

STUDY NOTES ON THE PARABLE OF THE VINE

AND THE BRANCHES: -

- Jesus uses the Parable of the Vine and the Branches, to illustrate the vital importance of the relationship between Christ and His followers; what it means to abide in Christ; and bearing fruit to the glory of God the Father – the Heavenly Husbandman.
- God the Father is the husbandman or farmer. Or in the context of the Parable, the Vine-dresser. Jesus represents Himself as being the True Vine.

John 15:1: - “I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.”

“HUSBANDMAN, n. A farmer; a cultivator or tiller of the ground; one who labors in tillage. In America, where men generally own the land on which they labor, the proprietor of a farm is also a laborer or husbandman; but the word includes the lessee and the owner.” – Noah Webster’s 1828 Dictionary.

Psalms 80:14: - “Return, we beseech thee, O God of hosts: look down from heaven, and behold, and visit this vine.”

1st Corinthians 3:9: - “For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, *ye are* God's building.”

- Every branch that is in Christ [the Vine] that does not bear fruit, the Father takes it away. Every branch that does bear fruit, the Father prunes it, so that it may yield more fruit.

John 15:2: - “Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every *branch* that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.”

Proverbs 10:16: - “The labour of the righteous *tendeth* to life: the fruit of the wicked to sin.”

Matthew 7:17 & 18: - “Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither *can* a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.”

Matthew 12:33: - “Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by *his* fruit.”

Luke 6:43: - “For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.”

- What type of fruits do the Scriptures reveal that the follower of Jesus should have in their Christian walk?

Matthew 3:7 & 8: - “But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance.”

Luke 8:15: - “But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep *it*, and bring forth fruit with patience.”

John 15:16: - “Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.”

Acts 26:19 & 20: - “Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision: But showed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and *then* to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.”

Romans 6:22: - “But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.”

Galatians 5:22 & 23: - “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”

Galatians 6:8 & 9: - “For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”

Philippians 1:11: - “Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.”

Colossians 1:5, 6 & 10: - “For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; Which is come unto you, as *it is* in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as *it doth* also in you, since the day ye heard *of it*, and knew the grace of God in truth: ... That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.”

James 3:17 & 18: - “But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, *and* easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.”

- Jesus told His disciples to whom He was speaking, that they were clean through the word that He had spoken unto them.

John 15:3: - “Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.”

The Word of God has the power to change and sanctify us.

John 17:17: - “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”

Ephesians 5:25 & 26: - “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.”

1st Peter 1:23: - “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”

- Jesus exhorts His disciples to abide in Him. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, no more can the disciple of Christ bear fruit, unless he or she abides in Christ.

John 15:4: - “Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.”

- This brings us to consider the vital **Question**: -

What does it actually mean to abide in Christ?

The following Scriptures give us a very simple and more complete answer to this question, than is generally recognized.

John 6:54 – 56: - “Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.”

John 17:23 & 26: - “I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. ... And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare *it*: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

Romans 8:1 – 4: - “*There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”

2nd Corinthians 5:17: - “Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

2nd Corinthians 13:5: - “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?”

1st John 2:6: - “He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.”

1st John 2:14: - “I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him *that is* from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.”

1st John 2:24 – 29: - “Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father. And this is the promise that he hath promised us, *even* eternal life. These *things* have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you. But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him. And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming. If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.”

1st John 3:4 – 9: - “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.”

1st John 3:22 – 24: - “And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment. And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.”

2nd John 9: - “Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.”

- The Apostle John who recorded this Parable of Jesus under the Inspiration of the Holy Spirit, has some simple but powerful truths concerning our profession of Christ, being one of a genuine and obedient relationship to God's righteous Law and Commandments.

Luke 6:46: - "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"

1st John 2:3 & 4: - "And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him."

1st John 5:2 & 3: - "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."

Romans 6:16: - "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"

Psalms 37:30 & 31: - "The mouth of the righteous speaketh wisdom, and his tongue talketh of judgment. The law of his God *is* in his heart; none of his steps shall slide."

Psalms 119:172: - "My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments *are* righteousness."

- We observe that in 1st John 2:6, the Apostle John exhorts those who claim to be abiding in Christ, that they are obligated to walk or live as Jesus did. How did Jesus live during the time of His First Advent?

John 8:29: - "And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him."

John 15:10: - "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love."

1st Peter 2:21 & 22: - "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth."

- If we are abiding in Christ, we will bring forth fruit. It is as inevitable as the branch that it connected to the vine, will yield grapes. Jesus tells one simple but vital spiritual truth in this VERSE – without Christ – or not being connected to Christ, we can do nothing spiritually!

John 15:5: - "I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."

2nd Corinthians 3:3 – 5: - "*Forasmuch as ye are* manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshly tables of the heart. And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward: Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency *is* of God."

Of course the opposite spiritual truth is applicable as well. Through Jesus Christ and His Divine power, we can do all things.

Isaiah 41:10: - "Fear thou not; for I *am* with thee: be not dismayed; for I *am* thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

Ephesians 3:16: - “That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man.”

Ephesians 6:10: - “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.”

Philippians 4:13: - “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

Colossians 1:11: - “Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness.”

- If a person does not abide in Christ, they are cast away, gathered up, and burned in the fire. This makes the issue of maintaining a spiritual life-giving relationship with Jesus, and consequently bearing good fruit a salvational issue.

John 15:6: - “If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned.”

- If we don't bring forth good fruit, the following Scriptures leave us in no doubt that we will face being cast into the furnace of fire. A sobering spiritual reality!

Matthew 3:10: - “And now also the ax is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.”

Matthew 7:19: - “Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.”

Luke 3:9: - “And now also the ax is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.”

Matthew 13:40 – 42, 49 & 50: - “As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. ... So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, and shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”

Isaiah 9:18 & 19: - “For wickedness burneth as the fire: it shall devour the briers and thorns, and shall kindle in the thickets of the forest, and they shall mount up *like* the lifting up of smoke. Through the wrath of the LORD of hosts is the land darkened, and the people shall be as the fuel of the fire: no man shall spare his brother.”

Malachi 4:1 – 3: - “For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do *this*, saith the LORD of hosts.”

Hebrews 10:27: - “But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.”

Revelation 21:8: - “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”

- If we are truly abiding in Christ, and His words [that is, His teachings] are abiding in us, when we pray, our requests will be honoured. Notice, if we are truly abiding in Christ, we will be walking as He walked, so our requests are not going to be for our own carnal lusts and desires.

John 15:7: - “If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.”

- We are to pray in the name of Jesus.

John 14:13 & 14: - “And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do *it*.”

- We are to pray in accordance with God’s will.

1st John 5:14 & 15: - “And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.”

- God will not hear the prayers of those who are disobedient to Him within their heart.

Psalms 66:18: - “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear *me*.”

Proverbs 28:9: - “He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer *shall be* abomination.”

- Our Heavenly Father is glorified by our bearing MUCH fruit. And it is this fruit bearing that makes us Jesus’ true disciples.

John 15:8: - “Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.”

Matthew 5:16: - “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

1st Peter 2:11 & 12: - “Dearly beloved, I beseech *you* as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by *your* good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.”

John 8:31 – 36: - “Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: *but* the Son abideth ever. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”