

Discipleship Course—Lesson Nine

Understanding “I AM”

I AM the True Vine (John 15:1-17)

I. The Vine

A. The vine of _____ (Psa. 80:8–16; Isa. 5:1–7; Hos. 10:1–3)

B. The vine of the _____ (Rev. 14:14–20; Luke 12:16–21)

C. The _____ Vine

1. The true vine has _____ in itself (John 1:4; 5:26).

2. The true vine is the source of _____ (Phil. 4:13).

II. The Branches

A. Branches that do not bear fruit are _____ away (v.2)

- Beareth—take up

1. This passage has been misinterpreted by some to mean that one can lose their salvation (v.6).

- a. We must interpret unclear passages of Scripture in light of clear passages of Scripture.
 - b. The Gospel of John is full of security verses (John 6:37; 10:27–30).
 - c. The vineyard is a place of fruit bearing and _____.
 - d. There are _____ passages in Scripture that teach salvation is a free gift (Rom. 3:24–26; 5:12–21; 6:23; Eph. 2:8; Rev. 21:6).
 - e. Salvation is based upon Christ's righteousness, not our own (Jer. 23:6; Titus 3:5).
2. The correct interpretation is that we can lose our place in Christ's vineyard producing fruit for Him.
 - a. Israel, as a nation, is an example of what happens when we fail to walk in faith (Rom 11:15 –19, 23).
 - b. Paul said we can be _____ if we do not crucify the flesh (I Cor. 9:27).
 - c. _____ can be removed from Christ's place of service (Rev. 2:1–7).

B. The branch has _____ ability to bear fruit in itself (v.4; Gal 2:20; Eph 5:17–20).

- Abide— It means to keep in fellowship with Christ so that His life can work in and through us to produce fruit.

The word is used 11 times in John 15:1-11.

C. Answered _____ is an out flow of abiding in Christ (v.7; Psalm 37:3–8).

III. The Husbandman (John 15:1)

A. The Husbandman seeks to bring the greatest yield possible from every branch.

1. _____ fruit *"...every branch that beareth fruit..."*
2. _____ fruit *"...he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit."*
3. _____ fruit *"Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples."* John 15:8

B. The process of _____ is vital to the increase of fruit (v.2).

Purged—pure, clean, without stain or spot. To cleanse from filth, purify.

1. We are purged through the _____ of God (Psa. 119:9; John 15:3; 17:17).
2. We are purged by the _____ of God (Heb. 12:1, 11).

IV. The Fruit

A. The source of the Fruit—a _____ organism (John 7:37).

B. The benefit of the fruit

1. Glory to the _____ (John 15:8; Matt. 5:16; II Tim. 2:6)
2. Blessing to _____ (Prov. 10:21; I Tim. 4:15–16).

C. The kind of fruit we produce

1. The fruit of the _____ (Gal. 5:22–23; John 14:27; 15:9–11; James 3:18)
2. The _____ of souls (Rom. 1:13; John 4:35; Phil. 4:17)
3. Good _____ (Col 1:10; Eph. 2:10; Ja. 3:17)
4. Gracious _____ (Heb 13:15; Eph 4:29)