

A WELL MAINTAINED VINEYARD

Pastor Larry Reeves

I. You are the vineyard of God--[Matthew 13:18-23](#)

- A. It is our responsibility to maintain the vineyard.
- B. Picture of an unmentioned vineyard: Proverbs 24:30-31
- C. The sluggard is a lazy man and he is not diligent.

II. Our responsibility is Diligence--[Hebrews 11:6](#)

- A. God rewards those people who diligently seek Him.
- B. As you seek God or a relationship with Jesus, you are caring for your vineyard. The better you care for your vineyard, the more fruit it will produce.
- C. The more you care for your relationship with Jesus, the more fruit is going to be seen in your life.

III. What are the fruits that you are to bear--[Galatians 5:16-26](#)

- A. The acts of the sinful nature have no place in the life of a Christian.
- B. The fruit of the Spirit should be seen in the everyday life of a Christian.
- C. Diligence in prayer, study of the Word and personal time with Jesus is the way you develop a relationship with God that will move you out of the flesh and into the Spirit walk.

IV. Let's learn from the sluggard what NOT to do--[Proverbs 24:30-31](#)

- A. The man who lacks judgment had let thorns come up in his vineyard.
- B. Thorns represent the things of this world that take over our lives and choke out the things of God.
 - 1. We begin to get slack on our prayer time because:

- * we want to watch TV
- * we want to play video games
- * we want to face book or text

C. Just like the thorns, the weeds are things in our life that are filling in and taking over where we should be having joyous times with Jesus.

D. The stone wall is in ruin: a wall is to keep things out of the vineyard that should not be in there.

1. The stone wall is there to keep the devourer out--Malachi 3:11

V. The diligent hand will rule--Proverbs 24:32-34 & 6:6-11

A. It takes diligence to keep a well maintained vineyard.

1. Proverbs 13:4; 12:24; 10:4

B. Diligence to:

1. Fast and pray.
2. Study the Word of God.
3. Give:
 - * your tithes and offerings
 - * Malachi 3:10 & Proverbs 3:9-10
 - * your time and talents to the local Church
 - * yourself to be a blessing to others

C. The stone wall will keep the devourer, the devil.

CONCLUSION:

What does your vineyard look like? Are there thorns and weeds? How much fruit are you bearing? Is there 30-60-or 100 fold? What kind of state is your stone wall in? Are you doing what it takes to keep up your stone wall to keep the devourer out? Do you need to repent? Repentance will repair. Repentance will get the thorns out. Repentance will get the weeds out.