

Chuck Smith:

"HIS GARDEN"

I. AS A CHRISTIAN, MY LIFE IS "GOD'S GARDEN."

- A. His work within my life has one general purpose - fruit.
 - 1. God first broke the soil to prepare it for the seed.
 - 2. He watched the developing plant.
 - a. Cultivating, weeding.
 - b. Watering.
 - 3. Blossom time is always beautiful.
 - a. Beautiful to see young Christians begin to blossom in His love.
 - b. Purpose not yet fulfilled.
 - c. Blossoms presage the fruit.
 - 4. The fruit itself takes time to develop and ripen.
 - a. Days of interest and anticipation.
 - b. Cheryl and my walks through garden.
 - 5. What glorious days when you can come into the garden and eat its fruits.
 - a. Days of fulfilled purpose.
 - b. Days of reward as you partake of the fruit of your labor.
- B. How disappointing when a fruit tree does not bear fruit.
 - 1. It cannot abide.
 - a. Jesus and fig tree.
 - b. "Every branch that bears not fruit He takes away."

II. "LET MY BELOVED COME INTO HIS GARDEN AND EAT HIS PLEASANT FRUITS."

- A. Our lives exist primarily for God. "His garden."
 - 1. The fruit of our lives for His enjoyment.
 - 2. "The husbandman must first be partaker."
 - a. "My Father is the Husbandman."
 - 3. Try to alter this fact and you are destined to disappointment and emptiness.
 - a. If you put yourself first.
 - 1. Life totally wasted.
 - b. Put others first (superior).
 - 1. You will become disappointed.
 - 2. Some who will take and take till you have no more to give, then curse you for not giving more.
 - a. Why the proverb, "don't bite the hand that is feeding you."
 - c. Put God first. Full, rich, rewarding.
 - 1. What is done for others done in His name. He will reward you.
- B. How beautiful when God can come into the garden of your life to eat His pleasant fruits.
 - 1. When you can share in that rich fellowship and communion of love.
 - a. Oh, what joys, how full the peace.
 - b. What bliss, glory.
 - 2. Have you invited your beloved into His garden lately?