

ABIDING IN THE VINE

PART # 1

1-8-23

JOHN 15: 1 – 17 - TEXT

JOHN 15: 1 – 6 (READ) (K.J.B.)

This passage contains only a part of the words of Jesus to His apostles, in the upper room on the evening of His arrest in the garden, the night before his death on the cross. These words were spoken to the eleven Apostles after Judas Iscariot, went out into the night, to do betray Him (JOHN 13:11 - 30). In this text, the Lord uses the “Vine” and “Branches”, to illustrate how Believers are enabled to bear GOOD FRUIT, to the glory of the Father, during their lives in this world.

THE TRUE VINE

JOHN 15: 1, 2, 3 – “I am the True Vine, and my Father is the husbandman. 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. Now you’re clean through the WORD which I have spoken unto you”.

THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY

The Lord speaks here of “Those things which be not as though they were” (ROMANS 4:17). He knew that He would baptize all believers into His “Body the church” (COLOSSIANS 1:18) with the Holy Ghost (MATTHEW 3:11; 1 CORINTHIANS 12:13) after His resurrection and ascension; and His return back to Heaven. Before Jesus “Was taken up” (ACTS 1:9) into Heaven, from “The mount called Olivet” (ACTS 1:12), He told His apostles, “For John truly baptized you with the water; but you shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence” (ACTS 1:5). There were NO BRANCHES IN CHRIST before Believers were baptized into His body by one spirit (1 CORINTHIANS 12:13)!

THE JEWS

Believing Jews were baptized with the Holy Ghost on the day of Pentecost “And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place... And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Holy Spirit gave them utterance” (ACTS 2: 1 – 38).

THE EMPTY VINE

“Israel is an empty Vine, he bringeth forth fruit unto himself: according to the multitude of his fruit he beareth increase increased the altars; according to the goodness of his land they have made goodly images (HOSEA 10:1). Israel is a vine what’s the Lord brought out of Egypt and planted as “A noble Vine, wholly a right seed” (JEREMIAH 2:21), in the promised land of Canaan (PSALMS 80: 8 - 11).

Instead of bringing forth GRAPES, “It brought forth WILD GRAPES (ISAIAH 5:2), as “The DEGENERATE PLANT of a STRANGE VINE (JEREMIAH 2:21). Therefore, he perished (PSALMS 80:16) when it was burned with fire, cut down, and laid waste” (ISAIAH 5:6).

BELIEVERS ABIDING IN CHRIST JESUS – NOW BOTH JEWS AND GENTILES CAN ABIDE

JOHN 15: 4 “ABIDE IN ME....”

“ABIDE” means, “To continue permanently or in the same state to be firm and unmovable” (Noah Webster Dictionary, 1828).

“ABIDE”, is the Strong’s Greek word # 3306, “Meno”, and means “To stay (in a given place, state, relation or expectancy), abide, continue, dwell, endure, be present, remain, stand, tarry for”.

ENTRANCE INTO CHRIST JESUS

Jesus said unto his disciples “In what place soever ye enter into a house, there abide until you depart from that place” (MARK 6:10; LUKE 9: 4). As one must first ENTER, into a HOUSE before he can DWELL in it, so one must be first placed (Enter) into Christ Jesus, before he may ABIDE in Christ Jesus. Entrance into Christ Jesus, is called “THE OPERATION OF GOD” (COLOSSIANS 2:12). It is the greatest of all miracles concerning man’s everlasting soul! The “Born-again believer” has passed from death unto everlasting life (JOHN 5:24)!

BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST

A man must first be “BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST”, by the Holy Ghost (MATTHEW 3: 11) before he may “ABIDE IN CHRIST JESUS”. “For by one spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have made all made to drink into one Spirit” (1 CORINTHIANS 10:13). “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 CORINTHIANS 5:17; GALATIANS 6:15). He is “Born again, not of corruptible seed, but of Incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever” (1 PETER 1:23; JOHN 3: 3 - 8). He or she, is now one of “The Saints in Christ Jesus” (PHILIPPIANS 1:1), AS LONG AS THEY REMAIN IN “THE HOUSE OF GOD”.

FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD

A Believer who has been “Born of the Spirit” (JOHN 3:8), is one spirit with Christ Jesus (1 CORINTHIANS 6:17 - 9);And it has been super naturally joined to Christ Jesus. Nevertheless, in order for any believer to ABIDE (REMAIN) in Christ, a person must with a willful conscious, choose to remain in communion and fellowship with Christ Jesus, as evidenced by keeping the Commandments of God. Such as a person, will obey the Lord’s command, to take the “Yoke of Christ” upon themselves (MATTHEW 11: 28 - 30) and walk together in agreement with the Lord (AMOS 3:3). The Apostle John declared “This then is the message which we have heard of Him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is NO DARKNESS AT ALL. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth but if we walk in the light, as he is the light we have Fellowship one with another, and the blood of Christ Jesus his son cleanses us from all sin” (1 JOHN 1: 5 - 7).

FOURTEEN EVIDENCES THAT WE ARE MAINTAINING FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD

1 JOHN 2: 1 29:

- (1). LIVING FREE FROM SIN – 1 JOHN 2: 1, 2
- (2). BY KEEPING THE COMMANDMENTS – 1 JOHN 2: 3 - 5
- (3). BY WALKING GODLY AS CHRIST JESUS WALKED – 1 JOHN 2: 6
- (4). BY LOVING THE BRETHREN – 1 JOHN 2: 7 - 11
- (5). BY HAVING SINS FORGIVEN – 1 JOHN 2: 12
- (6). BY KNOWING JESUS AND BY OVERCOMING SATAN – 1 JOHN 2: 13
- (7). BY THE WORD OF GOD ABIDING WITHIN – 1 JOHN 2: 14
- (8) BY DOING THE WILL OF GOD, INSTEAD OF LOVING THE WORLD 1 JOHN 2: 15 - 17
- (9). BY REMAINING IN UNITY – 1 JOHN 2: 18, 19
- (10).BY HAVING THE SPIRIT ANOINTING AND TRUTH – 1 JOHN 2: 20, 21
- (11). BY ACCEPTING BOTH THE FATHER AND THE SON – 1 JOHN 2: 22, 23
- (12). BY LETTING CHRIST JESUS ABIDE IN US – 1 JOHN 2: 24, 25

1 JOHN 2:24 – “LET THAT therefore ABIDE IN YOU, what you have HEARD (AND BELIEVED) from the beginning. If that which ye have HEARD (AND BELIEVED) from the beginning shall REMAIN IN YOU, you shall continue in the Son, and in the Father”.

1 JOHN 2: 25 – “And this is the PROMISE that He hath PROMISED us, even EVERLASTING LIFE”.

- (13). BY REMAINING IN CHRIST JESUS – 1 JOHN 2: 26 - 28
- (14). BY DOING RIGHTEOUSNESS 1 JOHN 2: 29

BEARING FRUIT

JOHN 15: 4 “.... as the BRANCH cannot bear fruit of ITSELF, except it abide in the VINE; no more can ye, except ye ABIDE IN ME”.

THE ROOT

Jesus declared “I am the root and The offspring of David” (REVELATION 22:16; ISAIAH 53:2). He is the “ROOT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS” (that) SHALL NOT BE MOVED (PROVERBS 12: 3), that yieldeth FRUIT (PROVERBS 12: 12). THE BRANCH BEARS THE CLUSTERS OF GRAPES, THAT THE VINE PRODUCES! The natural BRANCHES of the Grapevine, cannot bear or produce a cluster of grapes, unless it is connected to the VINE, from which it receives nutrients and life from the ROOT. If detached from the VINE, THE BRANCH WILL WITHER AND DIE AND NOT PRODUCE ANY FRUIT.

