

## Communion Meditation – Final Admonitions

John 15.1-8

“Abide in Me”

October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015

### Growing Grapes

- III: Grapevine along back of yard / Didn't understand vine & branch concept
  - It looked very healthy / lots of branches / lots of leaves / but tiny fruit
  - I did some research / pruned away some branches / neglected it
  - Vine and branches were indistinct / blended together / didn't prune
- Reluctance to prune / Necessity of it
  - Not all branches are healthy / They differ in location & strength
  - Leaves give appearance of success / But excess leaves displace fruit

### Vinedresser & Vine / Abide in Me

- **v1** ~ Father and Son / “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser”
  - **v2** ~ barren branches – “He takes away”
- “Abide in Me” / “abide” occurs 10 times / “vine” only 4
  - This is the main concept of our text
- **v3** ~ “you are already clean”
  - **John 13.10** ~ “You are not all clean”
  - A “bad branch” had been “pruned” out earlier / vine was “cleansed”

### “Why is Pruning Necessary?”

- Why do leaves displace fruit? / Is this because of the fall?
  - Not entirely / even the Garden of Eden required tending
- Note the 2 intentions behind pruning
  1. Prune dead branches and dispose of them
  2. Prune living branches to make them more productive
- Branches left unpruned may appear full of life – but eventually die off

Jesus reminded His disciples of their ultimate purpose – to bear fruit

Recent meme:

“Spiritual Christians view the earth not as a playground – but as a war zone”

Those 11 men reached the then known world with the gospel

They were extremely healthy and fruitful branches on the Vine

Our goal must be to bear fruit for God / We must endure His pruning