

FINAL NOTES - THIS WEEK'S STUDY – 2/5-6/2024 - John 15:1-27

Classroom Location and Zoom – Sign In information, below at end of the notes;

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OPENING PRAYER

Review from last week: (John 14:1-31) – *The Way, the Truth, and the Life!* **The Father Revealed – (He who has seen Me had seen the Father)! **The Answered Prayer** (If you ask anything in My name, I will do it)! **Jesus Promises Another Helper** (The Holy Spirit)! **Indwelling of the Father and the Son** (If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him and We will come to him and make Our home with him)! **The Gift of His Peace** (My peace I give to you)! (Joh 14:27c) *Arise, let us go from here.***

(John 15:1-27) – The True Vine! – (vs. 1-8); Love and Joy Perfected! – (vs. 9-17); The World's Hatred! – (vs. 18-25) The Coming Rejection! – (vs. 26-27)

John Chapter 15

- **John Chapter 14 ended at the site of the last supper with His disciples. (Joh 15:27c) *Arise, let us go from here.*** After the supper, they had been in discussion, asking Jesus questions. He was answering their questions, just sort of fellowshiping after dinner, around the table, talking about issues. But now in (Joh 14:31) *But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do. Arise, let us go from here.* Jesus was talking about His journey now to the cross, going first to the garden of Gethsemane, where the soldiers will arrest Him, take Him to the house of Caiaphas, the high priest, and then to Pilate, then to the cross.
- **In (Php 2:6-8) who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, [7] but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. [8] And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. “(Joh 14:31b) as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do.** The Father sent Him into the world to become a sacrifice for our sins. This was the Father's commandment, or will, for His life.
- **So now we leave the upper room and beginning with the fifteenth chapter, Jesus begins His journey** with His disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane. It is possible that they passed through the temple mount area. During the Feast Of The Passover, the gates of the temple were left open and on the gates of the temple, there were these golden grapes clustered as ornamentation on the gate.
- **In the Old Testament, (Psa 80:8) *You have brought a vine out of Egypt; You have cast out the nations, and planted it.*** Talking about the nation of Israel that God brought out of Egypt and planted in the land of Canaan from which He had driven out the heathen. It could be that as Jesus and His disciples were walking past the gates of the temple, seeing these great golden grapes there on the temple, which sparked this particular discourse. It is also possible that they were just passing down the slopes of Ophel and that they were passing through some grape vineyards.
- **In the eighteenth chapter of John, we read where they cross the brook Kidron** and then they started up on the other side unto the Mount of Olives to the Garden of Gethsemane. So either on the slopes of the hillside going down into the Kidron valley or perhaps at the gate of the temple, Jesus said to them:

I Am the True Vine - (vs. 1-8)

Joh 15:1 "I am the true (genuine) vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.

- **Literally, “I am the vine, the true,”** which gives the implication that there is a false vine. Many of the Old Testament prophets-- Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea—all spoke of the nation of Israel as the vine.
- **In (Isa 5:1-7) *Now let me sing to my Well-beloved A song of my Beloved regarding His vineyard: My Well-beloved has a vineyard On a very fruitful hill. [2] He dug it up and cleared out its stones, And planted***

it with the choicest vine. He built a tower in its midst, And also made a winepress in it; So He expected it to bring forth good grapes, But it brought forth wild grapes. [3] "And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, Judge, please, between Me and My vineyard. [4] What more could have been done to My vineyard That I have not done in it? Why then, when I expected it to bring forth good grapes, Did it bring forth wild grapes? [5] And now, please let Me tell you what I will do to My vineyard: I will take away its hedge, and it shall be burned; And break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. [6] I will lay it waste; It shall not be pruned or dug, But there shall come up briars and thorns. I will also command the clouds That they rain no rain on it." [7] For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, And the men of Judah are His pleasant plant. He looked for justice, but behold, oppression; For righteousness, but behold, a cry for help.

