

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for March 18, 2007

"The Friends of Christ"

John 15:16

Jesus, in John 15:12-16, outlined for His disciples five different things that would characterize His friends.

The friends of Jesus will be characterized by their love for one another (John 15:12-13).

The friends of Jesus will know divine truth (John 15:15).

The friends of Jesus do not choose Him but rather He chooses them (John 15:16).

The friends of Jesus will bear fruit (John 15:16).

When Christ spoke of "fruit" in John 15:16, He spoke of new converts, or in other words, spoke of those who would come to faith because His friends were faithful to go.

The will of God for us in Christ Jesus is to go and to bear fruit (John 15:16).

The fruit that is produced by our going will not perish but will "remain" because the fruit, or in other words the new converts that are produced by our going, will be given the gift of eternal life (John 5:24).

The friends of Jesus will have their prayers answered (John 15:16).

Just as the word "that" (HINA) introduced Christ's call for His friends to go and to bear fruit, the same word "that" (HINA) introduces a parallel appointment which is answered prayer.

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Going and bearing fruit must be combined with prayer because, though we may present the gospel of Christ, it is the Spirit of Christ that will make His truths known to the hearts of those whom He has chosen.

If we, as the friends of Christ, fail to pray for His grace in order to go and bear fruit, we will neither go nor bear fruit (James 4:2).

May God give us the grace to prayerfully humble ourselves before Him so that we might not only find ourselves going into this world with the gospel of Christ but also bearing much fruit.