

## Introduction

- End of 2019 – whilst in Europe – declare and stir an expectation that 2020 will be a year of great fruitfulness.
- Transition from a season of drought, bareness and miscarriage.

## Text

Philippians 1:21-27 ESV *For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. (22) If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. (23) I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. (24) But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. (25) Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, (26) so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again. (27) Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel...*

## Fruitful Labour

The purpose of this message:

Not...

- Expose how unfruitful you are...
- Or, leave you condemned and discouraged, feeling like a failure...

But rather to...

- Stir your faith and hope in your potential...
- To know that you are designed by God to produce fruit...
- That it is not by your own striving, but by the Spirit of God that abides within you...

Genesis 1:26-28 ESV *Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." (27) So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (28) And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

- As Paul calls it "Fruitful Labour"

What does God want from us? Fruit! What Fruit?

- Godly Children – both in the natural and the spiritual.
- God Ideas, inventions, solutions and creations – that is fruitful work
- Products and Services – Buildings, songs, designs
- Fruit of the Spirit displaying the nature of God
- Every Good Work

That is how God will fill the earth with His glory – that is our worship – the fruit we bear!

John 15:1-8 ESV *"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. (2) Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. (3) Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. (4) Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. (5) I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. (6) If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. (7) If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. (8) By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.*

John 15:16 ESV *You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.*

### **Take Note!**

1. You are known by the fruit you bear – your reputation.
2. Faithful vs Fruitful
3. You are made to flourish – you are already blessed by God – He declared you fruitful!
4. Seed – Plant – Fruit – Seed .... Multiplication – Good and Bad

### **Next Time – Unfold in 2020**

- The importance of your environment.
- Your Mind, Heart, Family, Friends, Workplace, Church and Society...
- What can we do as a church community to help you be fruitful and flourish?
- How does the environment look like that will help us all grow and bear and multiply fruit?