

“THE PROBLEM OF SPIRITUAL FRUITLESSNESS” (John 15:6)

I. THE PROLOGUE: INTRODUCING JESUS CHRIST (1:1-18)

II. THE INTRODUCTION: WITNESSING ABOUT JESUS CHRIST (1:19-51)

III. THE SIGNS SECTION: PROVING THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST (2:1-12:50)

IV. THE LAST DISCOURSE: TEACHING FOR THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST (13:1-17:26)

A. The PARTICIPANTS in Spiritual Fruitbearing (15:1-2)

B. The PROCESS of Spiritual Fruitbearing (15:3-5)

C. The PROBLEM of Spiritual Fruitlessness (15:6)

1. Two Doctrinally INACCURATE Interpretations

- a) Some interpret this passage to teach the _____ of _____
for those who don't abide in Christ, who are consequently _____ in _____.

* *Which groups espouse this interpretation?*

* *Why is this passage not teaching this?*

- b) Some interpret this passage to teach that though salvation cannot be lost, if a person doesn't
_____ in faith and fruitfulness, it simply means they were _____
_____.

* *Which groups espouse this interpretation?*

* *Does this passage say that God or men gather the unfruitful branches to be burned?*

* *Does this passage say that the gathering, casting, and burning is in the future or present?*

* *Does this passage say that people or branches are burned?*

* *Why is the reference to “fire” probably not a reference to Hell?*

** In the historical context of John 15, is Christ addressing mere professors of Christ?*

** Is “abiding in Christ” said to be a certainty or a possibility in this passage?*

2. Three Doctrinally ACCURATE Interpretations

a) Others interpret this passage to teach that the _____ of genuinely saved believers will be burned up at the _____ of Christ. (1 Cor. 3:10-15)

** Why is John 15:6 probably not teaching this?*

b) Others interpret this passage to teach that the phrase “cast out” is a reference to _____ judgment upon a genuine but _____ believer as part of God’s earthly _____ . (1 Cor. 11:30-32)

** Why is John 15:6 probably not teaching this?*

3. Others interpret this passage to be simply a conclusion to the vinedresser analogy regarding what _____ vinedressers of the _____ did with unfruitful branches.

** What was Jesus warning the disciples about if they did not abide in Him?*

** Did He do this in other passages as well?*

** Are you bearing fruit as a spiritual branch in Christ?*