

Unprofitable

Harmony M.B.C., April 19, 2008 (Morning)

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Romans 3:12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together **become unprofitable**; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

The original earth was a well-oiled machine. Every plant and every animal functioned in concert with the earth to fulfill its purpose within its niche. God created Man with management of this earth in mind. He presented the animals and life of the earth to Adam to be named, and Adam had dominion over all those animals and plants.

Enter sin....suddenly the earth is not functioning right. Suddenly the dark force of sin has struck a dying blow to what had been a paradise and a completely synchronized exhibit of God's excellent handiwork. Suddenly, things that should have exhibited harmony that outshined the most perfectly developed musical production ever made were sounding discordant notes of conflict. The earth was in turmoil with the forces of sin twisting the original orchestration.

With this sudden imbalance, God begins to be cheated. The productivity of the planet is out of whack. Man introduces elements which bankrupt the earth's righteousness. Sin has begun to reign.

I'd like to say here that God is self-sufficient and that He does not need something from us to complete Himself. When I talk about profitableness or unprofitableness I am not talking about us producing something that can or would enhance the Lord's possessions or status. When the bible talks about profit related to humans, it is in reference to something that is advantageous to creation and its creatures. I've already stated that God put man on earth to have dominion over its affairs. That dominion carries the idea not only of bringing something under subjection, but it carries the idea of being ruler over something...two sides to a coin.

God is looking at the sorry condition of human kind after the tragedy of the fall as He gives inspiration for the writing of our text verse.

As we look at the idea of our message today, we are going to note that God sees profit and loss a little differently from how the human mind sees them. To humans, almost all things which add to the advancement of civilization, the preservation of human life, the safety of the species, even the comfort and pleasures of human societies, is profitable. In God's view, some of these things are extremely unprofitable and promote spiritual and maybe even physical destruction as they are used by human cultures. So as we look at the subject, we need to keep in mind that profit to God has to do with physical or spiritual elements that promote spiritual well being.

I. If you do not have a renewed relationship with God, you are unprofitable to Him today.

A. No act of yours is profitable to mankind nor does it conform to profitableness in the Kingdom of God. Our verse is very clear and brief about this.

You are like failing stock on the stock market

You are a tenant who produces no crop

You are like a fruit tree that just has leaves every year

Luk 13:6 He spake also this parable; **A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none.**

Luk 13:7 Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why encumbereth it the ground?

Without spiritual change and growth, you will continue to be unprofitable to God:

Why build these cities glorious / If man unbuilded goes? / In vain we build the world, unless / The builder also grows.

—Edwin Markham, “Man-Making” (1920)

II. There Is A Remedy For This Unprofitableness

Hear the word of God

It tells you that you are a sinner (our text chapter tells this)

Rom 3:23 “... all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God...”

It tells that God has made a way for you to escape the unprofitableness of your sinful condition

1Tim 1:15 “...Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners...”

That escape is through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ

Rom 5:8-10 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. 10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

Rom 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

There is a parable about the work of the word of God on a soul in Matthew 13:

Mat 13:3-9 And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, **Behold, a sower went forth to sow; 4 And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up: 5 Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: 6 And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. 7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them: 8 But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some a hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.**

Mat 13:9 **Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.**

III. If you have a renewed relationship with God, you have the means to be profitable for Him again.

Born again believers are like the good ground of the parable

A renewed relationship with God brings a renewal of the purpose of a human

Jeremiah 24:7 And I will give them a heart to know me, that I *am* the LORD: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart.

- Confucius - A workman who wants to do his work well must first prepare his tools.
- The Lord - (Eph 2:10) For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

What is profitable in God's view of things?

Profitable (in the Lord's estimation) is a believer reproducing Christ-like fruit. Things that reveal the nature of God to the world and to fellow Christians; things that promote the principles of Christ on earth; things that are focused on God

- Rom 6:22 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye **have your fruit unto holiness**, and the end everlasting life.

Good Works

- Good works become an expression of God from you toward the world and toward children of the Kingdom
- Self-derived good works are rejected by the Lord, but good works produced by a believer who is doing them to glorify Christ are well-pleasing to Him.
- Look at the difference: Mat. 7:18-23

Good Thoughts: Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of **good report**; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things.

Walking With God

- Only two men in the bible are mentioned as "walking with God"...Enoch and Noah. But the wonderful truth about the effects of grace on the lives of God's people is that this grace of God makes it possible for any of us to walk with Him.