MUCH FRUIT

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 you can do NOTHING (OF EVERLASTING VALUE)”. THE FRUIT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS – Believers Are married to Christ, “Even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth MUCH FRUIT UNTO GOD (ROMANS 7:4). We bring forth “The fruit of the Spirit (which) is in all goodness and righteousness and truth (EPHESIANS 5:9), which “Is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law (GALATIANS 5: 22 – 23). The Apostle Paul prayed that the Philippians would be

“Filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ (The True Vine), unto the glory and praise of God (PHILIPPIANS 1:11). When Believers submit themselves to God and His Word (JAMES 4:7) and “Walk in the Spirit” (GALATIANS 5: 16, 25) and “After the Spirit” (ROMANS 8: 1, 4), God will work in them “Both to (do His) will and do of His good pleasure (PHILIPPIANS 2:13).

NO ONE CAN PRODUCE “THE FRUITS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS”, WITHOUT ABIDING IN CHRIST JESUS!

There are many “Works” that men may highly esteem and justify as “Good works” here on earth, but when their works are tried at “The Judgement Seat of Christ”, and then the holy fire of God, will burn up all those works, that have been done by the power of the flesh and not by the Spirit of Christ working through the believer (1 CORINTHIANS 3: 13 - 15). While “Dead Works” (HEBREWS 6:1; 9:14) may be mistakenly viewed by men as “Fruits”, here, the true identity will be revealed when these “Works”, are judged by the Lord Jesus Christ.

CAST FORTH

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”.

FALSE IDENTITY – Some believers believe, that this verse speaks ONLY of men, who are ONLY “Professing to be true believers - Wolves in sheep’s clothing (MATTHEW 7:15)”. This cannot be true, for the Lord is speaking here of “EVERY BRANCH IN ME” (JOHN 15: 2, 4 - 6) and the Word of God declares plainly, that “If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 CORINTHIANS 5:17). Furthermore. all unbelievers are, “Without (Outside of) Christ, ... having no hope and without God in the world” (EPHESIANS 2:12)!

CHRIST JESUS WILL NEVER CAST OUT

The Lord Jesus promised: “All that the Father giveth me show come to me; and him that cometh to me I will know why is cast out’ (JOHN 6:37) and, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that heareth my Word, and believeth on Him that sent me, has everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death into Life (JOHN 5: 24); and again Jesus declared “My sheep hear my voice and I know them, and they follow me: and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand (JOHN 10: 27, 28).

HOWEVER REMEMBER THE HEBREW PEOPLE THAT CAME OUT OF EGYPT

JUDE 1:4 – “For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, UNGODLY MEN, turning the grace of our God into LASCIVIOUSNESS, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ”.

JUDE 1:5 – “I will therefore put you in REMEMBERANCE, though YE ONCE KNEW THIS, how that the Lord, having SAVED THE PEOPLE out of the land of Egypt, afterward DESTROYED them that BELIEVED NOT”.

HOWEVER REMEMBER JUDAS ISCARIOT

Remember, that “Judas”, a disciple and follower of Jesus, and the one who was entrusted, by Jesus, with the money, for the earthly ministry of Jesus – was latter, after Judas betrayed Jesus, called by Jesus, “The Son of Perdition” (JOHN 17:12)! The only other person, in the Bible, to be given the title of “The Son of Perdition” – is the future “Antichrist” (2 THESSALONIANS 2:3)!

A WARNING AGAINST “EASY BELIEVERISM”

1 CORINTHIANS 9: 24 – “Know ye not that they which run in A RACE run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may OBTAIN”.

1 CORINTHIANS 9: 25 – “And Every man that striveth for the mastery is TEMPERATE IN ALL THINGS. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible CROWN; but WE an incorruptible”.

1 CORINTHIANS 9: 26 – “I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air”:

1 CORINTHIANS 9: 27 – “But I keep under MY BODY, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have PREACHED TO OTHERS, I myself should be a CASTAWAY (REJECTED BY GOD - A REPROBATE)”.