



THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD
Living Faith Chapel, Calgary

Bible Study

27- 10-2015

Theme: FRUITFULNESS

Topic: Fruitless and Fruitful branches

Text: John 15:1-2 & 5

Introduction

The Lord Jesus Christ compared Himself to the Vine and we His children to the branches. God the Father is the owner of the Vineyard (1 Corinthians 3:9), looking after both the Vine and the branches.

Branches can either be fruitless or fruitful. The fruitless branches are removed and the fruitful ones are purged.

Today, we will look at the fruitless branch, and also the fruitful branch to understand why the fruitful branch needs purging as it progresses into fruit bearing, and conclude with that statement of Jesus Christ in John 15:5 "without me, ye can do nothing".

May the Lord bless us richly as we study today in JESUS name. Amen.

1. THE FRUITLESS BRANCH

(a) The branch has no excuse for being fruitless.

This is because there are many resources available to the branch through the Vine to enable the branch bear fruits. In fact, all that the branch need to be fruitful is available in the Vine.

Some of these resources can be seen in the following scriptures - Rev 12:11, Ephesians 6:11, Philippians 2:9-11, Philippians 4:13 etc.

Fruit bearing should therefore be easy for the branch because of the tremendous resource and care supplied by the Vine and the Husbandman. All that is required of the branch is to co-operate with the Vine.

(b) The Husbandman therefore has good reason to be violent with a fruitless branch

The Husbandman has invested a lot in the branch. For example in John 1:12 He gave them power, in John 15:16 - He chose them, and ordained them!

If a branch is fruitless, then a lot of resources have been wasted. That fruitless branch is guilty of frustrating the aspirations and purpose of the Husbandman.

What are the aspirations of the Husbandman? Mark 16:15-20

This is why a fruitless branch is cut off because it is not fulfilling its purpose and it is thus frustrating to the Husbandman.

2. THE FRUITFUL BRANCH

(a) Every good student is examined so as to be promoted.

James 1:4 - But let endurance and steadfastness and patience have full play and do a thorough work, so that you may be [people] perfectly and fully developed [with no defects], lacking in nothing.

A fruitful branch is purged, so that it can produce more fruits. What do we understand by purging?

He cleanses and repeatedly prunes every branch that continues to bear fruit, to make it bear more and richer and more excellent fruit....John 15:2b

Examples: In Genesis 22:1-2,18 - God tested and proved Abraham. In Daniel 3:13-23,29 - it was the turn of the 3 Hebrew boys Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

(b) We all need purging to go on to higher grounds.

Purging may not be pleasant initially but it is necessary if we are to go on to higher grounds. Everyone needs purging - the bible talks of "purging the priests so that they can offer unto the Lord offerings in righteousness" Malachi 3:3

We have to keep in shape like top athletes, so as to reach perfection.

How do we keep in shape?

Lay aside every weight - Hebrews 12:1; Bring your body under subjection - 1 Corinthians 9:27

Have you resisted and withstood sin to the point of pouring out your own blood - Hebrews 12:4

(c) A fruitful branch can move from bearing more fruit to much fruit.

The plan of God is for us to move from glory to glory. 2 Corinthians 3:18.

Conclusion

The conditions for bearing much fruit is for us to abide in Christ and Christ to abide in us. If we abide in Him, our best can even be better. Psalm 1:1-3, Joshua 1:8.

Without the Vine, we can do nothing as branches.

Anyone who has JESUS Christ has life, light, salvation, joy, strength, power, wisdom etc. In short, anyone who has JESUS Christ has everything and can do anything.

On the other hand, anyone without Jesus Christ is grass.

Man was formed from the dust of the earth. At the very best, man is like grass and the flowers of grass. Isaiah 40:6-8. He may blossom in the morning and wither before the sun sets. When Christ leaves a fellow, all that is left is nothing.

Jesus Christ makes the difference. Please do not be cut off from Him for without Him, you can do nothing.