

Bearing Fruit All of Our Life

Psalm 92: 12-15

Intro. Someone has said, "The last days of the saints are sometimes their best days, and their last work is their best work". For the child of God we can bear fruit all of our life!

- A) The Righteous Shall Flourish like the Palm and the Cedar
 - 1) Palm tree - long-lived, stately, upright useful and fruitful
 - 2) Cedar - refer to the Cedar of Lebanon – majestic, stable, durable and incorruptible (I remember many times installing pasture fence with my Grandfather. We would use cedar for the fence posts because of their lasting quality. They were much more resistant to insects and moisture.)

- B) The Righteous Shall Flourish in the Courts of Our God
 - 1) Growing in grace - still bring forth fruit in old age
(Having had the opportunity to travel to Israel two times, I was always amazed at our stop in the Garden of Gethsemane. I was contemplating the prayers of our Lord and what was on his mind and heart with his impending death just ahead. The olive trees in the Garden also amazed me. Several of them were there when our Lord was in the Garden praying. I wondered which one he might have knelt at! These trees are still alive and still bearing fruit after thousands of years. Old yes, still bearing fruit, yes!)
 - 2) Full of Sap - full of spiritual vitality
 - 3) Fresh and Green - rich in trust, love and contentment

- C) The Righteous are Living Memorials
 - 1) To show that the Lord is:
Upright – no unrighteousness in Him
Faithful to his promises
He is my Rock

Closing: After a funeral service in which I was asked to share, we had to travel several miles to the cemetery where the final resting place was to be. The funeral director met me as I parked and told me to follow him into the cemetery. There was something he wanted me to see before the graveside service started. He took me to the gravesite of a man whose funeral was several months earlier. He asked me to read the footstone of the deceased. It simply said, "I told you I was sick". There is a story behind it, but maybe more important is the fact that this will always be considered his "last words".

May our last words spoken and lived out be the fruit of our walk with the Risen Lord.

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Some descriptive words are from the Amplified Bible. 1965 Edition Zondervan Publishers