- **So the nation of Israel, God said, that is My vineyard. But He was going to let it go to waste.** Now in (Jer 2:21) Yet I had planted you a noble vine, a seed of highest quality. How then have you turned before Me Into the degenerate plant of an alien vine? (Hos 10:1) Israel empties his vine; He brings forth fruit for himself. According to the multitude of his fruit He has increased the altars; According to the bounty of his land They have embellished his sacred pillars.
- **Jesus picked up the parable of the vineyard in (Mat 21:33-41)** Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. [34] Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. [35] And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. [36] Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. [37] Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' [38] But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. _' [39] So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. [40] "Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?" [41] They said to Him, "He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons."
- **So Jesus is speaking of the nation of Israel, God's vineyard. He wanted the fruit; God sent the prophets.** The vinedressers were actually the religious leaders that were supposed to be developing the people's relationship with God so that they could bring forth fruit unto God, unto the praise of God. But the religious leaders had become corrupted! So God sent His prophets, some of them they stoned; others they imprisoned, so then the only Son, of course, would be Jesus. God said I will send My only Son; they will respect Him. But they said, Let us kill Him and then the vineyard will be ours. So they slew Him. He said, What will then the Vinedresser, the Lord, do? They said, He will cast out those miserable vinedressers! He will let out His vineyard to others. So that Jesus is now saying that He is "the true vine!"
- **And My Father is the vinedresser.** Now you, the (true) church, the disciples, you will now become God's vineyard! You will become the branches! You will become that which will bear the fruit that the Father is seeking. So it has been taken away from those who He had given it to, and now the Father takes the responsibility of developing the vineyard!

Joh 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.

- **Every branch in me that does bear fruit He takes away. That is, the pruning, the cutting-off,** of those branches that do not bear fruit.
- **And every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.** The purpose of God for your life is that you bring forth fruit that is pleasing unto God! If you do not bring forth fruit, then Jesus said, You will be cut off. But if you are bearing fruit, then the Lord wants you to bring forth more fruit. So He begins that pruning process, which re-directs the growth from the unfruitful branches to those producing fruit!

Joh 15:3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

- **The word of God is a cleansing power in our lives. It keeps us from sin and guides us in the path of God.** It helps us that we might bear more fruit as we are washed and cleansed by the Word.

Joh 15:4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

- **Jesus said, “Abide (*meno* -remain, stay, continue – used 12X in *chap 15*) in Me,” the process by which I can bear more fruit.** That is declaring again that the fruit that God wants from our life is not something that we can produce ourselves. This brings us to our responsibility. Many times we feel an obligation to do, to perform, to bring forth works unto God that we might be pleasing unto Him as the result of our efforts and our works. It is interesting that in Galatians 5, as Paul contrasts works with fruit. “Now the works of the flesh are these,” and he gives you that long list of the works of the flesh. But then he says, “But, in contrast to the works, the fruit of the Spirit. So the fruit is contrasted with works. Now God is not interested in works, our works of righteousness.
- **God is interested that we bear fruit and fruit comes from a relationship with Him.** Abiding in Christ, with Christ abiding in me, the natural result of that is going to be my life is going to bring forth the fruit that the Father desires. It comes automatically by abiding in Christ!

Joh 15:5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

- **I am the vine, you are the branches.** In the Old Testament, God had planted the vine, the nation of Israel in a choice field. He did everything necessary for it to bring forth fruit. He nurtured it, took care of it, watched over it. But it only brought forth wild grapes. Now Jesus is declaring, “I am the vine, you are the branches.” So the responsibility of bringing the fruit that God wants, is now upon us, the branches.
- **He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit.** Again the secret is abiding in Christ and Christ abiding in you. You will begin to bring forth much fruit.
- **For without Me you can do nothing.** Apart from Christ, there is not one thing that you can do that is pleasing or acceptable to the Father. You can do nothing to please God apart from Christ. *For without Me you can do nothing!*



Joh 15:6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.

