**[A] EXPECTING THE IMPOSSIBLE**

**Matthew 7:15 – 20**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. The words of our text are a warning against deceit (Col 2:8).

A. The Apostle Paul aim is to put his converts on their guard against those who

 might divert them from their simple faith in Jesus and their sufficiency in Him.

B. Knowing Christ, you can lay your hand on the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

C. The first act of the Christian LIFE is to receive Christ (Mt 6:33), then [our] attitude.

 1. They are matters of daily experiences (Lk 9:23-25) and every moment afterward

 [we] must continue receiving Him (Rom 8:18, 35).

1. Breathe in the love and power of Jesus. Take deep breaths.
2. [We] shall be rooted in Him in secret, built up in our outward walk and behavior.
3. If [we] have Christ, [we] have God’s Fullness (Jn 10:30; 2 Jn 9).
4. When Christ is in us, ***NOT*** only are [we] true in judgment and speech, **BUT** [we] recognize truth wherever it is to be found.
5. Has fulfilled the Law in all respects on [our] behalf (Mt 5:17; Col 2:14).

 2. Appearances are deceitful, **BUT** the fruit is evidence of being either good or bad.

 1. It is impossible for a good tree to produce evil fruit and vice versa (Mt 7:17-19).

 A. To go to a bad tree expecting good fruit is to expect the impossible.

2. To expect the impossible of others is foolish; understand God only expects what is possible.

3. Regarding the possible verses the impossible, let’s remember these three [3] things:

 A. There are some things impossible that are in the realm of possibility.

 B. There are some things impossible under any circumstances.

 C. There are some things impossible under certain condition.

1 This is the area of concentration concerning this lesson.

**BODY:**

**1. CHRISTIANS OFTEN EXPECTS THE IMPOSSIBLE**

 A. To expect satisfaction without sacrifice is to expect the impossible.

 1. A Spirit of sacrifice is indispensable to a sense of satisfaction

 A. Mt 16:24; Lk 14:26 – 33; Rom 12:1, 2

 2. Many times one will ask, “Why am I not the Christian I ought to be?”

 A. [We] are ***NOT*** willing to sacrifice our TIME, money and talents for the Lord.

 3. Expecting Christian character w/ out sacrifice is to expect the crown w/ out the cross.

 B. To expect the love of God without chastening is to expect the impossible.

 1. God's LOVE does ***NOT*** preclude chastening (Heb 10:31; 12:6; Rev 3:19).

 A. If [we] are God’s Children, [we] will ***NOT*** look on suffering as a punishment.

 1. Chastening is the penalty of sin and administered by God, The Father.

 2. Satan could ***NOT*** go beyond God’s limit (*Balaam*: Num 22:31; Job 2:6).

 A. To free [us] of negativity; yielding peace, righteousness and true holiness.

 2. [We] expect the good things of God's LOVE (Psa 139:23, 24; Mt 7:11; Jas 1:17).

 A. BUT, [we] have ***NO*** appreciation for the dark things (Jn 7:24; 2 Tim 4:8).

 B. When sorrow comes, one has the tendency to say, “God does ***NOT*** LOVE me”.

 1. **BUT**, how foolish is that? (Rom 8:28; Heb 4:12; 5:8, 9).

 3. To expect God's LOVE w/ out His Chastening is to expect the sun without the clouds.

C. To expect HAPPINESS without HOLINESS is to expect the impossible.

 1. True HAPPINESS is directly dependent upon HOLINESS (Psa 1:1; Mt 5:3 – 12).

 2. ***NO*** sin brings true and lasting HAPPINESS (Heb 11:25).

 3. HAPPINESS now and HEAVEN hereafter directly depend on holiness (Heb 12:14).