

JUNE 12, 2022

# CHURCH OF CHRIST



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## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

### SUNDAY:

Bible Classes.....9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship.....10:30 a.m.  
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY:

Bible Classes.....6:00 p.m.

*Minister, John Keith  
(304) 266-9027*

**WELCOME!**

We invite you to all of our services.

*“...the churches of Christ salute you” (Romans 16:16)*

# CHRIST, THE TRUE VINE

## INTRODUCTION: John 15:1-8

1. Background
2. Allegory: a figurative sentence or discourse in which the principal subject is described by another subject resembling it <sup>(Dungan 258)</sup>.
3. “Whatever prompted [Jesus’] use of the vine imagery, He taught that He fulfilled the intent of God’s vine and became the True Vine” <sup>(Lipe 122)</sup>.
4. Let us examine this, the last of the “I AM” sayings in John’s Gospel.

## I. VINE AND THE VINEDRESSER (1-2, 8).

### A. The True Vine—Christ (1a).

1. Vine imagery common in ancient world: (Psa. 80:14-17; cf. Isa. 5:1-7; Ezk. 17; Hos. 10:1-2).
2. Also, in Parables of Jesus: (Mt. 20:1-16; (Mt. 21:33-46; Mk. 12:1-9).
3. References to Israel as God’s vine stress Israel’s failure to produce fruit, resulting on God’s judgement against them (Jer. 2:21; Hos. 10:1).
4. In contrast to such failure, Jesus presents Himself as “the True Vine”.

### B. The Vinedresser/Husbandman—God the Father (1b-2).

1. The Work of the Vinedresser/Husbandman.
  - a. Removes unfruitful branches— “takes away” [*airo*] remove, separate one from the other (Jn. 19:31; Mt. 19:6).
  - b. Prunes the fruitful branches— “purgeth” [*kath-airo*] cleanse, purify, prune [in order to make better]
    - 1) NOTE: the position/location of the fruitful *and* unfruitful branches: “in Me” (2a).
    - 2) Christians said to be “in Christ”. How? Gal. 3:27.
    - 3) Unfruitful branches removed: Judas (Mt. 27:3-5; Acts 1:15-25); Ananias & Saphira (Acts 5:1-7).
    - 4) Fruitful branches pruned, cleansed **EX**: Paul’s thorn in the flesh (2 Cor. 12:7).
2. The Desire of the Vinedresser/Husbandman.
  - a. God cultivated His vineyard *expecting* it to be fruitful in due time.
  - b. God would replace Israel with a fruitful vineyard (cf. Mk. 12:1-12).

## II. THE VINE AND THE BRANCHES (3-5).

### A. The Cleansed And The Cleanser (3).

1. The disciples already clean” [*kathairo*]
2. Cleansing agent: the [*logos*], the “word”, the entire body of doctrine that Christ had revealed to them (cf. 1 John 1:7).

### B. Abiding And Bearing (4-5).

1. “Abide in Me” (4).
  - a. Jesus explains a simple truth: branch is not fruit bearing apart from the vine; abide in Me.
  - b. Again, note the prepositions: in me, in the vine: How do we maintain this “in Christ” relationship? I Jn. 1:7; Rev. 2:10.
2. “I am the Vine” (5).
  - a. To bear fruit for the Lord, we must “abide, remain, continue” in Him.
  - b. What can we do w/o Him? Nothing!

### III. TO ABIDE, OR NOT TO ABIDE (6-8).

- A. To Not Abide (6).
  - 1. Is to rebel against Heaven’s desire/will.
  - 2. **NOTE:** branches are individuals; not denominations/ “churches”. A single vine does not bear different kinds of fruit.
  - 3. A fiery fate awaits those who have, because of their own choices, have been severed from the Christ, the True Vine.
- B. To Abide (7).
  - 1. Faithfully abiding in Christ means allowing His word [logos] to calibrate our consciences and guide us on the path we walk (Psa. 119:105).
  - 2. Will thus be the recipients of His blessings and our prayers according to His will we be received.