- **The nation of Israel did not bring forth the fruit.** The prophet Isaiah spoke of them as the vine, he said, was burned. But he said, it is not really good for even burning. What can you do with the wood of a grape?
- **Ezekiel said (Eze 15:3-4) Is wood taken from it to make any object? Or can men make a peg from it to hang any vessel on? [4] Instead, it is thrown into the fire for fuel; the fire devours both ends of it, and its middle is burned. Is it useful for any work?** You cannot make a peg out of it. It is brittle, it is only good for the fire and it is not even good in the fire. He said it is just of no value.
- **Jesus said, If anyone does not abide in Me. Is it possible for a man not to abide in Christ?** Evidently so or Jesus would not have even brought up the issue. *If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered;*
- **And they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.** This speaks of judgment. The branches are referred to as *he, they,* and *them.* Jesus is no longer referring to the disciples in that upper room. He is talking about a different group of people. Where there is no fruit that is, there is no abiding in Christ, no personal relationship with Him. That kind of person should be concerned about whether they are really a Christian or simply self-deceived.

Joh 15:7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

- **If you abide in Me.** Rather than getting into the theological aspects or debate, just abide in Christ and there is no problem. You do not have to worry about the issues. I have no intention of ever doing anything but just abiding in Him. Because I know that apart from Him, I can do nothing! He is my life; He is my everything. Thus, abiding in Him is all important to me. I have no intention of ever doing anything other than that.

- **And My words abide in you.** Here He is saying, “*And My words.*” Earlier He said, (*Joh 15:5*) “*I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.*” Now, “*if you abide in Me, and My words abide in you,*”
- **You will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.** Here in the final discourse that Jesus has with His disciples. He is giving to them some extremely broad promises concerning prayer. Jesus said, in (*Joh 14:13-14*) *And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. [14] If you ask anything (anything is pretty broad term) in My name, I will do it.* Now He is giving some limitations. “*If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.*”
- **There are those who take these broad promises of Jesus concerning prayer** and they twist them and they teach that you can have anything you want. They are speaking now generally in a fleshly kind of carnal way. That is, you can have any kind of carnal desire that you might have for a sports car, a big bank account, or any of these things to consume on your own lust. That is not what Jesus is saying.
- **If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire.** But it follows that what I ask will be in harmony with Him and His will. Because to be a disciple of Jesus, the first thing I have to do is deny myself. So these promises, these broad promises, that Jesus makes concerning prayer are not opening the door for prayer to be a means of accomplishing selfish ends. But they are doors open to accomplish the purposes of God that now become the chief desire of my heart!
- **The psalmist said, (Psa 37:4) Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.** That has been misinterpreted or misquoted in a way. If you delight yourself in the Lord, the psalmist is not saying, He is going to give you the fleshly desires of your heart, but that He will **put His desire in your heart.** If you delight yourself in the Lord, He then plants His desires in your heart. God said in (*Jer 31:33*) *But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.*
- **So God inscribes His law, His will, His purpose in my heart! He makes that my longing, my desire.** That is why doing the will of the Lord is such a pleasurable, exciting thing. Because He has, first of all, worked in me, planting His desire in my heart, making that the longing of my heart. So be open, but be careful. Make sure you really have discernment. But it is wonderful how God does work and prepares our hearts for that which He wants for us to do.
- **Jesus is talking to His disciples and He is telling them,** You can ask whatever you will. But the thing is, your will is now His will! He has planted His will in your heart and thus, when you ask according to His will, as John later says in his epistle, He hears us and if He hears us, we have received that which we have asked of Him!

Joh 15:8 *By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.*

- **That is what God is looking for from your life. That you bear much fruit.** *So you will be my disciples.* Earlier He said, (*Joh 13:34-35*) *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. [35] By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.* Now, when you are bearing much fruit, then you will know that you are His disciple. How is my, your, fruit production?

Love and Joy Perfected! – (vs. 9-17) Vs. 9-11 – “Love;” “obedience;” “joy!”

