

God's Purpose in Purging (John 15:1-11) Part 3

- I. *Who* is the *Authority*—*Who* is in *Control*?—God (v. 1)
- II. *What* is His *Purpose*?—To be *glorified*
- III. *What* is HIS *Process*?—*Purging* (v. 2-3)
 - A. What kind of *fruit* is God seeking to produce?
 1. Fruit characterized by *converts* (Romans 1:13 & 16:5)
 2. Fruits characterized by *conduct* (Romans 6:21-22; Php. 1:11)
 3. Fruit characterized by *character* (Galatians 5:22-23)
 - B. How does God work with *fruitless* branches? (v. 2a)
 1. The *reasons* for fruitlessness
 - a. *False* Professors of Christ
 - b. *Failing* Possessors of Christ
 2. The *remedy* for fruitlessness
 - a. God sometimes must *remove* the branch
 - b. God ALWAYS seeks to *lift up* the branch
 - C. **How does God work with _____ branches? (v. 2b-3)**
 1. **The Cleansing _____ (v. 2)**
 - a. **God lovingly _____**

Consider God's cleansing work as He disciplines His children in Hebrews 12.

Hebrews 12:5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation [*Divine Word*] which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise [*little regard / take it lightly as if it has no value*] not thou the chastening [*discipline*] of the **Lord**, nor faint [*to grow weary*] when thou art rebuked [*shown to be wrong*] of **Him**:

i. Through _____ (Hebrews 12:5)

This "*rebuke*" is a verbal warning which acknowledges an _____.

ii. Through _____ (Hebrews 12:6a)

Hebrews 12:6 For whom the **Lord** loveth **He** chasteneth [*instructs through disciplines*], and scourgeth [*whip*] every son whom **He** receiveth.

This is discipleship that is _____.

iii. Through _____ (Hebrews 12:6b)

This is the most _____ type of loving discipline.

b. God lovingly _____

In the life of the branch, often we settle for a life of leaves.

Hebrews 12:10-11 For they verily for a few days chastened *us* after their own pleasure; but **He** for *our* profit, that *we* might be partakers of **His** holiness.¹¹ Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

The cutting process is a painful process but a necessary process. Without it we will just settle for "good" or maybe even better, but never the "best."

2. The Cleansing _____ (v. 3)

John 17:17 Sanctify them through **Thy** truth: **Thy** Word is truth.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All scripture *is* given by inspiration of **God**, and *is* profitable [*beneficial*] for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:¹⁷ That the man of **God** may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

God's Word is beneficial for "*reproof*" or _____.
(Proverbs 6:23)

God's Word is beneficial for "*correction*" or being made _____.
(Psalm 119:9)

God's Word is beneficial for "*instruction in righteousness*" or _____.
(Psalm 119:11)

What is my next step?

Q: What sin do you need to "*lay aside*?"

Hebrews 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

Q: What is "*good*" and "*better*" in your life that is hindering God's "*best*" for you?

Hebrews 12:2-3 Looking unto **Jesus** the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before **Him** endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of **God**.³ For consider **Him** that endured such contradiction of sinners against **Himself**, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.