

THE VINE AND THE BRANCHES  
(John 15:1-11)

- I. The VINE (John 15:1*a*, 5*a*)
  - A. The OT describes ISRAEL as a vine that failed to produce GOOD FRUIT (Isa. 5:1-7; Jer. 2:21)
  - B. Jesus declares, “I am the TRUE VINE”
    - 1. While Israel was FALSE, Jesus was TRUE
    - 2. Salvation is not by connection to ISRAEL but to JESUS
- II. The VINEDRESSER (John 15:1*b*-2)
  - A. He REMOVES dead wood that is UNPRODUCTIVE
  - B. He PRUNES healthy wood to make it MORE PRODUCTIVE
- III. The VINE BRANCHES (John 15:2-11)
  - A. The BURNING of branches that are FRUITLESS (15:2*a*, 6)
    - 1. He does not mean believers can LOSE their SALVATION
    - 2. He means those who OUTWARDLY attach themselves to Him but are not really CONVERTED
    - 3. Their destiny is to be BURNED (cf. Matt. 13:49-50)
  - B. The BLESSINGS of branches that ABIDE (15:2*b*-5, 7-11)
    - 1. They are PRUNED by the Father (15:2*b*-3; cf. Heb. 12:7-11)
      - a. Applies to EVERY branch that is FRUITFUL
      - b. Necessary to make EACH branch MORE fruitful

- c. Uses the WORD as His pruning BLADE
2. They are FRUITFUL (15:4-5)
    - a. Includes the “fruit of the SPIRIT” (Gal. 5:22-23)
    - b. Includes PRAISE offered to God (Heb. 13:15)
    - c. Includes sacrificial LOVE toward others (Rom. 15:28)
    - d. Can be defined in general as HOLY LIVING (Eph. 5:9; Phil. 1:11; Col. 1:10; Heb. 12:11)
    - e. Includes CONVERTS to the gospel (1 Cor. 16:15; Rev. 14:4)
  3. They receive PROVISION through PRAYER (15:7)
  4. Their fruitfulness brings GLORY to God (15:8)
  5. They will experience the LOVE of Christ (15:9-10)
  6. They will know FULL JOY (15:11)