

## The Vine, the Branches, and the Gardener

August 23, 2015

John 15:1-17

### I. Abide in the Vine

- A. The True Vine (John 6:35; 10:11-18; Psalm 80:8-9, 12-15; Isaiah 5:1-2, 5, 7)
- B. Abide in me, and I in you
- C. How to abide in Christ

### II. Why abide?

- A. A warning: the Gardener cuts off unfruitful branches and burns them! (Luke 3:9; Matthew 21:18-19; Luke 13:9; Matthew 21:33-44; Matthew 7:16-17; Matthew 13:7, 22)
- B. A promise: three blessings for those who abide
  - 1. your prayers will be answered (Isaiah 59:1-2; Psalm 66:18-19; Psalm 91:14-15)
  - 2. your fruit will abide (1 Kings 4:25; 2 Kings 18:31; Micah 4:4; Zechariah 3:10; Haggai 2:19; Psalm 1:3; 92:12-15; Revelation 22:1-2)
  - 3. your joy will be full

### III. The Pain of Pruning

- A. Pruning fruitful branches
- B. Everyone must go under the Gardener's blade
- C. The discipline of the Lord (Proverbs 3:11-12; Hebrews 12:3-11)

### IV. The Stump of Jesse

- A. Jesus asks the impossible
- B. Jesus does the unthinkable (Isaiah 53:7-8; Genesis 17:14; Exodus 31:14; Leviticus 20:1-5, 17; 1 Samuel 2:9)
- C. Jesus receives the unimaginable (Isaiah 11:1-4; Zechariah 3:8)