

An Overgrown Life **by Curtis Kenyon**

One of the things that many people do not realize is how much of our woods in NY and PA was at one time fields. There were many working farms and much of the woods we see today were not here in the late 1800's and early 1900's. Instead of woods there were fruit producing fields made by diligent farming efforts. It was hard work plowing with horses and planting by hand, but that was the work that had to be done to produce the needed results. If you live in southern tier NY or northeast PA you know that there are a lot of rocks that made farming even more difficult. Farmers back then would pick rocks and pile them along the edge of their field or property line. Eventually, those rocks would turn into walls which separated properties or fields. Well today those fruit producing fields no longer exist. They have been overtaken by trees and underbrush. The only thing that remains are the stones walls that remind us what used to be.

As a pastor, I wonder how applicable that is to too many churches or individuals. At one time they worked hard to keep their lives producing the fruits that God desires, but now their lives are overgrown with sin, apathy, or other cares of this world. Dear reader – Where is your life? Are you diligent in tending to your life or are you letting it go? Is your life overgrown with the cares of this world so that it cannot possibly produce the fruit God desires and demands from you?

It is a concern of mine that I finish strong. I desire never to dwindle in my Christian walk with God. I do not want to look back at what used to be, but I want to press on for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. To do that I know that I must keep up with the disciplines of the Christian walk and surround myself with people who will encourage me to accomplish those disciplines. This is the only way to not let your life be overgrown and choke out the fruit that you could be producing with your life. Yes, it will take hard work but it will be worth it all.