

I AM THE VINE JOHN 15.5

INTRODUCTION:

1. The songs we sing not only move us and inspire us, but also teach us. Therefore it is imperative that we sing songs that teach truth.
2. Sacred Selection Song# 161 brings out spiritual truths describing the relationship between man and God as well as God's expectations.
3. Consider the verses and chorus of this beautiful song.

I. VERSE 1: "I AM THE VINE..."

- A. Those who desire to bear fruit can only do so in Christ as He is the vine. (John 15.1-5)
- B. **JOHN 15.2:** *"Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit."*

II. VERSE 2: "NOW YE ARE CLEAN..."

- A. **JOHN 15.3:** *"You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you"*
- B. The strength of Christ gives us the ability to do everything that God asks. (Phil. 4.13)
- C. We must then share that word with others. (Matt. 28.19,20)
- D. Through the cleansing power of God's word we now have a mansion waiting for us. (John 14.1-3)

III. VERSE 3: "YES, BY YOUR FRUITS..."

- A. The works that we do indicate the kind of people we are.
 1. **MATHEW 12.33:** *"a tree is known by its fruits"*
 2. **Matthew 12.37:** *"For by your words..."*
- B. The application: Bear good fruit by obedience to the commands of God. (John 6.43-46; 15.7-10; James 1.22)

CONCLUSION: CHORUS

1. The consequences of failing to abide in Christ and the benefits of bearing fruit. (John 15.6-8)
2. Abiding in Christ is accomplished by keeping His commandments (John 15.9,10). But what must we do?
3. Keeping His commands by obeying the gospel. (Rom. 10.17; Mark 16.16; Acts 3.19; Rom. 10.9,10; 1 Pet. 3.21)
4. Continuing faithfully until death. (Rev. 2.10; 22.14)

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MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS :	9:00AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP:	9:50AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP:	6:00PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS	7:30PM

*Worshipping
God "in Spirit
and truth"
(John 4.23)*

AUGUST 30TH, 2009

WHO IS WISE?

When we think of those who are wise who comes to mind? Perhaps you may be thinking of those who are older as wisdom is often associated with age. Maybe those are wise who have several letters after their name indicating years of education. Perhaps one might consider wise those who serve as elders for they have devoted their lives to *"watching out for your souls"* (Heb. 13.17).

There is something to be said of those who have years of experience and study, for they have knowledge that those younger have not had time to accumulate. However, age by itself does not automatically translate to wisdom (Job 32.6-9). Age only means one had the opportunity to become wise.

Furthermore, there can be wisdom with those who spent the time and money to study in institutions of higher education. Knowledge is only the beginning point which leads to wisdom, for one can have tremendous knowledge but lack the ability to properly apply that knowledge (1 Tim. 1.8)

The only true wisdom is that which originates from the word of God. All the knowledge in the world cannot equate to the knowledge and proper application of the word of God. The wisdom of the world boasts of great things, but when placed side by side against the wisdom of God it falls by the wayside. When the wise according to the world attempt to defeat, cast down, and shine above the wisdom of God, they fail leaving us to ask, *"Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age?"* (1 Cor. 1.20).CLP

THE APPEARANCE OF GRACE

TITUS 2.11

INTRODUCTION:

1. Everyone has something that they can be doing. (Titus 2.1-10)
 - a) The work of older men and women. (Verses 2-4)
 - b) The work of younger men and women. (Verses 4-8)
 - c) The work of slave and free. (Verses 9,10)
2. Regardless of our position in life the divine gift of God is made available to all who would come to Him and receive it.

I. THE GRACE OF GOD BRINGS SALVATION

- A. The gospel would come without limitations. (Titus 2.11)
 1. It was spread throughout the world. (Mark 13.10; 16.15)
 2. Do we “*limit the Holy One of Israel*”? (Ps. 78.41; cf. Luke 18.27; Eph. 1.19,20).
- B. Yet salvation is not universally accepted. (Rom. 10.16)

II. THE GRACE OF GOD BRINGS EDUCATION

- A. **TITUS 2.12:** “*teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts we should live soberly, righteously, and godly*”
- B. How does the grace of God teach us?
 1. Education through the word. (2 Tim. 2.15; Acts 20.27)
 2. The fruit of discipline. (Heb. 12.7-11; 1 Tim. 4.7,8)

III. THE GRACE OF GOD BRINGS ANTICIPATION

- A. Those who have been saved by the grace of God have great hope for their eternal reward. (Titus 2.13; Rom. 8.18-25)
- B. Without grace there is no hope. (Eph. 2.12; 1 Cor. 15.17-20)

IV. THE GRACE OF GOD BRINGS RECONCILIATION

- A. Fellowship with God can only come through purification, as sin separates man from God. (2 Cor. 6.14-16)
- B. Only the blood of Christ could bring about the spiritual cleaning to reconcile man with God. (1 John 1.7; Titus 2.14)
- C. **2 COR. 6.17:** “*Therefore come out from among them...*”

V. THE GRACE OF GOD BRINGS OCCUPATION

- A. Being saved by grace there is now work to do. (Titus 2.14)
- B. Are we being “*zealous for good works*”? (cf. Heb. 10.24)
- C. We will be measured by what we produce. (Col. 1.10)

CONCLUSION: TITUS 2.15: “*Speak these things*”

THE LOCAL CHURCH: DEAD OR ALIVE?

While the New Testament says that a local church can die (Rev. 3:1), we should not be rash in expressing that judgment. First, we do not enjoy the insight and authority of the One who gave the verdict against Sardis. Further, there are some things easy to overlook in our haste.

1. Before you get too far into evaluating a group, be certain you evaluate yourself (Matt. 7:1-6). The Lord hasn't called us to walk into churches and pronounce them dead. He has called us to evaluate ourselves by the highest standard, be patient, avoid grumbling and pitch in and help. Judgment from a distance and without self-examination is often flawed.

2. Most of the spiritual life of a local church will not be visible when the church is assembled. There are members helping needy members privately; preachers and elders encouraging and studying with members and other events private in nature (Matt. 6:1-18). There are members living righteously against the struggles of life, praying, talking to people about the Lord and raising their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Much of this may not be announced, publicized or obvious between 9:30 and noon Sunday morning.

3. Scriptural leadership is critical to the life of a local church. But there are cases where some resist good oversight. An entire congregation and/or the elders should not be adversely judged by the misconduct of some.

4. The consistent preaching and teaching of the Word of God is essential. If the Word is being presented (even if not in a style or venue you prefer), you should be capable of taking the Word and the lessons from it out of the building and into your life.

5. The care of the members for each other is a sign of life. This care must run far deeper and practical than just the shaking of hands and the smiling of faces. Your judgment about the “emotional tenor” of the group is personal, preferential and subjective. Quick criticism based on “what I want” can express more about me than the group.

6. The life of a local church must never be dismissed based on money, numbers or building. While it is true that faithful members will give to best of their ability, seek to convert people and make the best provision they can for assembling, these three things are not the primary signs of spiritual life. {Many churches pass the test of money, numbers and physical building – but fail to meet the test of submission to Christ.}

[Warren Berkley]