

**The Fruitless Tree**

No man will permit a fruitless tree to clutter his fruit orchard. Leaves and shade are worthless here. The tree which receives his loving care, the nourishment and moisture provided in the orchard, yet never returns fruit, will soon be uprooted. Why should it take up space for a good tree?

The sheep that grows no wool may not forever graze on the shepherd's lush pastures and defile his fold with ungrateful feet. He may soon find himself on the way to the slaughterhouse.

The cattleman cannot continue to winter and pasture a cow that brings no calf. The sight of the flocks on the hills bring no comfort to him if they are only a symbol of a drain on his bank account, and never make any returns on his investments.

A thoroughbred horse, beautifully proportioned and muscled, groomed to immaculate perfection, if he will not be ridden, if he will not run, if he will not WIN, of what profit or with what glory or shame can his master display such a useless creature, poaching in his stables?

Nor will God hesitate to take away the candlestick of a church that will not bear fruit (Revelation 2:5). He will leave them as monuments to the darkness of apostasy.

- C. M.