



I. INTRO/REVIEW

A. What does God care about

- Too often chasing something that God isn't measuring

John 15:8 (NLT) When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.

- Eventually what is happening beneath the surface begins showing up above the surface

B. Your fruit is driven by your connection

- The fruit of the Spirit is not a checklist for earning salvation. The fruit of the Spirit is evidence of a life connected to Christ

II. THE GIFT

A. Receipts prove a transaction took place

B. Christianity is built on a transaction

Romans 5:8 (NLT) But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

- Christianity is a transaction that is built on the evidence of a cross, an empty tomb and a real resurrection

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NLT) God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

- **Redemption:** Paul uses marketplace language, a release secured by payment. A ransom paid, a debt satisfied, a purchase completed

C. Salvation is the gift not the receipt

- Salvation is proof you're going to Heaven, Fruit is proof Heaven got into you

D. Fruit is proof of the connection

John 15:4-5 (NLT) Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.



- Jesus never tells the branch to focus on fruit, instead focus on connection
- The Father is glorified when the life of Jesus becomes visible in His people

III. PROVE IT

A. Fruit that remains

John 15:16 (NLT) You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name.

B. Receipts prove ownership and so does fruit

1 Corinthians 3:11 (NLT) For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ.

- The issue is not: Are you saved? It's: What are you building on the foundation?

1 Corinthians 3:12-15 (NLT) Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials—gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person's work has any value. If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward. But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames.

- The question isn't what's in your cart, it's, what are you building with what's in your cart?

C. Receipts reveal what was actually purchased

1 Timothy 4:8 (NLT) "Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come."

- Most investments only pay in one economy

2 Corinthians 5:10 (NLT) For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body.

- The Bema Seat: Paul borrowed the term from Greek athletic competitions. After the games were completed, athletes would stand before the Bema

D. What remains?

- **If you "checked out" today – what would remain?**
- Some of us have things in our cart that Jesus never bought, and maybe today would be a good day to return them