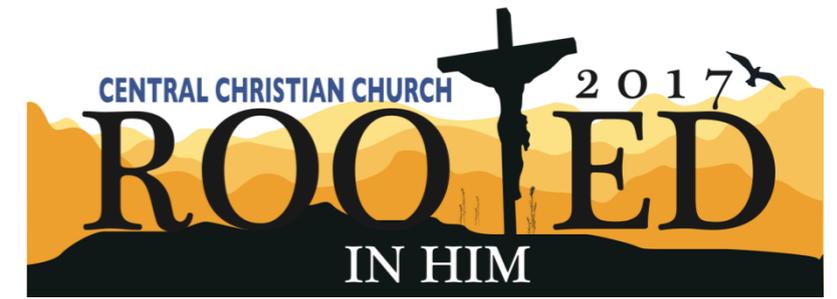
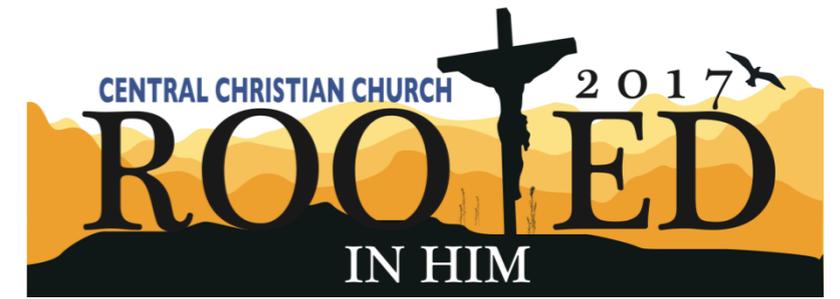


© Nature's Heavenly Art

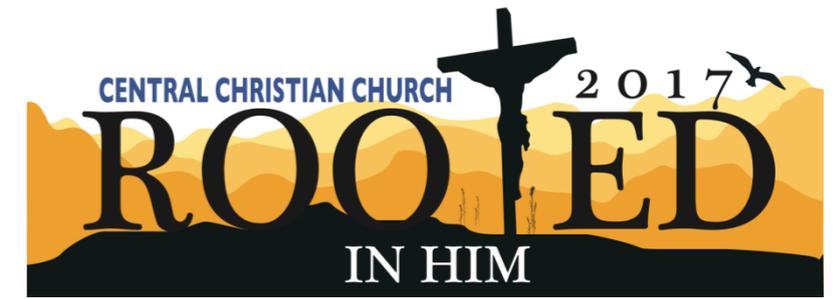
21<sup>st</sup> May 2017



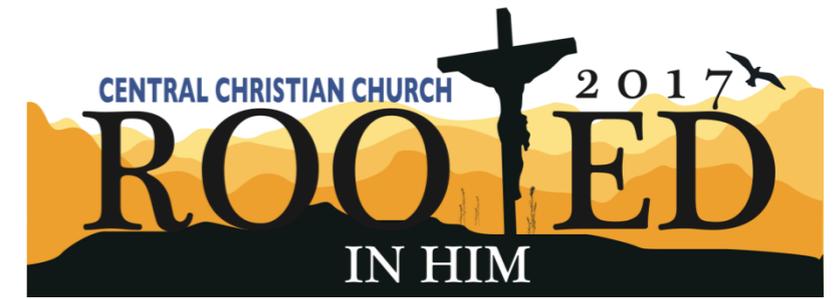
- Jeremiah 17:5-8
- This is what the Lord says:  
“Cursed is the one who trusts in man,  
who draws strength from mere flesh  
and whose heart turns away from the Lord.  
That person will be like a bush in the wastelands;  
they will not see prosperity when it comes.  
They will dwell in the parched places of the desert,  
in a salt land where no one lives.  
“But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord,  
whose confidence is in him.  
They will be like a tree planted by the water  
that sends out its roots by the stream.  
It does not fear when heat comes;  
its leaves are always green.  
It has no worries in a year of drought  
and never fails to bear fruit.”



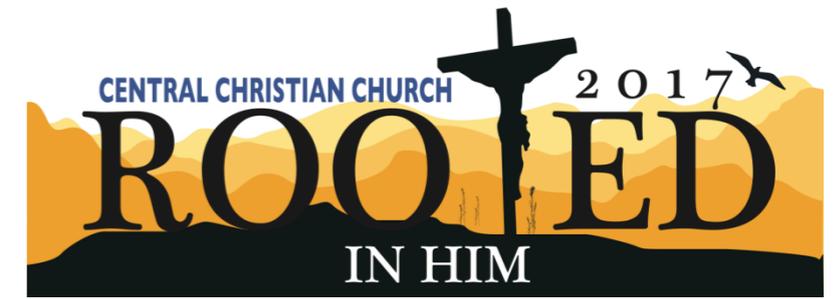
- Exp: Trees during Festive occasion
- God used the example of tree/roots in many occasion in the Bible
- Fruits is almost certain to be mention after



