Introduction: This week I began reading a new book. It’s been out for a while, Pastor and Bible teacher John Piper released a book titled Desiring God. I have just started it but I want to recommend it to you. Even if you don’t read a lot you need to read this book. Why, John Piper shows you the necessity of enjoying God. There’s not a lot of people attending church who exhibit the joy of God in their life! I’m not trying to be harsh but it is true. There is no fire in the church because there is no Joy of knowing God. There is no desire to get closer to God and experience Him to His greatest desire. I believe this often is created because we give so much attention to keeping up with, or competing with, or maybe recovering from other people that we move our attention from God and give it to ourselves. All of this leads me to ask; so, what are the fruits of your life…? If you were here last week you know we looked at the witness of John the Baptist and how his witness is an example of obedience and faithfulness. This morning we looked at scripture that let us know there is another witness to the claim of Jesus! That’s right, the witness of His fruits. Jesus Himself said we would know a tree by the fruit it bears; in other words we can see the heart of a person by the life they live. The Bible isn’t only talking about your works. It is also talking about what compels your works. Let me give you an example, this morning’s service for instance. Did you come this morning because you were desiring Gods word and fellowship with Gods people? Or. Did you come this morning because it was Sunday and you felt obligated to be here? My point is that God and you know your heart. This is what compels your works, in this case your attendance. It also compels what you do or don’t do in Gods service. Jesus reminded the Pharisees of the witness of His fruits as a way of showing them how God the Father was working through Him to prove He was the Messiah, the Savior of the World. This morning we are going to look at the witness of a fruitful life by looking at Jesus as an example and then see how it applies to our lives in the church and the condition of our walk with God. Notice with me first…

# A fruitful witness recognizes the scope of his work. V.36

The Apostle John records 7 miracles in his gospel; these reflect the scope of Jesus work. Jesus was God the Son who came to redeem sinners and provide for us salvation. We also know from John 20:30-31 that Jesus had done many more works than these, so these were just an example. The scope of Jesus work was and still is salvation!

Have you received salvation through grace by faith having been redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ? If so you have realized the scope of His work!

What then is the scope of your work? Remember the words of Jesus, take up your cross daily and follow Him? The saved are the Church, the body of Christ and we have a purpose.

* Worship, with Joy that comes from our relationship with God through Jesus Christ.
* Witness, through our life, words, deeds and relationships; the love of God.

The scope of your work and my work is to lift up Jesus Christ not because we have to but because we should desire to be as close to God as we possibly can because of love. The saved, the Church, the Body of Christ is in love with God. If you’re not this morning then you have the world or the worldly between you and God. And that should bother you!

When the scope of our work is truly realized we next should see…

# A fruitful witness recognizes the source of his work. V.v.37-38

It all comes from God the Father! You may say well I know that. If so my next question becomes are you living it? Do you realize we can’t truly love one another unless we first love God with all our heart? If that is true in our life then everything we do is going to be done around His will, His word and His work. And it will not be because we feel like it’s a chore, we will want to do it. We will want to come to worship because Gods at worship, we will want to support missions because God supports mission, we will want to see folks saved because God wants to see folks saved. We will experience Joy and the fire of the Holy Spirit because we desire God and He shows up.

I’m not talking about shouting a yelling and all that stuff. If that is how God leads that’s ok too. Our lives will radiate with an unmistakable joy, the Bible says our countenance will be changed. It doesn’t mean we will not hurt or be sick or have delays. It means they will not hinder our joy for serving God.

The source of our work this side of heaven is God the Father through Jesus Christ. Let’s get everything else out of the way, including ourselves, our pride, and our selfishness; let’s quit looking at others and comparing ourselves to them and start looking once again to God and asking Him what would you have me do?

Conclusion: Jesus said it’s all about God. Our heart must be focused on Him. We must get out of the way and experience Him the only way that is acceptable. We must be sold out to Him through Jesus Christ. That means we quit being religious, like a bunch of old dried up Pharisees and start living the life of a redeemed people. We must become people with Joy, Love, and abundant Life in our hearts. Realizing nothing this side of heaven is important when compared to what we have in God. This morning will you turn over to God whatever it is that is standing between you and Him. Whatever it is that is robbing your joy and preventing you from desiring God! As we sing a closing hymn of invitation will you come!