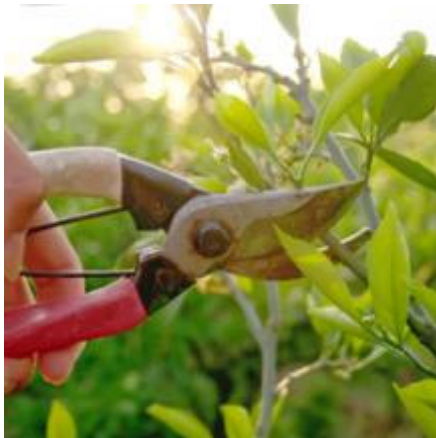


While prayerfully examining our lives to detect disobedience, we ought to consider another possible reason for our affliction. Pain may be God's pruning of our already fruitful lives to make us more spiritually productive (Jn. 15:2). The Lord desires that we bear "much fruit" so that we will glorify Him (v.8). (pruning and discipline may feel the same but pruning comes when we do right; discipline comes when we do wrong)

If you're going through a painful time, God's purpose may be to make you more spiritually fruitful (actually His reward on a fruitful life). --VCG

*God has a purpose in our heartaches,  
The Savior always knows what's best;  
We learn so many precious lessons  
In each sorrow, trial, and test. --Jarvis*

**Problems are opportunities for progress.**



**Pastor: Wayne Robilliard Ph: 4758 8778.**  
0404 804 778

*Please feel free to contact the Pastor for any needs you may have, queries, or questions about our church family.*

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## Central Mountains Baptist Church

# 14 NOVEMBER, 2010

### *Information for Visitors.*

\* We're glad you're here. Sit back, relax, and enjoy the service. You're very welcome to join us for a cuppa after church.

\* a Kid's Church and creche is normally provided, during the sermon for the **toddler to primary age bracket**. Please ask for details.

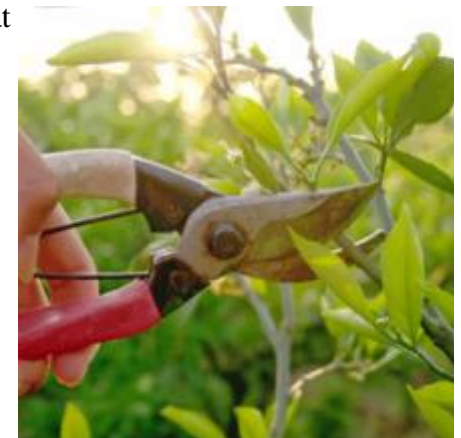
## The Purpose Of Pain

**Every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. --John 15:2**

When Alexander Whyte (1837-1921), the great Scottish preacher, was a boy, he badly injured his arm in a threshing machine. Instead of going to a hospital for almost certain amputation, he was treated at home by a neighbour. When the boy complained of his suffering, she simply said to him, "I like the pain. I like the pain." She knew it was the first step to recovery.

Years later when people complained that Whyte's sermons were too critically soul-searching, he would reply, "I like the pain. I like the pain." He believed that conviction of sin was needed for their spiritual healing.

Pain may be discipline from God for disobedience to His Word (maybe not). Sometimes when we suffer pain, we wrongly interpret God's purpose in it.





# Discipleship Series

## Pruning the Wild Orange Tree

**Romans 7:18**

There are two agents involved in pruning back the wild orange tree. We examine:

### 1. What \_\_\_\_\_ to prune the tree,

**(Proverbs 14:16)** "... But a fool rages and is self-confident."

**(Matthew 23:25)** "'Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence."

**(2 Timothy 3:1-4)** "But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: {2} For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, {3} unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, {4} traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,"

**(Philippians 2:3)** "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit..."

**(John 15:2)** "'... every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit."



God humbles us by:

### ◆ Sending \_\_\_\_\_,

**(Deuteronomy 8:1-3)** "'Every commandment which I command you today you must be careful to observe.. {2} "And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. {3} "So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD."

### ◆ Giving us \_\_\_\_\_,

**(Matthew 19:21-22)** "Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." {22} But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions."



### ◆ \_\_\_\_\_ us,

**(2 Samuel 12:1-7)** "... "There were two men in one city, one rich and the other poor. {2} "The rich man had exceedingly many flocks and herds. {3} "But the poor man had nothing, except one little ewe lamb which he had bought and nourished; and it grew up together with him and with his children. It ate of his own food and drank from his own cup and lay in his bosom; and it was like a daughter to him. {4} "And a traveler came to the rich man, who refused to take from his own flock and from his own herd to prepare one for the wayfaring man who had come to him; but he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him." {5} So David's anger was greatly aroused against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this shall surely die! {6} "And he shall restore fourfold for the lamb, because he did this thing and because he had no pity." {7} Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man! ..."



### ◆ Allowing \_\_\_\_\_,

**(Job 38:2-3)** "'Who is this who darkens counsel By words without knowledge? {3} Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me."

**(Job 42:2-3)** "'I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You. {3} You asked, 'Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know."

### 2. What \_\_\_\_\_ to prune the tree,

Three principles for victory are described in Romans 6:

◆ \_\_\_\_\_; understand the \_\_\_\_\_, verses 2-6, 14, 18

◆ \_\_\_\_\_; count on the \_\_\_\_\_, verse 11

◆ \_\_\_\_\_; say \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_, verses 12-13

**(Ephesians 4:22-24)** "that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, {23} and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, {24} and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness."

**(1 Peter 2:11)** "Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,"

**(Galatians 6:7-8)** "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. {8} For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life."

