



Men in the Word

“Your words were found, and I ate them,
and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart.”
Jeremiah 15:16



Faith Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church Men's Ministry 2014

Lesson 2

“The Fruits of Righteousness”

Now that he has expressed his confidence that God will complete His work in them, Paul prays that the Philippians will pursue that end with an abounding (increasing) love for the things of God. Not for the purpose of lording it over others with the knowledge they gain, but from a sincere heart that seeks a deeper understanding of God's Word and a greater discernment of the ways of the Spirit so that they might grow in righteousness for “the glory and praise of God.” Is this your prayer when you come before God, or do you seek for earthly treasures rather than spiritual ones? Do you have a “sincere” desire (pure, not hypocritical) to grow in the Spirit so that the world may see your good works and glorify your heavenly Father (Matt. 5:16)? If not, ask God right now to give you a heart of love for the things of His kingdom and to work in you the fruits of righteousness. Then make it your determined purpose to pursue it as your highest priority in life.

Passage: Philippians 1:8-11

Key Scripture: Philippians 1:11

Scripture: Philippians 1:9; Ephesians 1:17-18

What does Paul want our love to “**abound in**” according to Philippians 1:9? What is the object of this type of abounding love (see also Ephesians 1:17-18)?

Scripture: Philippians 1:10

When we pursue the knowledge and understanding (“*discernment*”) of God and His ways, what are we showing the world we think about the things of God in verse 10a? How are we to pursue this spiritual growth or maturity, and for how long in verse 10b?

Scripture: 2 Peter 1:2-9

We know that God has “*given to us everything that pertains to life and godliness.*” How do we partake of what He has given in verse 3, and when we do, what do we gain in verse 2?

Scripture: 2 Timothy 2:22-26

What is the tendency in relationships when we pursue knowledge for the sake of showing how much we know in verse 23? How can it benefit others when we pursue knowledge for spiritual growth and a righteous character in Christ in verses 25-26?

Scripture: Philippians 1:11

How do we gain the “**fruits of righteousness,**” and for what purpose?

Group Discussion – Personal Application

What is it you desire and pray for the most for your life? Is your priority spiritual growth and a righteous character? Do you pursue them with all your heart, soul and mind? Does your life reflect an abounding (ever increasing) love for the things of God? Talk about what you can do to change the priorities of your life, or share the work God has already been doing to help you focus on these areas. How big a part can prayer play in spiritual growth, both for you and for others? At the end of the group time, pray for each other as Paul has prayed for the Philippians in the first 2 passages of the year.

Memory Verse

“As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness.”

Psalm 17:15