

Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

5.21.2023

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you that he would have you to see through the study of God's word.

The True Vine

John 15: 1 – 17

There will be those in this life, people whom we will come in contact with, who will appear to be followers of Christ, but in fact they are imposters. How do we, as Christians, learn to avoid worldly circumstances, which would have us to become entangled in self-righteous, sinful desires.

Galatians 5: 1,....stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangles again with the yoke of bondage....

Today's lesson speaks in terms of branches, and the fruit that the branches bear. So how do we know if the fruit that we see is fruit that is good? Some fruit may look good, when in fact, it is ripening on the branch just to spoil. Fruit that is good is fruit that becomes abundantly productive. This means that it is not fruit that ripens and spoils on the vine, but it is fruit that God can use to make out of it what he will.

As believers, we are to be people who put their trust in the Lord. People, who through obedience, are cultivated in righteousness and justice. Therefore, we are united with Christ, clothed in his righteousness, fully identified with him, through faith believing. Daily we are to grow in God's grace through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. We are cleansed by, and through the word of God, and daily we are to abide in him.

John 15: 1 – 5,....I am the true vine....every branch....that beareth not fruit he taketh away....every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit....now ye are clean through the word....abide in me, and I in you....I am the vine, you 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....

Christ came into this world to produce for his Father what mankind could not produce. Now then, as believers in Christ, we are to be the fruit bearing branches. As those who are bearing fruit, we must be pruned, so as to continue bearing fruit, and to even bear more fruit. This is Gods way of working with us in the manner that he sees fit, so that we may become more righteous.

Isaiah 5: 4,....what could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it? Wherefore when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes....

Rather than producing righteousness, humanity responds with sinful desires. God desires for us to produce fruit for his glory. Not producing fruit, means experiencing the consequences of Gods judgement. God has chosen us for his own possession, chosen us to become a holy, unified church, so that we may show unto others the goodness of his salvation. We can only do this by producing a harvest of good fruit unto the Lord.

Matthew 21: 33 – 40,....hear another parable....a certain householder....planted a vineyard....when the time of fruit drew near, he sent servants....that they might receive the fruits of it....the husbandmen took the servants....beat one....killed another....stoned another....last of all he sent unto them his Son....come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance,,,,,and slew him....what will he do unto those husbandman?....

When we become more concerned about how others see us than whether or not our actions are pleasing unto God, then we are not allowing God to challenge us with the opportunity to grow in his faith, and mature spiritually in his word.

Proverbs 15: 31 – 33,....the ear that heareth the reproof of life abideth among the wise, he that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul, but he that heareth reproof, getteth understanding, the fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom, and before honour is humility....

Those who ignore Gods instruction, who are disobedient to his word, they may think that they have wisdom, and knowledge, but it is through worldliness, and therefore harming to themselves. Every person is born into this world with ready minds set to receive Gods word. Therefore, we must not consider any man's opinion, but we are to search the scriptures to verify all that we hear....

John 15: 6 – 10,....if a man abide not in me, he is cast forth....and is withered, and men gather them....and they are burned....if ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it will be done unto you....herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit....continue ye in my love....keep my commandment, ye shall abide in my love....these things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full....

Even as believers, apart from God, we can do nothing. We have a loss of fellowship with him, we have a loss of spiritual maturity, and we have a loss of reward. If we abide in Christ, then the reality is that he will answer our prayers. Bearing fruit, and having that fruit become productive means leading others in the pathway of salvation. In order, to comprehend the love of God, we need to abide in his love. Abiding in God's love means learning, and listening to that which God wants us to be, and that which God wants us to do.

Galatians 5: 22 – 23,....but the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, against such there is no law....

The fruit which we produce, which is the characteristics of the fruit of the spirit, is the inner grace of God that is produced within us, so that we might become a reflection of Christ. Our fruit, is the behavior that reflect the characteristics of the living Christ. These are attributes that will help us to maintain our relationship with him. Only as we grow in grace, and become mature in our faith, will we produce the spiritual maturity that exemplifies how that we live, walk, and pray in spirit and in truth.

Galatians 2; 20,....I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me....

John 15: 11 – 17,....these things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full....this is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you....greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends....ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you....henceforth I call you not servants....but I have called you friends....ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you....that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain....these things have I commanded you....

Following Christ is not an easy task, but our life in him is wholly dependent upon our relationship with him. Christ, through the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit is always trying to prepare us for the future that we must face. It is very important that we are obedient to the instruction given unto us through Gods word, and that we are willing to apply these instructions to our life so that we may not become easy prey to the temptations of the world around us.

Christ has given unto us an example to follow, and his love is not a cheap, shallow, imitation sentiment, but it is genuine and pure, for it was purchased with a price. We love others for the sake of their salvation and not for ourselves. When we begin to understand this, then like Christ, we will begin to count our sorrows as joy.

Hebrews 12: 2,....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....

Let us Pray.

If anyone has any questions, comments or would just like to discuss any of the scriptures, feel free to call, text or email me. Keep praying for each other and all the God lays upon your heart. Hope to see everyone soon. God Bless.

Tim Hughes

304.376.3342 – Text or talk.

Tim.hughes1962@gmail.com

<https://hollowowlfarm.com/>