Joh 15:9 *As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.*

Joh 15:10 *If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.*

- **In keeping, obeying, the commandments,** He is relating the keeping (obedience) of the commandments to loving, to abiding in His love. That basically is His commandment. *This is My commandment, that you love one another.* If you keep the commandments, then you abide in His love.

Joh 15:11 *These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.*

- **He is about to face the cross and He knows it.** He knows this ugly experience that He will be going through tomorrow. Actually, because their day starts at sundown, before this day is over, before the sun

goes down tomorrow, He will have been killed upon a cross. He will have been mocked, jeered, buffeted, scourged, insulted, and humiliated. He knew all that He was going to go through! What is He talking about? "My joy?"

- **In the book of Hebrews, we read, (Heb 12:2) looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. His joy was the redemption of man! His joy is that ability to say to you, Your sins are forgiven! Enter into the joy of the Lord! To receive you into the kingdom of God, that is His joy! And for that joy, He endured the cross, though He despised the shame! So now facing the cross, He is speaking of "That My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full." That you might have fullness of joy. (1Jn 1:4) And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.**

Joh 15:12 This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

Joh 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

- **Paul gives one rule for marriage to the husbands and that is, (Eph 5:25) Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.** That is a pretty incredible love, "as Christ loved the church, and gave Himself for her!" That is a self-sacrificing love. A selfless love. A complete love. He laid down His life for us. That is how husbands are to love their wives! And this is how we are to love each other!"
- **This is My commandment, That you love one another, as I have loved you.** Now again, as we go to *First Corinthians 13*, the kind of love He is talking about is described there. It is also described in *Galatians*, where Paul is speaking of the fruit of the Spirit. (Gal 5:22-23) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23] gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. That is how God wants you to be!
- **Now you, alone, cannot be that. Jesus said, "Apart from Me, you cannot do it."** The branch cannot bear fruit of itself! But if you are abiding in Christ and Christ's word is abiding in you, then this should be the evidence of your relationship with Him, in that your life begins to bring forth much fruit. You are being transformed by the work of the Holy Spirit within your life and your life begins to bring forth the fruit that the Father desires from us. "Greater love has no one than this!" This is the kind of love that He had for us. "That a man will lay down one's life for his friends!"

Joh 15:14 You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.

- **The fruit of the friendship is obedience to His command.** And His command is, "Love one another as I have loved you."
- **My friends. Just as Abraham was called the "friend of God" (Jas 2:23) And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS ACCOUNTED TO HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS."** And he was called the friend of God. Because he enjoyed extraordinary access to the mind of God through God's revelation to him which he believed, so also those who follow Christ are privileged with extraordinary revelation through the Messiah and Son of God and, believing, become "friends" of God also.
- **It was for His "friends" that the Lord laid down His life. (Joh 15:13) Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.**

Joh 15:15 No longer do I call you servants, (doulos – a bonds slave), for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

- **I now am going to call you My friends, not My servants.** You are My friends. It is interesting though that each of them as they refer to themselves in their later writings refer to themselves as bondservants. Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ. James, a bondservant of Jesus Christ. Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ. Peter, a bondservant and apostle. They refer to themselves still as bondservants but the Lord said I am going to call you My friends.

Joh 15:16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

- **Divine election, the sovereignty of God. You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you!** I chose you. Jesus called them. (Mat 4:18-22) And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers,

Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. [19] Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men!" [20] They immediately left their nets and followed Him. [21] Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, [22] and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him. (Mat 9:9) As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me." So he arose and followed Him. Matthew left the customs booth and he followed Jesus. He said, I have chosen you!

