Fruit*

Matthew 7:15-20 (15) Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.
(16) Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?
(17) Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.
(18) A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.
(19) Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.
(20) Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.
I wonder, when that first false prophet, the serpent, came to Eve, was he wearing sheep's clothing? How did he present himself? People by nature are weary of a "ravening wolf", so I perceive that was not the garb he fashioned himself with. Did he manage to deceive Eve by introducing some uncertainty about the truth, thereby causing her to act against God's will? How can one tell if he is being deceived? Jesus said "Ye shall know them by their fruits." *Turn with me to;*
Titus 3:1-8 (1) Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,
(2) **To speak evil of no man**, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men.
(3) For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.
(4) But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,
(5) Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

(6) Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;
(7) That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.
(8) This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.
Bridling the tongue would qualify as a fruit, For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: (1Peter 3:10). *I once knew a young Christian man who never spoke evil of any man that I am aware of. His fruits were based on;* For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again (Matt 7:2). *Our judgment of others then should be, "do unto others as you would have them do to yourself." As a Christian, one should be as Philip, helping others see the light as he helped the Eunuch. A Christian should be as Paul, My prayer to God is that they might be saved, but they are lacking in knowledge. Pray that they may come unto the knowledge of the truth. I think perhaps that on occasion a Christian may judge oneself more harshly than is justified, but if reserved for oneself it may serve as a catalyst to stay on the narrow pathway of righteousness. But let me take this thought a little further. It is human nature to look at others and judge ourselves by what they are achieving. One may think, just look at what they are doing and I by comparison so little. However not all do the same things! Not all have the same abilities. Not all have the same office. But you will receive according to your ability. Turn with me to;*
Matthew 25:14-29 (14) For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.
(15) And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to

another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.
(16) Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.
(17) And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.
(18) But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.
(19) After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.
(20) And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.
(21) His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.
(22) He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them.
(23) His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.
(24) Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:
(25) And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.
(26) His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:
(27) Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received

mine own with usury.
(28) Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.
(29) For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.
Every man was given according to his several ability, no more, no less. The Lord knew the one talent servant had the ability to care for the one. The problem is that he took it unto himself to hide it. He did not use the ability which he was given. The temptation to hide what he had in order to save it, outweighed "the way of escape" provided by the Lord. The one talent servant should have judged himself honestly, rather than trying to justify his own inaction. You see, the master judged him harshly because the servant failed to use that which he had been given. Each of us have an ability or abilities within the service of our Lord and they are not all the same. Work within your ability, perhaps it will expand. However it will never expand if it is hidden. As always the Bible is its own best interpreter and it makes clear that we do not all have the same office or abilities. Turn with me to;
1Corinthians 12:14-31 (14) For the body is not one member, but many.
(15) If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?
(16) And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?
(17) If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling?
(18) But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.
(19) And if they were all one member, where were the body?
(20) But now are they many members, yet but one body.
(21) And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.

(22) Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary:
(23) And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness.
(24) For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked:
(25) That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.
(26) And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.
(27) Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.
(28) And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.
(29) Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles?
(30) Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?
(31) But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.
Are you an Apostle? Of course not, but they are good examples to emulate. However, there were gifts given to them that we do not receive. Turn with me to;
Acts 2:1-4 and 14 (1) And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.
(2) And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.
(3) And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.
(4) And they were all **filled with the Holy Ghost**, and began to

speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.
(14) But Peter, **standing up with the eleven**, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:
Beginning at Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost the Apostle's preached the gospel and everyone heard the word in their own language. Never had such a display of different languages been demonstrated by men with no formal training. The 12 Apostles were selected by Jesus for His purpose and there have been no others selected. We have different offices;
Romans 12:3-8 (3) For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, **according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.**
(4) For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:
(5) So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.
(6) **Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us**, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;
(7) Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;
(8) Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.
Ephesians 4:11-12 (11) And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;
(12) For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:
The Apostolic office has been fulfilled, our office is to work within that doctrine the Apostles have already established.

After Apostles there are offices to be fulfilled in us as evangelists, pastors, teachers and prophesy according to faith and also in the government of the Church, Elders and Deacons. Regardless of office, there are things for all to do! Turn to;
Romans 12:5-18 (5) So we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.
(6) Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, *let us prophesy* according to the proportion of faith;
(7) Or ministry, *let us wait* on *our* ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;
(8) Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, *let him do it* with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.
(9) Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.
(10) Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;
(11) Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;
(12) Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;
(13) Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.
(14) Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.
(15) Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.
(16) Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.
(17) Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.
(18) If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.
And if one were working to add the seven Christian attributes to life's tool box, he will be blessed indeed. Turn to;
2Peter 1:5-10 (5) And beside this, giving all diligence, add to

your **faith** virtue; and to **virtue** knowledge;
(6) And to **knowledge** temperance; and to **temperance** patience; and to **patience** godliness;
(7) And to **godliness** brotherly kindness; and to **brotherly kindness charity**.
(8) For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
(9) But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.
(10) Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:
What do these attributes consists of?
Faith—*that is the effect of belief.*
Virtue?*--moral excellence; goodness; righteousness.*
Knowledge?*--the body of truths or facts accumulated in the course of time.*
Temperance?*--moderation or self-restraint in action, statement, and self-control.*
Patience?*--the quality of being patient, as the bearing of provocation, annoyance, misfortune, or pain, without complaint, loss of temper, irritation, or the like.*
Godliness?*--conforming to the laws and wishes of God; devout; pious.*
Brotherly kindness?*--"kind affectioned" toward one another.*
Charity?*--a kindly and lenient attitude towards people.*
Touching upon the office of evangelist, perhaps no other man has had more impact upon our time-line than Alexander Campbell;
Biographical Sketch of Alexander Campbell Text from James Challen {Alexander Campbell, son of Thomas and Jane C. Campbell Born: Antrim County, Ireland, September 12, 1788 Died: Bethany, West Virginia, March 4, 1866

