

SCRIPTURE: John 15

SINGING: 281:1-4 – 237:1-3 – 34:1, 2, 9 – 159:1-4

THE VINE, THE BRANCHES AND THE FRUIT

I. The Vine is Jesus Christ

A. How and why did the Lord Jesus call Himself the *true* Vine?

1. In contrast to *false or failing vine*

a. a **false** vine defined (Matt. 24:24)

b. a **failing** vine defined (Ezek. 15:1-8)

2. The Church of Israel was **failing** vine: Ps. 80:8; Is. 5

a. this wasn't the Husbandman's fault: Ps. 80:8-9; Is. 5:1-2, 4

b. this failure brings a Lawsuit: Ps. 50:4-5; Is. 5:3; Micah 6:1-3

3. Jesus Christ is the **true** vine: John 15:1, 5

a. He is the *good fruit* to His Father's glory (Is. 11)

b. He *brings* forth the good fruit His Father's glory (John 15:1-10)

B. What's the main point He wants His people to reflect on?

II. THE BRANCHES ARE THE TRUE BELIEVERS

A. Jesus speaks of two kinds of branches (believers)

1. Those who *appear ingrafted in Him* but remain *fruitless* (2a)

a. How do they appear to be ingrafted?

b. How important a matter for examination!

2. Those who *do bear fruit*

a. Bearing fruit is the *main purpose* of Jesus' salvation

b. What are these fruits?

B. To make branches (more) *fruit-bearing*, Husbandman does two things

1. He ingrafts *sinners into Jesus* (regeneration) (John 3:3, 8)

2. He 'purges to *increase the fruit bearing* (2a)

a. to purge means to *cleanse – wash*

b. more likely the *purging* refers to *pruning*

c. though means *differ*, the design is same: **increase fruit**

III. Consider the Fruit

A. Jesus taught about *fruit* and *works*: Are these different?

1. Works: *points to what we do for Lord in reflection on His goodness*

2. Fruit: *points more to who we are – our character!*

B. The Fruit of grace work *is restoration of God's image in us!*

1. What was the Father's image?

2. What increased (much) fruit would glorify the Father?

Close Exhortation: *Abide in Me!*

A. Yet Jesus' words weren't to *discourage* but *encourage to abide in Him!*

1. Don't go at this *apart from Me – rely on your own strength*

B. To abide means

1. To have a continued sense of need for Him: vs. 4-5

2. To make daily use of Him as all-sufficient Source: vs. 7, 16

3. By receiving and believing His Words: vs. 7

Worthy Saying to Ponder

You will never get far for God, unless you never get far from Him.

To be little with God is to be little for God. (E. M, Bounds)

To wait on God is to live a life of desire toward Him, delight in Him, dependence on Him, and devotedness to Him. (M. Henry)