**EXPECTING THE IMPOSSIBLE [C]**

**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. THE LOCAL CHURCH OFTEN EXPECTS THE IMPOSSIBLE**

 A. To expect growth without diligence is to expect the impossible.

 1. One may ask, “Why does a congregation ***NOT*** grow?”

 A. The fault is ***NOT*** with God, the message nor a lack of opportunity.

 B. The reason is a lack of diligence on the part of the membership as a whole.

 1. Growth without [our] coming and inviting others is to expect the impossible.

 2. To expect conversions without contacting sinners is to expect the impossible!!

 C. Progress anywhere is dependant upon diligence.

 1. [We] should ***NOT*** expect the one without the other.

 B. To expect diligence without love is to expect the impossible.

 1. There can be ***NO*** fervent zeal for the Lord's cause without a sincere love for the lost, the brotherhood and God (Mt 22:37; Rom 10:1; 1 Pet 2:17).

 C. To expect love without concern is to expect the impossible.

 1. Love is motivation [concern] in action.

 A. When [we] are too busy or selfish to get concerned with one another, there can be

 ***NO*** fervent love (Jn 13:34, 35; 14:15; Jas 5:13 – 20).

 2. To expect sincere love in a *cold* church is impossible!! (Mt 12:33-37)

 A. It is like expecting warmth without a fire.

**CONCLUSION:**

1. Do ***NOT*** expect the impossible (Pro 18:24; 2 Cor 5:7; Heb 11:6).