

cont'd from front...

This shows that man can apostatize and lose his soul.

Different fruit does not come from the same vine. Religious division is contrary to Jesus' prayer (John 17:20-21). All "branches" in Christ are to produce the same fruit. In other words, each Christian is to "speak the same thing&that there be no divisions& be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Corinthians 1:10).

One cannot claim to follow Christ while refusing to obey His commands. A true branch of Christ abides in His Word and enjoys fellowship with the Father and the Son and all others who are content to abide in the teaching of Christ. May we strive to be true branches of Christ!



BORROWING

Ed Smithson

This is not a lesson on my relationship with the banker for I no longer have one. It has to do with the biblical principle found in both the Old and the New Testaments. While it is true that most people, when seeking a loan, borrow all they can get. Those many times fail. Often when the desired amount is granted, it actually proves a detriment instead of help. This article deals with Heaven's Bank, and its generous overflow into the lives of its constituents.

A wife of one of the prophets' sons comes to Elisha with a sad tale. Her husband is dead. The creditors are about to enslave her two sons as payment for the debt. (2 Kings 4). The woman has only one thing of value in the house, a pot of oil. Olive oil was a very precious commodity. She just did not have enough of it. So Elisha then told her, "go borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbors, even empty vessels; borrow not a few. And thou shalt go in and shut the door up the and upon thy sons, and pour out into all those vessels; and thou shalt set aside that which is full"(2 Kings 3:3-4).She complied and the Lord blessed her with oil in abundance to care for her needs, pay the creditors and release the impending subjection of her sons.

In Malachi 3, we read that God's people were robbing God by withholding proper contributions. While it is true that they purloined from God, the real tragedy was that they were stealing from themselves. Read carefully Mal. 3:8-10. This powerful thought projects itself most clearly in the New Testament. Notice these verses, "it is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35). "If we give liberally, we shall reap in like manner" (2 Cor.6-7). Whatever comes, our savior will sustain us, if we put our trust in him. (Heb. 13:5-6).

The Psalmist wrote, "I have been young and now I am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread" (Psa.37:25). And our Lord put it this way, "Give and it shall be given you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together running over, shall they give into your bosom. For with what measure ye mete it shall me measured to you again." (Luke 6:38)

August 12, 2018

church of Christ at Alisal

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In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. (John 1:1-5)

MEETING UPON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK

Bible Classes..... 9:00 A.M.
Assemblies..... 10:00 A.M. & 5:00 P.M.

<http://churchofchristalisal.com/>

WEDNESDAY

Bible Class, Singing, & Prayer..... 6:30 P.M.

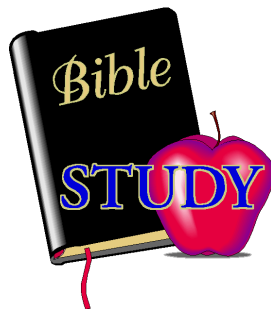
Welcome

Good Morning Brothers and Sisters!

This Week's Sermon's

A.M. - Walking In The Right Way

P.M. - Not Above That Ye Are Able



True Branches of Christ

By Marvin L. Weir

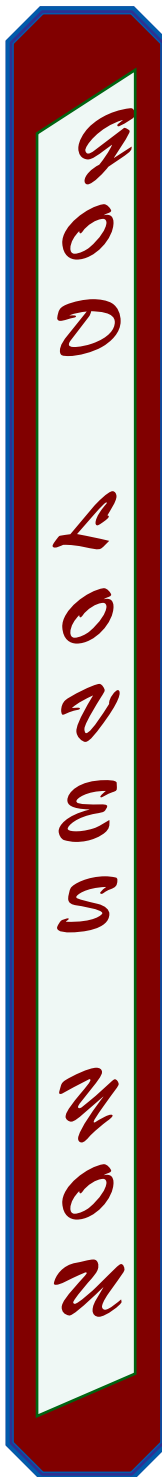
The fifteenth chapter of John portrays Christ as the true vine and individual Christians as the branches. One who obeys the gospel is a branch in Christ. Man-made denominations are not the branches spoken of by John as is made clear in verse five. The disciples who are followers of Christ are the branches under discussion. Each child of God has the responsibility to produce fruit as a branch in the kingdom.

Denominations teach that these "branches" are different "churches" in a futile attempt to justify denominationalism. The context, however, will not allow such an erroneous interpretation. It is individual people under consideration and not different religious groups. Man-made religious bodies are desperate to find New Testament Scripture to back up their existence but they will search in vain. There is only "one body" (Ephesians 4:4), and one does not mean many!

Only those who obey the gospel (Romans 1:16) are branches "in Christ" (2 Corinthians 5:17). One puts on Christ in the act of baptism (Galatians 3:27). A penitent believer who obeys the gospel plan of salvation is "baptized into Christ" (Romans 6:3) and "raised" to walk "in newness of life" (verse 4).

One who does not bear fruit is not maturing in Christ. The apostle Paul identifies the fruit that every child of God is to produce as being, "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, [and] self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23). The Christian who is bearing fruit for the Master will continue to mature, as Peter demonstrates in saying, "Yea, and for this very cause adding on your part all diligence, in your faith supply virtue; and in your virtue knowledge; and in your knowledge self-control; and in your self-control patience; and in your patience godliness; and in your godliness brotherly kindness; and in your brotherly kindness love" (2 Peter 1:5-7). A Christian will also strive to teach others the gospel in planting and watering as the opportunity arises (1 Corinthians 3:6).

When the Word of God is proclaimed, the seed of the kingdom is sown (Luke 8:11). The gospel is still to this very day God's power to save souls from sin (Romans 1:16). No one has ever been saved by the wisdom of man (compare with 1 Corinthians 1:20-25), and this truth strikes a deathblow to all the gimmicks that are employed today



by religious shysters to draw a crowd. A true follower of Christ who is bearing fruit for the Lord will preach the Word and be content to let God give the increase.

The Word of God has the ability to clean and make pure. The apostle Peter says to brethren, "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever" (1 Peter 1:22-23).

It has already been noted that a person puts on Christ at the point of immersion into Christ (Galatians 3:27). One who is in Christ must choose to continue to abide in Christ (John 15:4). If one fails to "walk in the light as he is in the light" (1 John 1:7) or "goeth onward and abideth not in the teaching of Christ" (2 John 9), he does not "abide in the vine" (John 15:4) and cannot bear fruit.

Many today pretend to be "branches" while refusing to do the Lord's will. Jesus notes this truth in saying, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy by thy name, and by thy name cast out demons, and by thy name do many mighty works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matt. 7:21-23). May we submit to the Master's commands so that we will not hear Him say at the judgment, "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46).

John 15:6 says, "If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned." This makes it clear that Jesus is speaking of individuals and not "churches." One is obligated to remain in the vine. Whatever is required to do he must do or be purged from the vine. *(continued on back page...)*

From Alvin Drive...

Alvin Drive is hosting the 2nd Sunday Singing - Today!

Announcements

1. Brother Paul will be giving the invitation this Wednesday evening.
2. Wednesday evening class, "Romans - chapter 4 #4". Be prepared - bring your notebook!

~ On the Prayer list ~

Beverly - for a safe return from her cruise and good health.
Norma, Rose - for peace of mind, healing, and better health.
Kerry - for a positive and productive training while in Maryland.

Have a blessed week!