- **But it also followed that they had to obey the command to follow Him.** It is interesting, we are getting into an area that nobody really understands, that of the sovereignty of God and the human responsibility of man, and where are they reconciled? Only God knows! But as someone has said, the Lord gives the call, saying (Rev 22:17) And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts, come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely. For (Joh 3:16) For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. So the invitation is given to all, to all men! God has not excluded anyone as far as the invitation! Whoever is whoever! The invitation is to all!
- **But not all respond to the invitation.** So on the outside of the gate it says, Whoever will, let him enter into the gate of life. So, you feel the tug of God upon your heart and you say, Yes, I am tired of this life of sin and this going nowhere. I want meaning and purpose, so you enter the gate because it says, "Whoever" and that is pretty broad, it includes you!
- **When you get inside, having the joy of being here now in the kingdom of God, you look back and you read on the inside of the gate!** It says, You have not chosen Me but I have chosen you! How do you discover that you are chosen? By entering. And when you enter, you find you have been chosen! If you do not enter, then you were not chosen! Too bad! You say, Well, that is not fair! But wait a minute, Yes, it is fair. Because He said, Look, whoever wants to come, can come! So you cannot blame Him for not being fair, for not choosing you.
- **The thing is, and of course, here is the whole thing. That we can understand,** and that is why it puts it out of our category. He knew who was going to respond because He knows everything! So (Rom 8:29) For whom He foreknew, (God's foreknowledge! He knows all things! He can't learn anything!) He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. But you do not know. So the door is open to you and whoever you are, you may come and receive the gift of salvation. No one is excluded from the invitation to come! Thus, you cannot blame God because He gives you the invitation!
- **If you reject the invitation, He lets you do that but He always knew you were going to reject it.** You say, That is sort of difficult. Yes, solve the whole problem, just accept the Lord and you do not have any more problem! You discover that He chose you. I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit! That is what He has chosen you for. "that your fruit should remain. Bring forth fruit and that your fruit should remain." Abiding fruit!
- **It is not just flash, spectacularism. Drawing a big crowd. Making an appeal and having thousands of people come forward.** It is not how many come forward, but it is how many stick! How many are still walking with the Lord five years later? Ten years later? The fruit that abides, and that is the kind of fruit that we are interested in, the abiding fruit, that which remains. It is not being sweet for a few days and then going back to your cantankerous old self. But the fruit might remain that you might continue to love. And that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you!

Joh 15:17 These things I command you, that you love one another.

- Again, Jesus emphasizes, "I command you that you love one another!" Now in contrast.

The World's Hatred! – (vs. 18-25)

Joh 15:18 "If (since) the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.

Joh 15:19 If (and you are not) you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

- **In the early period of the church, which was born during the time of the Roman government, the government looked with disfavor upon Christians because they considered them insurrectionists against Rome. Rome actually ruled over that whole vast territory from the Euphrates to England. So vast that there were oftentimes difficulty of maintaining the rule over such a large territory.**

- **For the most part, the people who were conquered by Rome loved being under the Roman government** because there was a form of justice that they had not known under the feudal kings that once ruled in their areas. Most of the people were very happy for the Roman rule. There was law and order and the people appreciated it. And thus, the Caesars, the rulers and the emperors of Rome ultimately came to be worshipped as god.
- **They first sought to discourage that but then they saw that they could use that for their own purposes by letting the people look upon the emperor as god.** Caesar is Lord! By looking upon him as god, he could have better control over the people. So it developed in time that every year, a person had to bring a pinch of incense and offer the incense and declare, "Caesar is Lord." Then you received your certificate that affirmed that you were a true Roman citizen.
- **But there is no way the Christian would say that Caesar is Lord!** Thus, they were looked upon as insurrectionists and it came to the place where it was a capital crime to be a Christian. If you were known to be a Christian, you would be put to death. It was a capital crime to be a Christian because it was considered insurrection against Rome. Not only did Rome hate the Christians; but also the Jews hated the Christians. They stirred up a lot of animosity against the Christians.
- **We read in the Book of Acts, that when Paul would go out in his missionary journeys,** of the problems that he had. Later, he testified the perils among his own countrymen, among the Jews, how they stirred up the strife and all against him and his company who were preaching the gospel. Now Jesus is saying you are to love like I have loved. His love was an unconditional love for us! But the world is going to hate, it is going to hate you. But, He said, *If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.*

Joh 15:20 Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

- **Jesus did not pull any punches. He let them know what it was going to cost to follow Him.** It is going to cost you, because the world is not going to like you because you disdain the fleshly things of the world, the fleshly ambitions of the world. And you want to follow after the Spirit. That is not the world's way. So, they will hate you.
- ***If they kept My word, they will keep yours also!*** What an encouraging promise for us to indeed be His witnesses. People will listen and see Him in us, in every believer! But you are going to have persecution. Be encouraged to be used by the Lord!