Few men are so justly entitled to praise for his labors in behalf of Christianity as Alexander Campbell.
In his difficult undertaking he has met with all sorts of opposition--encountered objections at every step. In the field of his labors he found thorns and thistles in abundance, and stumps, old and deeply rooted, to be removed; shallows and slashes of putrid waters to be dried up and ditched; huge spots of blasted barrenness to be enriched; forests, dark and tangled, to cut down and clear away. But in the work before him he has been cheered by the sight of a new and beautiful harvesting. From the strife of evil tongues, he has found sanctuary in the tabernacles of the Most High; and, in the midst of reproach and persecution, he has been calmed and comforted by the voice of the Prophets and the Apostles, and the example of the heroic men of faith. His noble brow, now covered with whitened locks, has been protected by the helmet of hope; and, with something of a prophet's eye, he has anticipated the triumphs of the cause which lies so near to his heart. With not a little of abatement of that zeal which bore him onwards in the commencement of this contest, he still wields the sword of the Spirit--the word of God--with deadly effect. And with a larger measure of prayer and supplication in the Spirit, he seeks fresh supplies of grace in time of need. It is truly refreshing, in these times of general apathy on the subject of Christianity, and of worldly contests for fame and glory, to see a man of his measure and stature, bending the weight of his powerful intellect, and the energies of his life, to one sole object--the disenthralling the Christian religion from the bonds and withes which age and ambition have thrown around it.} *Members of the Church of Christ are called Campbellites after Alexander Campbell, contending he is the founder of Churches of Christ. If this were true, please explain the Church of Christ congregation of Tottlebank England that was established in 1669, 119 years before the birth of Alexander Campbell. Wrong year, wrong country to*

be American born. The Church of Christ is Jerusalem born; And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem (Luke 24:47). *There are other examples if one would care to look, but this is enough to disprove that deliberate falsity about the Church of Christ. What Mr. Campbell was guilty of is heeding the voice from heaven;* And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, **Come out of her**, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues (Revelation 18:4). *Alexander Campbell was not alone in this endeavor, but became the leader of the movement. One may think, to have lived in the lifetime of Alexander Campbell and to have been able to assist him in the noble cause of the Lord would have been so great. One may think, next to him my ability seems so small. Next to his office in the Church, mine seems so insignificant. But how does that kind of thinking set with God?* But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him (1Corinthians 12:18). *Otto Alvarez comes to mind. But one may say, "I cannot speak Spanish." Then look for and help in other ways. Remember* Romans 12:8; he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity. *You can do that. You can help in the work of Otto Alvarez. You must remember there once was a young man who did no sin and guile was not found in his mouth. Such a man as he had never lived on the face of the earth, His name is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Your salvation is contingent on faith in Christ that is the effect of belief in the gospel (Romans 10:17), therefore by faith repent of your sins (Acts 2:38), confess Jesus Christ is the Son of God (Acts 8:37), and be baptized for remission of sins in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit to receive the full and explicit testimony of pardon (Matthew 28:19. Acts 2:38). This is the gospel. It's invitation is always open, also prayer requests for other reasons, in either case come while we persuade with song.*

This message approved by
Jack Warford
a minister for Christ
Study Aids; Defender's Bible Notes
Institute of Creation Research
The message ‘Fruit’ presented to; PineMtAr-Aug2020/
WestvilleOk/Sep2020/

By: Batsell Barrett Baxter
The Historical background of the Restoration Movement

One of the earliest advocates of the return to New Testament Christianity, as a means of achieving unity of all believers in Christ, was James O'Kelly of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1793 he withdrew from the Baltimore conference of his church and called upon others to join him in taking the Bible as the only creed. His influence was largely felt in Virginia and North Carolina where history records that some seven thousand communicants followed his leadership toward a return to primitive New Testament Christianity.

In 1802 a similar movement among the Baptists in New England was led by Abner Jones and Elias Smith. They were concerned about "denominational names and creeds" and decided to wear only the name Christian, taking Bible as their only guide. In 1804, in the western frontier state of Kentucky, Barton W. Stone and several other Presbyterian preachers took similar action declaring that they would take the Bible as the "only sure guide to heaven." Thomas Campbell, and his illustrious son, Alexander Campbell, took similar steps in the year 1809 in what is now the state of West Virginia. They contended that nothing should be bound upon Christians as a matter of doctrine which is not as old as the New Testament. Although these four movements were completely independent in their beginnings eventually they became one strong restoration movement because of their common purpose and plea. These men did not advocate the starting of a new church, but rather a return to Christ's church as described in the Bible.

Members of the church of Christ do not conceive of themselves as a new church started near the beginning of the 19th century. Rather, the whole movement is designed to reproduce in contemporary times the church originally established on Pentecost, A.D. 30. The strength of the appeal lies in the restoration of Christ's original church.

Why does the church of Christ baptize only by immersion?

The word baptize comes from the Greek word "baptizo" and literally means, "to dip, to immerse, to plunge." In addition to the literal meaning of the word, immersion is practiced because it was the practice of the church in apostolic times. Still further, only immersion conforms to the description of baptisms as given by the apostle Paul in Romans 6:3-5 where he speaks of it as a burial and resurrection.