



Abiding in Christ Brings Glory to the Father

(N. T. Year verses)

Sunday, Jan. 10th 2010, John 15:7-8 "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you. ⁸ "By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.

Songs DVD--N--#5--Still

Testimonies, announcements and pastoral prayer

M-272--Thy Word---M-73--Jesus Draw Me close---H-527--Glory to His Name

GT-020--Speak O Lord---Message---Name-01--Before the throne of God above

Introduction:

Last weeks message--Blessing from God comes when we stay away from counsel of the wicked, the path of sinners, and the seat of scoffers--"ungodly ideas, commitments contrary to God's plan, and convictions that scoff at God and His Word.--**instead delight in the law of the Lord and meditate in it day and night.--**

Now, move forward hundreds of years--but only a few days regarding God's time table and see the connection with the teaching of Jesus.

Remember, he is the Word made flesh, the exact representation of God,--

John 1:16-18

16 For of His fulness we have all received, and grace upon grace. **17** For **the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.** **18** No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten God, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained *Him*.

- What was Jesus consistent message while on earth?

Matt 4:19

19 And He said to them, "**Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.**"

Matt 16:24-25

24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, **and follow Me.**

John 10:27-29

7 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, **and they follow Me;** **28** and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand. **2**

John 21:19-23

And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "**Follow Me!**" **20** Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following *them*; the one who also had leaned back on His breast at the supper, and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?" **21** Peter therefore seeing him said to Jesus, "Lord, and what about this man?" **22** Jesus said to him, "If I want him to remain until I come, what *is that* to you? **You follow Me!**"

- As Jesus prepared for the cross and to return to Heaven--Upper room discourse--Jn 13-14, where he spoke of washing one another's feet, exposed a deceiver, and one who would deny him---walking toward the Garden of Gethsemane.
- --He called his disciples to a deeper level of relationship with Him-- **A relationship that would fill them with joy and bring glory to God.**

Ch. 15---**I am the true vine--the last of 7 "I am's"**---6:35--(bread of life) ; 8:12--(-Light); 10:7-9--(door); 10:11, 14--(good shepherd); 11:25--(resurrection and the life) ; 14:6--(the way, truth and life) -15:1 (the true vine)

- Develop the imagery of agricultural life--(develop aspects of planting and growing a vineyard-- Book and CD by Darlene Marie Wilkinson--The secrets of the vine---
-a picture of Normal Christian life (Victorious Christian Living) a life of pruning--abiding --and fruitfulness
- Jesus as the true vine--bears me, nourishes me, supplying my needs, using me, filling me to the max to bring forth fruit abundantly--
- Emphasize the Trinity--14:25; 15:1--v. 8-11--By this the Father is glorified...

Jesus was passionate about the need for those who are following him would go deeper and

WHAT IS INVOLVED AS WE ARE UNITED WITH CHRIST?--ABIDING?--

--THE FATHER --(-from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.

(the vinedresser) cleanses, cultivates, and carefully prunes--why?

Abundance of fruit---to reap a great harvest---(4 fruits in these verses--no fruit, fruit, more fruit, much fruit)--Jn 15:16--You did not choose me but I chose you ...bear fruit and that your fruit may remain.

1. GOD, THE VINEDRESSER, DEALS WITH UNFRUITFUL BRANCHES IN CHRIST.

v. 2--Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away (some teach this is apostate false believers)--"in the context we see Judas leaving Christ"--

NT:143

NT:142 *ai&rw airo* (ah'-ee-ro); a primary root; **to lift up**; by implication, to take up or away; figuratively, **to raise** (the voice), keep in suspense (the mind), specially, to sail away (i.e. weigh anchor); by Hebraism [compare OT:5375] **to expiate sin**:

KJV -, bear (up), carry, lift up, loose, make to doubt, put away, remove, take (away, up).

Matt 11:29

29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls

Matt 16:24

24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

Illustrate the storm, branch on the ground, needing to be cleansed and tied back up--

I believe this is speaking of "stagnant, immature, unproductive, sin laden, Christians--

Jesus washing the disciple feet--(Peter you are clean but not all of you--If I don't wash you, you have no part with Me---Then wash not only my feet but also my hands and my head. Jn 13:9-10. Jesus said, he who has bathed needs only to have his feet washed---

I John 1:9--if we confess our sin he is faithful and just to forgive our sin **and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness**

The washing with the Word--

(ill. of clean house with a night light on vs. a dirty house with bright lights on.