Joh 15:21 But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me.

- **Because they are really ignorant of God! No one knowing God would ever persecute anyone for knowing Him!** They are going to do this *for My name's sake*. When the apostles were beaten by the Jewish leaders, the religious leaders, they went from the beatings, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer persecution for Christ's sake! Jesus said it is going to happen *for My name's sake*.
- **Now here is where we need to keep things in perspective.** The hatred that the world has for you, you should not take personally. It is really Jesus Christ that they hate. You happen to represent Him. You happen to love Him. But it is their hatred of Jesus, the hatred against God that you experience. Thus, you have that opportunity of suffering for Christ's sake. Now Jesus said here is something very interesting, verse twenty-two:

Joh 15:22 If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin.

- **First, Jesus' words were such, as merited their love.** Remember Jesus said, *(Mat 11:21, 22) "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. [22] But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you.* Tyre and Sidon did not see the wonderful miracles of Jesus. Thus theirs was the sin of ignorance. This is the sin of open rebellion against God, it is sin against light.
- **Jesus said, *(Joh 3:19,20) And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. [20] For everyone practicing evil hates the***

light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. Had I not come, had I not done the works, had I not brought the light, then the sin would not be as great because it would still be sin of ignorance.

- **Jesus said in (Luk 12:47,48) *And that servant who knew his master's will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. [48] But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.***
- **So Peter said, (2Pe 2:20,21) *For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. [21] For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. With knowledge comes responsibility. So it is too late for you. You have heard. Thus, the sin is greater because it is the sin against light if you reject Jesus Christ. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin.***

Joh 15:23 *He who hates Me hates My Father also.*

Joh 15:24 *If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father.*

- **Secondly, Jesus' works were such as merited their love, as well as His words! That is, the miracles. That is what He is saying to Chorazin, if the works that were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would remain. It would be more tolerable in the day of judgment for Sodom and Gomorrah than for this generation!**
- **If Jesus had not done His miracles in their midst, their unbelief and enmity, would have been excusable, and they might have had some reason to say that My word was not to be believed, unless otherwise confirmed. But all of Jesus' works produced proofs of His divine mission, works which no one else did!**

Joh 15:25 *But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, 'THEY HATED ME WITHOUT A CAUSE.'* (Psa 35:19; 69:4; 109:3-5)

- **There are people today who hate Jesus and they really do not know why. They speak in very hateful terms about Jesus. The next time you hear someone speaking in a very disparaging and hateful way about the Lord, ask them, Why do you hate Jesus so much? See if they can give you a reason. He said, "*They hated Me without a cause.*" That is what the prophecy was. But now He turns from this and He says,**

The Coming Rejection! – (vs. 26-27) The Holy Spirit will testify of Me. You also will bear witness.

Joh 15:26 *"But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.*

- **When the Holy Spirit comes, His witness to you will be of Jesus Christ!**

Joh 15:27 *And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.*

(Joh 16:1-2) *"These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble. [2] They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service.*

- **The witness of Jesus is to go out into the world through the Holy Spirit and through those who had been with Jesus from the beginning. When in the book of Acts, the disciples were assembled together waiting for the promise of the Holy Spirit, Peter stood up in the midst and said, (Act 1:20) *"For it is written in the Book of Psalms: 'LET HIS DWELLING PLACE BE DESOLATE, AND LET NO ONE LIVE IN IT'; and 'LET ANOTHER TAKE HIS OFFICE.* You know, it is important that we choose someone to take the place of Judas Iscariot. One to be numbered with us, who can bear witness of the resurrection. So they said we need to choose a man who has been with us from the beginning who can also testify of having seen the risen Christ. So Jesus is saying to His disciples, you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning. You become My witness. Now Jesus said His works bore witness. John the Baptist bore witness of Jesus.**