### CONCLUSION:

- 1. Branches are those individuals “in Christ”; non-fruit bearing branches removed/severed from Vine; fruit bearing branches are pruned/cleansed (sometimes painfully) in order to bear more fruit.
- 2. Jesus’s disciples were cleansed because of their adherence to the Jesus’ word spoken to them; no cleansing apart from Christ.
- 3. Branches must abide in the Vine—implies they are free to leave if they wish.
  - A. Choosing to depart will cause them to be gathered and burned.
  - B. Abiding will insure the promised blessings per God’s will.

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### **SIN BY ANY OTHER NAME...**

“War Is Peace. Freedom Is Slavery. Ignorance Is Strength” is a quote from George Orwell’s 1949 dystopian novel, *1984*. Without delving into the entire thrust of this (seemingly prophetic) novel, the quote illustrates a practice as old as time itself: calling things by new names to try and disguise or mitigate facts. The emphasis in today’s world is an obvious effort to dismiss personal responsibility and to lessen or even eradicate the notion that one sins. We observe this practice nearly every time we watch the news or interact with society in the main. “Alternative life-style” was used to disguise homosexual practices. Abortion is championed under the guise of “choice”, or “healthcare”. Now we have grade schoolers getting into trouble for using the “wrong” pronouns to refer to classmates.

Essentially, when we call something by a name which we know is inaccurate, such as calling a man “she”, etc., we are lying. The prophet wrote, “Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter” (Isa 5:20)! Sin, by any other name, is still sin—*JK*.

*Welcome! To our visitors! We are thankful for your presence.  
Please fill out one of the blue cards and place it in one the  
collection plates.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- **Ed and Susie Gibson** are recovering from COVID, so calling hours for Ed’s mother, Opal Gibson, will be Wednesday, June 15, 2022, from 4-7 PM. Services will be Thursday, June 16, 2022, at 11:00 at Thorn Black in Cambridge.
- **Bob Henthorn** (Laura Jamiel’s father) is recovering from COVID and has been falling so he has been moved to *Summit Acres/Altercare* in Caldwell.
- Prayers are requested for **Rachell Cook**, the daughter of a friend of **Angela Herald**. She is suspected of having lymphoma and is scheduled for a biopsy. Rachell is in her early 20’s and has a two-year old son.
- **John** needs one of the men to teach the Wednesday evening Bible class on June 22, and August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**REMINDERS:**

- ❖ Those wishing to update their picture on the board, please see **Brenda Warne**.
- ❖ Remember to take advantage of our library in the basement.
- ❖ Please inform John of any changes needed to the prayer list, or directory.

**TODAY’S LESSONS**  
**AM:** Christ the True Vine (John 15:1-8).  
**PM:** God, Paul, and the Athenians (Acts 17:30-31).

<p><b>IN OUR PRAYERS:</b> Diann Bachmann, Betsy Cook, Erma Endly, Mike &amp; Karen Grove, Cathy Jackson, Bruce &amp; Kim Johnson, Gary Jones, Rick Lambert, Carol Mitchell, Jean Whitley.</p>	<p><b>SHUT-INS:</b> Debbie Jones, Nancy Love, Randy Yost</p>
<p><b>FAMILY AND FRIENDS:</b> Debra Bates-Phillabaum, Weston Boulet (great-grandson of Shirley Patterson), Tiffany Endly (Jerri Mackie’s niece), Trudy Kerby, Colleen Kiester (Mo Smith’s sister), Janet Patterson, Linda Potts (Joyce Starrett’s sister-in-law), Addy Reed, Rodney Reeves (Erica Cunningham’s father), John Rockhold, Wilma Roe, Sidney Suttles (Diann Bachmann’s friend), Bob &amp; Marge Watson, Ukraine and remember to pray for one another.</p>	

AM Study	AM Worship	PM Worship	Wed.	Contribution (Budget)
34	64	36	25	\$ 5963 (\$2,420)