Eph 5:25-26

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her; **26** that He might sanctify her, having **cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,**

THE VINE DRESSES KNOWS A DISEASED, DIRTY, CONTAMINATED BRANCH CANNOT BEAR FRUIT SO HE--THE SPIRIT-- WILL CONVICT OF SIN---"ANGER, WRONG ATTITUDES,--2 Peter 1: 5ff--lack of moral excellence-- ignorance--lack of self control--- vacillated (no perseverance--- ungodliness--- no kindness or brotherly love--

For if these qualities are your and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful.--blind and short-sided---If you are addressing sin, --v. 11 Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

SIN HINDERES FRUITFULNESS--LAY IT ASIDE, MORTIFY SIN, DO NOT HIDE IT BUT CONFESS AND FORSAKE IT--

WEEDING---DEALING WITH BLIGHT, FUNGUS, BUGS AND DISEASE---

Question: Do you believe you are In Christ?--Does your life demonstrate some spiritual fruit?

How is God dealing with ungodly attitudes?

GOD THE VINEDRESSED, PRUNES FRUITFUL BRANCHES THAT THEY MAY BEAR MORE FRUIT.

Pruning is so critical to produce fruit--(ill. at Valois) --John Mamoria--

John 15:2-4

2 "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit, **He prunes it**, that it may bear more fruit. **3** "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. **4**

#2508--purge, prune, cleans, expiate-- to get rid of pretty, attractive, parts of the branch that saps the life giving energy from true fruit-bearing--(pruning, bending, tying) this is painful, 'and seems cruel--but is necessary for the life blood of the sap to flow to the fruit-bearing branch and to produce sweet, luscious, fruit. Pruning is a demonstration of God's love and mercy--It must be done in the correct way and at the right time.--It is necessary to produce growth and fruit.--

Elisabeth Elliot: Pruning requires the **cutting away not only of what is superfluous** but also of what appears to be good stock. Why should we be so baffled when the Lord cuts away good things from our lives?

Our pruning may not be pleasant sometimes, but we can take comfort because God says, "Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" (2 Corinthians 4:17).

How does the Father do this??

1. Heb 4:12-13

12 For the **word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword**, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. **13** And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do. --2 Tim. 3:16-17... reproof, correction, ---

2. Through the winds of adversity---(The chastening or discipline of the Lord-)

Heb 12:7-12

7 It is for discipline that you endure; **God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline?** **8** But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. **9** Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? **10** For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but **He disciplines us for our good, that we may share His holiness.(bear fruit)** **11** All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the **peaceful fruit** of righteousness. **12**

Ill of pruning---"removal of a relationship that is not part of his plan." (Kevin's first love)

God pruned Abraham's right to have a child as he told him to go and sacrifice him on the mountain. He yielded his rights and trusted God.

God pruned from Noah the freedom to do what he wanted to do in order to build a boat to protect his family.

God pruned from Moses his position and power in Egypt so he could be used to deliver the nation of Israel from Egypt.

God pruned from Paul the right to be free in order to place him in prison to reach the Roman guards for Christ.

God pruned from Paul the right to be comfortable, protected, and warm--in use him to write his letters and to reach many for the Lord.

God pruned from Peter his pride and self-will in order to use him to feed other believers.

God pruned from Philip and very productive ministry in Acts 8:4 to send him to the desert to reach the Eunuch. (like Robertson McQuilken--was pruned from his presidency to serve his wife.

3. GOD THE VINEDRESSED KNOWS THAT FRUITFULNESS COMES FROM **ABIDING** IN THE VINE.---

"ABIDE IN HIM"

"Abide in Me"--(closeness of union by faith--sweet intimacy by faith---practicing His presence, by faith)-- (remember one of the main concerns in the book of Heb. ? 'drifting away--- degenerating from the elementary principles---despising the knowledge of the truth--- devalue the grace of God-- despising him who is speaking--

Feed on Him Jn 6:57

III. Story of a contest--which branch would produce the most and best grapes?

Old testament usage: #3884, 83 times, Lumn--to stop where you are going and trusting what you are trusting and to permanently stay in the presence of God--

Ps 15:1-2

5 O LORD, who may **abide** in Thy tent? Who may dwell on Thy holy hill?

2 He who walks with integrity, and works righteousness, And speaks (WORDS) truth in his heart.

Ps 91:1-2

1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High **Will abide** in the shadow of the Almighty.