- **You see, Jesus is the Messiah.** John is seeking to prove it, but like an attorney, He is presenting all of these witnesses that testify that Jesus indeed is the Messiah, the Son of God. The works that Jesus did, He calls them to bear witness. Yes, no man can do these works except that He is from God. God the Father bore witness of Him. The disciples are going to bear witness. The Holy Spirit bears witness. All of these witnesses which affirm the fact that Jesus is the Messiah. That is why John will say, *(Joh 20:30-31) And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; [31] but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.*
- **Jesus is giving this final kind of instructions, which has to do with abiding in Him;** To do with keeping His commandments; to do with prayer; to do with bearing fruit, and it has to do with love! Loving, that is the ultimate sign! That is the ultimate experience! That is the ultimate evidence. That is the ultimate witness to the world. That love that He has commanded we are to have one for another! May the Lord help us to love one another even as He loves us!

SUMMARY:

- **I AM The True Vine!** – *(Joh 15:1,3,4) "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. [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. [4] Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. [5] "I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.*
- **Love and Joy Perfected!** – *(Joh 15:9-15) As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. [10] If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. [11] "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. [12] This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. [13] Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. [14] You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. [15] No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.*
- **The World's Hatred!** – *(Joh 15:19-22,24) If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. [20] Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. [21] But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me. [22] If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. [24] If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father.*
- **The Coming Rejection!** – *(Joh 15:26,27) "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. [27] And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.*
- **(Joh 15:11) "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.**

CLOSING SONG:

"HOUSE OF THE LORD"- There is Joy in the House of the Lord! Wickham (3:47/3:50)

*We worship the God who was We worship the God who is We worship the God who evermore will be
He opened the prison doors He parted the raging sea My God, He holds the victory*

*Refrain: There's joy in the house of the Lord There's joy in the house of the Lord today And we won't be quiet
We shout out Your praise There's joy in the house of the Lord Our God is surely in this place And we won't be quiet
We shout out Your praise (Oh-oh-oh) We shout out Your praise*

*We sing to the God who heals We sing to the God who saves We sing to the God who always makes a way
'Cause He hung up on that Cross Then He rose up from that grave My God's still rolling stones away
(Refrain)*

*We were the beggars Now we're royalty We were the prisoners Now we're running free We are forgiven,
accepted Redeemed by His grace Let the house of the Lord sing praise 'Cause we were the beggars Now
we're royalty We were the prisoners Now we're running free We are forgiven, accepted Redeemed by His
grace Let the house of the Lord sing praise*

*There's joy in the house of the Lord (There is joy in the house) There's joy in the house of the Lord today And
we won't be quiet (Oh yeah!) We shout out Your praise There's joy in the house of the Lord (There is joy, there
is joy) Our God is surely in this place And we won't be quiet We shout out Your praise*

*There's joy in the house of the Lord There's joy in the house of the Lord today And we won't be quiet
We shout out Your praise There's joy in the house of the Lord (There is joy, there is joy)
Our God is surely in this place And we won't be quiet (We won't be quiet) We shout out Your praise*

*We shout out Your praise There is joy in this house There is joy in this house today
We shout out Your praise We shout out Your praise*

CLOSING PRAYER:

Read and study John Chapter 16!

CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

Phil Twente ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221 www.ptwente.com - Audio & notes from previous studies
PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

**THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING, CC LIVING WORD, 17101 ARMSTRONG, IRVINE, CA,
AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!**

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484

Join Zoom Meeting -

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Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763>

TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).

**THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY WILL BE MEETING, CC LIVING WORD, 17101 ARMSTRONG,
IRVINE, CA, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!**

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