



Pointes to Ponder

Beautiful 🌴

The righteous man will flourish like the palm tree, Psalm 92:12

As Lynda and I make plans to move to southeast Georgia, our thoughts are indeed on palm trees. The palm tree has always been one of the familiar sights of the southeast. Just as a Dutch landscape is not complete without a windmill, so the southeast landscape must feature its palm tree. Every part of a palm tree is of service, and the Bible likens a flourishing, righteous person to a palm tree for several reasons.

First, it is the only tree that has its growth from the heart outward; the oldest and hardest wood being outside, while the newest and softest is at the center. Many trees can grow and flourish with hollow or rotten hearts. Some children when playing hide-and-seek often find a good hiding place in the heart of some large tree in the woods, which, in spite of its unsound heart is flourishing. Not so the palm tree. The righteous flourish only in proportion to the soundness of their hearts.

Second, the palm tree will not mix with other trees. Some other trees are better for the grafting process. However, the moment an attempt is made to graft a palm tree, that moment it will begin to die. What a lesson! The moment we attempt to graft the ways of the world in us, that moment we begin to decline in spiritual fervor.

Third, the palm tree wastes no time or strength in growing side branches but exerts all its power upward in one erect column. It has no detouring growth to the right or left. In like manner the affections of the righteous are on heavenly things. The carnal-minded Christian does not flourish.

Fourth, the palm tree referenced in Psalm 92:12 is the date palm tree, a tree with very sweet, nutritious, and delicious fruit. The tree provides life-giving tasty nourishment to those who enjoy taking in the fruit. A righteous person produces the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) including love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, which benefits others.

Fifth, the palm tree flourishes in desert places where it is needed the most. Perhaps your home, factory, office, school, or neighborhood is a spiritual desert. If so, they are the very places for palm trees! Rejoice, and in the power of the Holy Spirit, flourish like a palm tree.

Pastor Phil