2 I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust!"

New Testament usage: /3306; "meno" to stay, continue in, dwell, be present, remain.

To constantly keep in fellowship with Christ so that his life can work in and through us to produce fruit that glorifies the Father.-- (sheep-listen to and follow the shepherd,--Body connected the head)

--powerful reputation--11 times in these verses--"abide"

Jesus' invitation--

Matt 11:28-30

28 "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. 29 "Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. 30 "For My yoke is easy, and My load is light."

What is involved in this abiding? How do we know if we are "abiding in Christ?"
If he is in us and we are in Him?

1. **Consistently internalizing the Word of God**---(our necessary food--)
His words become our words, his thoughts become our thoughts, his passions become our passions, his goals to please and honor and glory the father become our goals.--We are rejecting and destroying every lofty idea that raise us against the knowledge of God ---OBEDIENCE OF FAITH

John 15:7

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you,

John 15:10-11

10 "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love.

Keep My commandments--"tereo--#5083--to guard, to put a fence around it, hold it so it does not escape

2. **Constantly consumed by his love**--"abide in his love as he abides in the father love"--the love of Christ constrains me--His eternal--irrevocable love so captivates you and it is manifested in your love for others--

John 15:12-13

12 "This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. 13 "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.

3. **Quick to recognize and confess personal sin**---Prov. 28:13; Ps. 34; 1 John 1:9--
4. **Constant communion with the Father in prayer**--(throne of grace is where we reside)-
Prayer is both the means of abiding and the fruit of abiding--15:7, 16

Steve Greens song--to know the Lord our God is the heartbeat of our mission -

4. GOD THE VINE DRESSER IS GLORIFIED BY THE ABUNDANCE OF FRUIT FROM OUR LIVES.

John 15:8-9

8 "By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.

Prove to be Christ's ambassadors, His witnesses, His ministers of reconciliation--

1 Peter 2:9-10

9 But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.

John 15:16

16 "You did not choose Me, but I **chose you**, and **appointed you**, that you should go **and bear fruit**, and *that* your **fruit should remain**, that whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He may give to you.

What kind of fruit is produced?

1. Rom 1:13-14---THE HARVEST OF SOULS--evangelism--

13 And I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that often I have planned to come to you (and have been prevented thus far) in order that I **might obtain some fruit among you also**, even as among the rest of the Gentiles.

2. Col 1:10-11---THE FRUIT OF GOOD WORKS--serving others --

Paul prayed for the saints--so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please *Him* in all respects, **bearing fruit in every good work** and increasing in the knowledge of God; **(Matt. 5:16--let your light shine--that may see your good works**

3. Heb 12:11-12--THE FRUIT OF RIGHTEOUS LIVING--christlikeness in Character--Gal. 5:22-24----the work of DISCIPLESHIP--

11 All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

4. Heb. 13:15--THE FRUIT OF OUR LIPS GIVING PRAISE--WORSHIP

Heb 13:15-16

5 Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.

5. James 5:16-18--THE FRUIT OF ANSWERED PRAYER--

The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. **17** Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain; and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. **18** And he prayed again, and the sky poured rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

John 15:7; 16

7 "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you. **8** "By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER:

1. Do you recognize God's sovereign work in your life? What is the vinedresser doing at present?--cleansing, cutting, etc

Remember we are his workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works-

2. Can you identify one of two ways God has pruned your life so you can be more fruitful?
3. Is there some superficial areas in your life the Lord is calling you to get rid of?
4. How would you describe your abiding relationship with Christ? --(first love? eyes fixed?
5. How would you evaluate your own personal life--no fruit, fruit, more fruit, much fruit, fruit that remains.
6. What can you do for God to produce more fruit in your life?

BEFORE THE THONE OF GOD ABOVE --

