

**A Study of the Parables of our Lord; Session # 7 – “He Has No Root in Himself”,  
presented by Pastor Paul Rendall, on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022,  
in the Adult Sunday School Class.**

**We have been looking at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Type of Ground (or heart) in this Parable of the Sower and the Seed.**

**Jesus calls this kind of hearer of God’s word – A Stony Ground Hearer.**

**Verses 5 and 6** say – “Some seeds fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth.” “But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away.”

And **verses 20 and 21** say – “But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while.” “For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.”

**We are trying to get at some of the reasons that this type of hearer only endures for a while.**

**He receives the word with joy, and yet He has no root in himself, but endures only for a time. Why does he endure only for a time? It says here – “Because he has no root”.**

**1. The Root is the living principle of grace in the Christian’s Heart.**

It is the living principle of grace which the Holy Spirit plants in the heart of a person when they are caused by Him to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

**1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1: 2b-5** – “Grace to you and peace be multiplied.” “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

It is God who alone who can beget a person to a living hope. This being born again is done on the basis of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. It is the planting of the seed of grace in the soul which then develops by His working and power, into a root of righteousness in the life of a believer in Jesus Christ.

**1<sup>st</sup> John 3: 9** – “Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.” He has the root in himself. When John says here, that whoever has been born of God does not sin, it does not mean that we never sin after we are converted to Christ. It means that when we incline our heart to do what the Holy Spirit is leading us to do, in terms of our obedience to God, that we will not sin. For everything which comes from the Spirit and the New Nature is holy. And in His motions in our heart, He will be leading us on to greater righteousness and holiness. We cannot sin in the sense of departing

from Christ because we have been born of God and we have the root of righteousness in our heart.

## **2. Having this Root in relation to trial and persecution.**

**Philippians 1: 29** – “For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear is in me.”

What was this conflict? It was having to endure trial, affliction, and persecution for Christ’s sake.

**Job 19: 23-28** – “Oh, that my words were written!” “Oh, that they were inscribed in a book!” “The they were engraved on a rock with an iron pen and lead, forever!” “For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; and after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another.” “If you should say, ‘How shall we persecute him?’ – Since the root of the matter is found in me.”

Here we see that Job is trying to get his friends to cease persecuting him; to cease trying to stridently prove that he was a hypocrite. In the statements that he makes here, he shows himself to be a true believer. He believed that even at that awful time in his life where all of these awful things were happening to him, that his Redeemer (the Lord Jesus Christ, who had not yet been born into the world or become Incarnate) lived. This truth of Christ’s future Incarnation, His sinless life, His sacrificial death for him, and His coming again in great glory to raise him from the dead, Job knew these truths; because they had been revealed to him personally. He declares that he would see His Redeemer on that great Day when Christ would return, and He would raise him personally from the dead. His heart yearned for that Day of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Christ. He eagerly looked for it.

But notice that he says all this in order that his friends would stop persecuting him, since – The root of the matter was to be found in him! That is, that he would not endure (that is, that he would not persevere, only for a time; that when tribulation or persecution arose for the word’s sake, that immediately he would stumble. This he would not do because he was a regenerate person. He did have the root of the matter, a regenerate heart, within him.

## **3. Having this “root” is the basis of your persevering in faith.**

If you have this root of having been born again, having the seed of righteousness planted in your heart, you will be able, by the grace of Christ, the supply of the grace given by the Holy Spirit, to persevere in faith, and hope and love in all of your trials, knowing that God will help you to be faithful unto the end of the trial, or the end of your life.

**Philippians 1: 19-21** – “For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be shamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.” “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”

#### **4. This “root” is the basis of your bearing fruit to God, and thus proving yourself to be Christ’s true disciple.**

**Proverbs 12: 3** – “A man is not established by wickedness, but the root of the righteous cannot be moved.”

**Proverbs 12: 12 and 13** – “The wicked covet the catch of evil men, but the root of the righteous yields fruit.” “The wicked is ensnared by the transgression of his lips, but the righteous will come through trouble.”

**Luke 8: 13** – “But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear; receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away.”

**John 15: 1-8** – “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.”

#### **5. Even if the root appears to be totally destroyed, God can cause us once again to bear fruit.**

**Isaiah 37: 31, 32** – “And the remnant who have escaped of the house of Judah shall again take root downward, and bear fruit upward.” “For out of Jerusalem shall go a remnant, and those who escape from Mount Zion.” “The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.”

This is speaking in the context, of Hezekiah and the remnant of Jerusalem who were trusting in the Lord, praying to the Lord, for deliverance from the coming invasion of Sennacherib, the Assyrian king and his army, 185,000 strong. But Hezekiah prayed, and God acted to destroy this army; to defend the city and to save it for His own sake, and for David’s sake. The remnant of true believers, whom God was pleased to bless, would again take root downward, and bear fruit upward.

**They would as John Gill says** – “return there again upon the breaking up of the siege, and they would be firmly settled, and live peaceably and prosperously, abounding with all good things, which may be applied mystically, to true believers taking root again in the love of God, which is a hidden root, and is the source of salvation, and all the blessings of it, and is in itself immovable; and though the saints are secured in it, and by it, and nothing can root them out of it, yet they are sometimes shaken with doubts and fears about their interest in it; when there is a fresh taking root in it, and that is, when they have a strong and lively persuasion of it, which produces fruitfulness in the exercise of faith, hope, and love, and in gospel obedience; and also to their taking root in Christ, who is as a root unto them, hidden, and out of sight to the world, mean and abject, yet the source of all happiness to the saints, who have a being in Him, and born by Him and receive sap and nourishment from Him; and though their faith of interest in Him may be sometimes shaken, yet there is a fresh taking root by new acts of faith upon Him, which produce fruitfulness; the fruits brought forth by such are good works, which spring from the seed of grace, are owing to divine goodness, to the dews of grace, are pleasant and acceptable to God through Christ, and profitable unto men; these are called the fruits of the Spirit, and of righteousness, and are meet for repentance, and are brought forth openly and publicly, which may be signified by being bore upwards.”

