

ABIDING IN CHRIST – FOR WITHOUT HIM YOU CAN DO NOTHING!

(John 15: 1-11)

- When we break down in the Christian life, we break down _____. {Col. 2:6-7; Gal. 2:20}
This truth is dogmatically emphasized in our Lord's great analogy of the Vine and the Branches – Jn. 15.

I. LET'S GET ACQUAINTED WITH JOHN 15

A. Some OVERALL DIRECTION in this Chapter.

1. Verses 1-11 instruct us about the believer's relationship with _____, and the key term is _____. (15:1-8)
2. Verses 12-17 instruct us about the believer's relationship with other _____, and the key term is _____. (15:9-17)
3. Verses 18-27 instruct us about the believer's relationship with the _____, and the key terms are _____ (which is how the world responds to Christ and you) and _____ (which is how you are to respond to the world). (15:18-27)

B. Some KEY OBSERVATIONS about this Passage. (John 15:1-15)

1. This entire passage is for _____ only. How do we know this?
 - a) _____ - these words were spoken to the eleven saved disciples only after the unsaved Judas had already departed to betray Jesus Christ. (John 13:21-30)
 - b) _____ - the Upper Room Discourse (John 13-17) is directed toward believers in light of Christ's death, resurrection, ascension, and the coming of the Holy Spirit highlighting humble service & love for one another (John 13), Christ preparing a place in Heaven and coming again (John 14), abiding in Christ and being a witness to the world (John 15), the ministries of the HS and praying in Jesus name (John 16), etc..
 - c) _____ - this passage describes individuals that are "in Me" (vs.2), "already clean" (vs.3), "chosen" (vs.16), and who are commanded to "abide in Me" (vs. 4), which would only be appropriate for a genuine believer. In addition, what is the condition for eternal life?
2. These verses center on the connection of abiding in Christ resulting in _____, **not salvation**. What word is mentioned 6 times in this passage?

II. LET'S STUDY CLOSELY THESE CRUCIAL TRUTHS ABOUT FRUIT BEARING

- A. We Need to Remember the Three PERSONS of the Vineyard. (15:1-2a) They are the *true vine*, which is _____, the *gardener or vinedresser* which is analogous to _____, and the *branches* which refer to _____. (15:1-2a)
- B. We Need to Recognize the POSITION of the Branches. (15:2a) These believers are described as branches _____, which emphasizes the crucial truths of the believer's _____ or _____ with Jesus Christ. Where is this truth introduced, taught, prayed for & expanded?
- C. We Need to Realize the PURPOSE of the Branches which is _____. Some believers in Christ here are described as those who are _____ fruit { 15:2a}, are bearing _____ fruit {15:2b}, who bear _____ fruit, who bear _____ fruit, and have _____ fruit {15:16}. What exactly is "fruit" in the New Testament.

D. We Need to Reckon Upon the PURPOSEFUL ACTIVITY of the VINEDRESSER. (15:2)

1. To the branch (believer) that does *not* bear fruit, the Vinedresser (Father) _____. What does this mean & how does it apply to you?
2. To the branch (believer) that is bearing fruit, the Vinedresser (Father) _____ it. What does this mean? How does God do this? What is the objective of the Father's pruning?

E. We Need NOT Repeat the PRE-REQUISITE for the Branches to Bear Fruit – having their SINS WASHED AWAY or JUDICIALLY FORGIVEN by God. (15:3)

1. Jesus Christ declares that these disciples “are _____.” What does this mean and what must you distinguish? {John 13:8-10}
2. The reason for this was “because of _____ which I have spoken to you.” What is this referring to?

F. We Need to Rest in the PRIMARY NECESSITY for the Branches to Bear Fruit – they must repeatedly _____. (15:4-5)

1. The *object* of “abide” in _____ . Why is this important to remember?
2. The *meaning* of “abide” is to _____ in dependence on Christ as your resource for fruit bearing. Does this encourage passivity or irresponsibility?
3. The *make-up* of “abide” is it is an aorist, active, imperative verb with the idea being _____. Why is this imperative needed?
4. The *must* of abiding is *underscored* by our Lord, “as the branch _____ bear fruit of itself, _____ it abides in the vine, _____ can you, _____ you abide in Me.” What must you keep clear?
5. The *must* of abiding is *reinforced* when our Lord further declared, “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I am him, bears much fruit; for _____. Why?

G. We Need to Recognize the TWO CHOICES & CONSEQUENCES in Abiding in Christ. (15:6-8)

1. **Your Choices & Consequences #1 (15:6):** The *choice*: “*IF* {3rd class} *anyone does* _____ *in Me*”; the *consequences*: *he is* _____ *as* {like} *a branch and is* _____ {like a branch}; *and they* {people} *gather them* (unfruitful branches) *and throw them* (unfruitful branches) *into the fire* {not Hell}, *and they* (unfruitful branches) *are burned* {because they are of no practical value besides fruit bearing}. Is this teaching that an non-abiding believer can lose his / her eternal salvation?

The *consequences* of failing to abide in Christ involves a loss of _____ (“*he is cast forth as a branch*”), a loss of _____ (“*and is withered*”), a loss of _____ to others and lack of _____ in life (“*and they gather them and throw them into the fire and they are burned*”).

2. **Your Choices & Consequences #2 (15:7-8):** The *choice* - “*IF* you _____, and (if) My _____ abide in you ...” The *consequences*: “you will _____ what you DESIRE, and it shall be _____ for you.” (That is a divine promise!) “*By this MY* _____ *IS* _____,” (That is the ultimate vertical purpose!) “that you _____;” (That is the specific personal purpose in the passage & the means to fulfilling #2!) “so you will (prove to) _____.” (That is the horizontal by-product that can occur!) How does all of this apply to you?