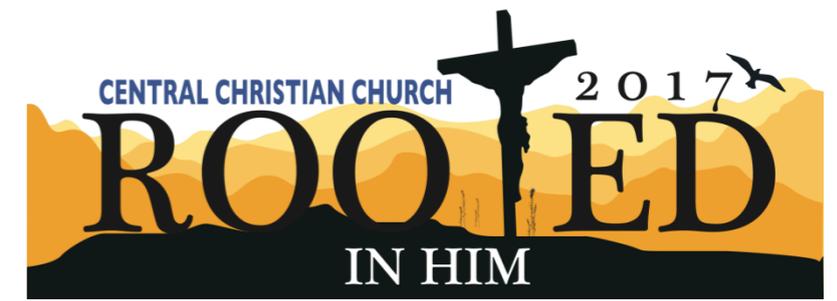
- When you think of a tree, you think of its fruit. Durian, rambutans, papaya and banana. These are the typical fruits we eat.
- You can't tell how good a fruit is until you open them. Today you can't tell what the Bible is like until you open up the Bible and look inside of it.



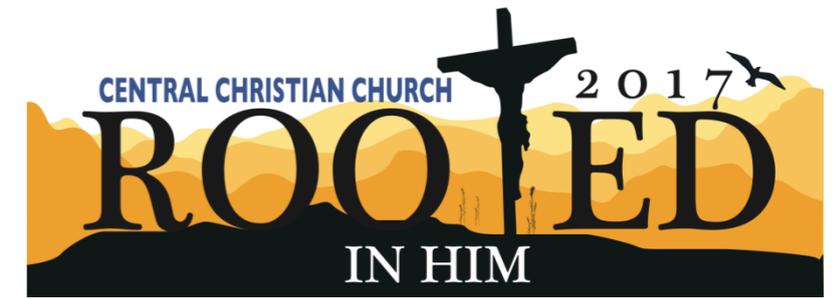
- If you were a fruit, what would you be?
- We use fruit a lot in our speech. Especially for daily expressions
- Exp: Sour grapes, she's the apple of my eyes, papaya face, it was a fruitful meeting, the effort I put in is bearing fruit.



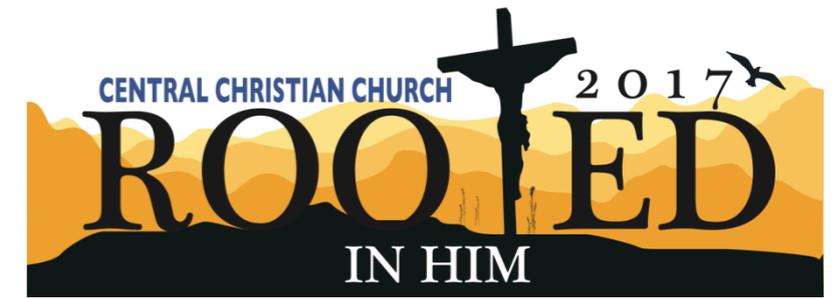
- The Bible also talks a lot about fruit.
- The fruit of the Spirit is being fruitful, bearing fruit in every good work.
- Jesus used fruit several times to illustrate a spiritual principle.



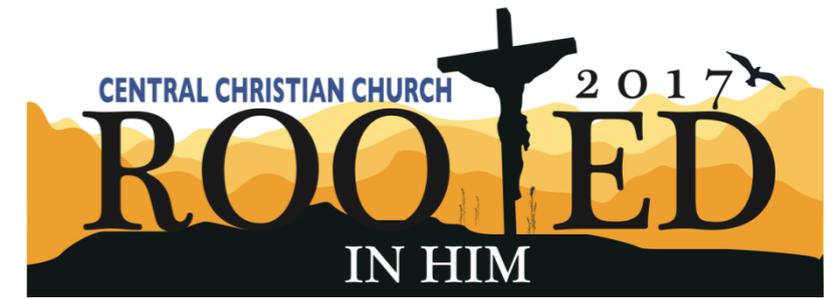
- Matthew 7:15-23
- “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. <sup>16</sup> By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup> Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup> A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. <sup>19</sup> Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup> Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.
- <sup>21</sup> “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>22</sup> Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ <sup>23</sup> Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’



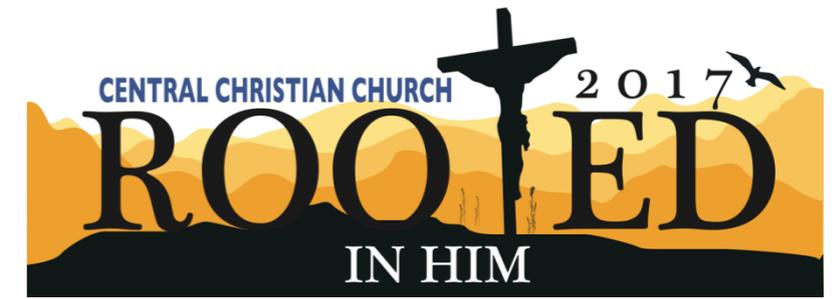
- The tree and fruits are all visible. We can see them. However the roots are hidden. Here is where the source to what is visible.
- Spiritually, our outward appearance can be deceiving. What is inside matters most. The heart!!



