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By Their Fruits

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BY THEIR FRUITS

INT: Lesson: America's Greatest Problem! The C. of C.!!

1. 1974: Only 40% of America's 131,420,000 "church" members attended worship on any typical Sunday.
 2. 40% = 52,568,000 attenders any given Sunday.
 3. 60% - 78,850,000 non-attenders.
 4. Add 78,500,000 non-MEMBERS and get 157,350,000 Americans NOT worshipping God on any given Lord's day! WHY?????
 5. Caution: Matt. 7:1. Not! (Means predicting destiny, judging harshly or making final pronouncements!) Not doing THIS!!
 6. WHAT DOING THEN? Ans. "Inspecting Fruit!!!!" *Matt. 7L15-20.
 7. What is the difference? Deliberate false prophet and professing Christian whose fruits LOWER the world's estimate of the PLACE and IMPORTANCE of the "church". 2nd, 3rd place!!!
- I. ONLY ONE kind of Christian is going to IMPRESS the world favorably!! Matt. 5:16. *16:24-27. DELIBERATE, DEDICATED, SELF-DENYING, CONSECRATED AND SACRIFICIAL CHRISTIAN!!!!

II. EXAMPLES OF POOR FRUIT BEARING IN THE KINGDOM.

A. Matt. 6:19-21.

Ill. Mississippi Elder. Absent often. Checked. Mule in field. So irate could not worship!!! Why? Which most imp.? Mule? Field? Crop? Self? Where put church? 5th place..... What kind of TREE was he? *Running feud.*

B. Matt. 6:33.

Ill. Dallas Elder. Son ace H. S. pitcher. MWS time! D-FW baseball playoff at Bible Study time! Where son? "Playing!!!" Why not HERE?? Elder: "I didn't START Wed. night services!!!" What most imp.? Baseball? Scholarship? Self? Where put church? 4th. Reasonable!???? See:

1. P.A. family: Wed. games. Son changed uniform on way TO game, if Late game. On way FROM game, if Early game. Did NOT miss MWS....
2. M'ville: Did not play on Wed. night at all!
3. M'ville: During gospel meetings started at 8:30 sharp. We through at 8:28 usually.
4. Major League Jewish pitcher. Not on Sabbath

5. Change church time to early hour, so all could see the game---putting it 2nd. Wouldn't inconvenience the MEMBERS. But did neglect the LORD.

Great opportunity to show God a special place!!

C. Rom. 12:1-2.

Ill. Dottie McAdams. M'ville.

School home economics teacher. In charge of concession stand at football games.

Gospel Meeting. Asked, urged & pleaded with her to support the WORK OF THE LORD!!!

(souls!) Didn't! Chance to bear telling-fruit for the Lord. Where church? 2nd to hot dogs!!! Any wonder that church has NEVER been strong nor a considerable influence in the city.

INV. * COL. 3:1-6. *YOU*

Question: How feel about Elder & mule?
Elder & baseball? Woman & hot dogs?

Question: How did they compare in Col. 1?
How YOU fulfilling it?

Not a Christian? Not started!!!
Acts 22:16.

Not truly dedicated & self-denying. I J. 1:9.

Identify with us!!!

MT 12-5-76 PM JR