

GENERAL SUBJECT: THE TRUE VINE AND THE GOLDEN LAMPSTAND

Message One

The True Vine

(1)

The Vision of the Vine

Scripture Reading: John 15:1, 4-5, 16

- I. **Christ as the true vine with the Father as the husbandman is the meaning of the universe, of human life, of human history, of the church, and of the Bible—John 15:1, 4-5.**
- II. **The true vine—Christ the Son—with its branches—the believers in the Son—is the organism of the Triune God in the divine economy to grow with His riches and express His life—1 Tim. 1:4; Eph. 3:9; John 15:1, 5a:**
 - A. The function of the true vine as a sign of the Son is for the Triune God to have an organism in the Son for His multiplication, spreading, and glorification in His divine life—vv. 8, 16.
 - B. God the Father as the Husbandman is the source and the founder; God the Son is the center, the embodiment, and the manifestation; God the Spirit is the reality and realization; and the branches are the Body, the corporate expression—vv. 1, 4-5, 26:
 1. All that the Father is and has is embodied in Christ the Son and then realized in the Spirit as the reality—16:13-15.
 2. All that the Spirit has is wrought into us, the branches, to be expressed and testified through us; in this way, the processed Triune God is expressed, manifested, and glorified in the church—Eph. 3:16-21.
 - C. The organism of the Triune God in John 15 is the Triune God united, mingled, and incorporated with his chosen, redeemed, and regenerated people—14:20:
 1. The Father, the Son, and the Spirit coinhere with the disciples mutually, for the Triune God and the disciples are united, mingled, and incorporated into one—15:4-5.
 2. The goal of God's economy is this enlarged, universal, divine-human incorporation of the consummated God with the regenerated believers.
- III. **As the branches of the true vine, we are the multiplication of Christ, the duplication of Christ, the spreading of Christ, and the enlargement of Christ—vv. 4-5, 16:**
 - A. Christ, the infinite God, is the vine, and we are His branches; we are branches of the infinite God, organically one with Him—1 Cor. 6:17.
 - B. Because we are branches of the divine vine, parts of the organism of the Triune God, we are the same as God in life and nature—1 John 5:11-12.
 - C. When we believed in the Lord Jesus, He branched into us, and we became branches in Him—John 3:15.

- D. For us to be branches in the vine means that Christ has become our life—11:25; 14:6; Col. 3:4.
- E. The vine is everything to the branches; from the vine and through the vine, we receive everything we need to live as branches—John 15:4.
- F. Christ as the vine does everything through the branches; without Him we can do nothing, and without us He can do nothing—v. 5.

IV. The vine typifies the sacrificing Christ, the Christ who sacrificed everything of Himself, and out of His sacrifice He produced new wine to cheer God and man—Deut. 8:8; Judg. 9:13; Psa. 104:15a:

- A. Christ is the wine-producer, sacrificing Himself to produce wine to cheer God and others; as the vine Christ produces happiness for God and happiness for others.
- B. If we contact the Christ typified by the vine and experience His sacrificing life, He will energize us to live a life of sacrifice, producing wine to make others and the Lord happy—Rom. 12:1; Eph. 5:2; 2 Cor. 1:24.
 - 1. In ourselves we are not able to live a life of sacrifice, for our life is a natural life, a selfish life; if we contact the Lord and experience His sacrificing life, He will energize and strengthen us to sacrifice for God and for others—Matt. 16:25; John 1:29; 20:22; 1 Cor. 15:45b; 6:17; Phil. 4:13; Rom. 12:1; Eph. 5:2.
 - 2. The more we experience Christ as the vine with His sacrificing life, the more we will be energized to sacrifice ourselves to make God and others happy; we will bring happiness to those who contact us, and we will bring cheer to God—2 Cor. 1:24; 5:13a.
- C. By experiencing Christ as the wine-producing vine and by being filled with Him as the new wine, we may become a drink offering in Him and with Him to cheer God and man—Gen. 35:14; Exo. 29:40-41; Phil. 2:17; 2 Tim. 4:6.