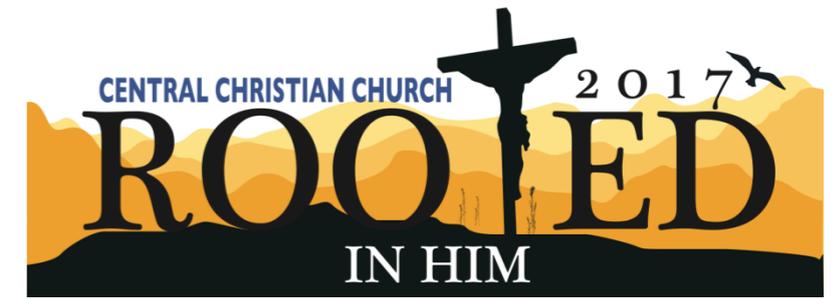
- “Because they are out of sight, roots are often out of mind,” according to information from Colorado State University Extension. “They are widely overlooked as to their significance in plant health. Eighty percent of all plant disorders include root problems.”



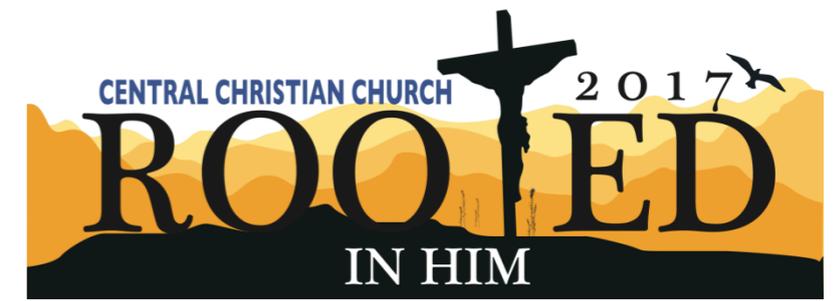
- What if I told you that I have a heart condition? What would your reaction be? Most likely, you would respond with gasps of "oh no!" You would probably feel sorry for me.
- But the truth is, I do have a heart condition...and so do you.



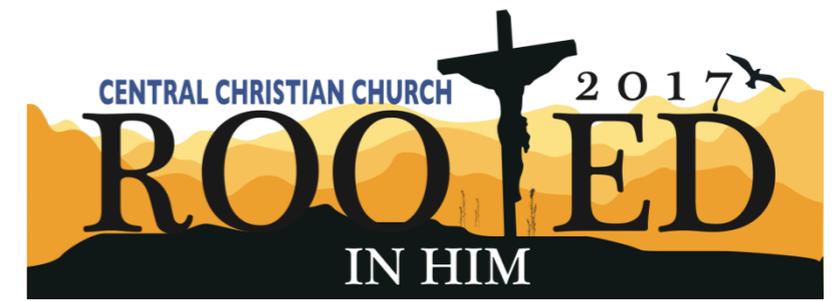
- Our heart's condition depends on the things you allow into your heart. These things form your thoughts and attitudes, and ultimately, shape the deepest part of your being.
- No matter what your circumstances (the outside) are, if your heart (the inside) is right, you're going to be okay.



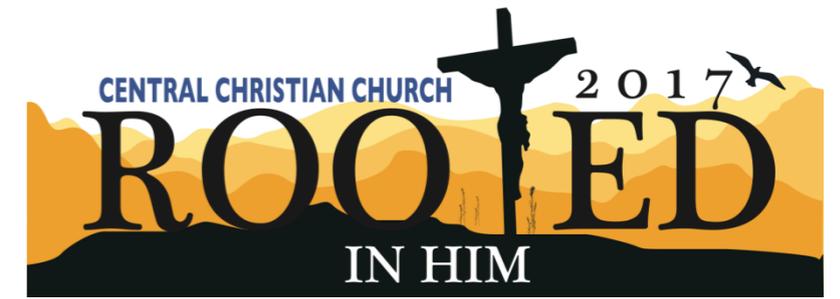
- However if wrong things in our hearts go unattended, they will become deeply rooted and harder to deal with.
- The quicker you can detect a wrong heart condition and get it straightened out, the better off you are.



- As Christians, we need to check our hearts a lot more often. Because many times, Christians can go through the motions and keep doing the "Christian thing," but something has crept in their hearts and is hurting them and others.
- Proverbs 4:23 says, *Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life (NLT).*



- There's nothing more important than your inner life—what's in your heart.
- Matthew 5:8 says, *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God (NIV).*
- The bottom line is, if you want to be a victorious Christian, guard your heart—even when you don't feel like it.



- Revelation 3:1-4
- “To the angel of the church in Sardis write:
- These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God. Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.

