest arguments for the truth of the gospel is the results it produces. An honest acceptance of God's word produces only good. The gospel needs no special adaptations in order to produce only good. We do not have to qualify its statements to produce fruits of righteousness. We challenge anyone to show one evil or foul thing produced by an honest acceptance of Jesus' way.

Many crimes have been perpetrated in the name of religion. Men and women have been burned at the stake by both Protestants and Catholics. Wars have been fought over human schemes, but the true gospel of Jesus produces no such fruit.

Communism, one of the present day's most popular religions, has caused many lives to be lost. Evolution and Darwinism, with its doctrine of the survival of the fittest, encourages the abuse of the weak by the strong. Its philosophy led to Hitlerism.

The forces at work in our land today that make it unsafe to walk the streets even in the daylight are not from God. Many blame the churches, and rightly so. Not because the churches have been preaching the gospel, but because they have not been preaching the gospel that produces the fruit of righteousness. Too many preachers for too many years have preached human philosophy, liberal theology, and evolutionary religion. They have sown the wind and are reaping the whirlwind. It is time Bible believers became Bible preachers. Every man who accepts God's way becomes a better man as his life is filled with the fruit of righteousness.

(B. G. Echols)

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