



Sunday, July 15, 2018

A QUIET COMMITMENT:

- QUIET your mind and soul before the LORD — *“Be still, and know that I am God”* (Psalm 46:10)
- COMMIT to obedience: *Commit* to doing whatever God will say to you in this message — *“to obey is better than sacrifice”* (1 Samuel 15:22)

John 15:4-5 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**.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.

Today we begin a series dealing with our *“walk in fruitfulness”* from John 15. In this passage we will consider how *the **abiding life** that leads to the **abounding life***.

I. Jesus’ PARABLE of Abiding (John 15:1-8)

In our pursuit of bringing glory to God, we must understand God’s design that leads to glorifying Him—it is the process of fruitfulness. In order for us to reach this goal, the Lord must take us through a continual _____ process.

A. The _____ of Fruit-bearing (1-3)

Providence – God’s divine orchestration of the minute details of life to its intended goal.

1. The Vine and the Vinedresser (1)

Jeremiah 2:21 Yet I had planted thee a noble vine, wholly a right seed: how then art thou turned into the degenerate plant of a strange vine unto **Me**?

There are certain things we must remember about the Husbandman—God the Father: Remember Who controls the circumstance.

- a. Remember that God acts with _____ (Romans 8:28)
 - b. Remember that God acts with _____ (1 John 4:9-10)
 - c. Remember that God is _____ (James 1:17)
 - d. Remember that God is _____ (Psalm 33:4-5)
 - e. Remember that God is _____ (Num 23:19)
2. The _____ and the Branches (2-3)
- a. The _____ of Purging (2c)

There are two aspects to the word “*purge*.” One is that of *cleansing* the other is *pruning*.

WHAT IS FRUIT in the life of a believer?

- i. To bear the fruit of _____ (Romans 16:5)
 - ii. To bear the fruit of _____ (Romans 6:22)
 - iii. To bear the fruit of _____ (Gal 5:22-23)
- b. The _____ of Purging (2a-b & 3)
- i. To the _____ branch (2a)
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These fruitless branches can be characterized in two ways; those who are ***false professors*** or those who are ***unrepentant believers***.

The Greek word translated, “*taketh away*” carries the idea of either – (1) to lift up or raise; (2) to take and carry away or to remove

ii. To the _____ branch (2b-3)

i. The _____ work (2b)

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

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.”

Hebrews 12:5-6 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, “My son, despise not thou the chastening of the **Lord**, nor faint when thou art rebuked of **Him**: ⁶ For whom the **Lord** loveth **He** chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom **He** receiveth.”

Hebrews 12:11 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 [*trained*] thereby.

ii. The _____ Word (3)

Psalms 119:9 Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed *thereto* according to **Thy** word.

Hebrews 4:12 For the Word of **God** *is* quick [*alive*], and powerful [*energized*], and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents [*intentions*] of the heart.



The path to fruitfulness begins with a proper understanding of Who controls the purging process. The more we know the Husbandman the more we will submit to His pruning us in love and wisdom. The more we humbly submit to His process, the more fruit we will bear to His glory.

What is my next step? Please consider doing the questions on the back of this page.

What Is My Next Step?

Hearing — Giving *attention* to God's Word with the intent to obey it — James 1:21-25

Doing — Making *application* of God's Word to be more like Christ — Eph. 4:22-24

Date: _____ Text: _____ Speaker: _____

1. What did God show **me** that **I** must confess and forsake because it does not reflect Christ and hurts **my** relationship with Him and others? (**Put OFF SIN**)

2. What did God show **me** about Himself in this text? (**Renew your mind**)
 - a. What is He like?
 - b. What does He like?
 - c. What does He dislike?

3. What does God say to me in this text? (**Renew your mind**)
 - a. What command to obey?
 - b. What promise to claim?
 - c. What principle to apply (*If I do _____, then God will do _____*)?

 - d. What example to follow?

4. What verse(s) should **I** memorize and meditate upon through-out this week to help make **my** change lasting? (**Renew your mind**)

5. In light of what **I** have heard from God, ... (**Put ON CHRIST**)
 - a. What character quality of Jesus must **I** demonstrate *with God's help* this week?
 - b. In what situations will **I** most likely be tempted not to respond in a Christ-like way?
 - c. How can **I** get ready for those situations? (*If I don't have a plan for change, it probably won't happen.*)



OUR MISSION: *Supremely love GOD,
Sacrificially love others
—ALL to the GLORY of GOD!*