

Abiding: Protecting Your Treasure

Pastor Ron Susek
©Golden Quill Publications

Introduction

Text: John 15:1-11

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. **2** Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. **3** Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. **4** Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. **5** I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. **6** If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. **7** If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. **8** By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. **9** As the Father has loved me, so have I 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 be in you, and that your joy may be full.

A Christ is Our Eternal Treasure

John 5:19-20 " So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.

20 For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel.

John 5:36 "But the testimony that I have is greater than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me."

John 8:28-29 “So Jesus said to them, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me.”

29 And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him.”

John 8:28 “So Jesus said to them, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me.”

29 And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him.”

John 12:50 “And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me.”

Key Question! If Jesus’ commitment was to abide in His Father, do only doing what he saw His Father doing and say only what His Father told him to say, how can we claim to follow the true Jesus if we do anything less?

- How can we claim to have **authority** on our own?
- How can we **command things in Jesus’ name** without consulting with the Father?
- **Do we have authority?** Yes. But never outside of the Father’s instruction in every situation!
 - Do we consult the Father to say and do only what he says and does? Rarely!
 - Does this explain why the church is not fit for today’s crisis?
 - Does this account for our frustrated prayers?
 - Does this account for our failed plans?
 - Does this account for our jaded attitudes?
 - Does this account for our passivity toward false doctrines?

Note: How can we expect God to bless us while we ignore and dishonor him?

Note: Jesus had no advantage with the Father that you don't have. He died to place you into oneness with the Father as he is one with the Father.

B The Obedience of Jesus in Action

- 1) He only spoke the truth that the Father told him to speak
- 2) He obeyed the truth (The Law) to the letter
 - a. God's **truth** never changes
 - b. His **law** reflects his character
- 3) He called Judas knowing full well that it was God's will for Judas to plant the kiss of betrayal on his cheek
- 4) He rebuked his closest followers for foolish thinking when they quibbled over who would be the greatest in the kingdom
 - a. Correct a brother or sister in the church and they act like you violated them
- 5) He rebuked his disciples for lack of faith when on a storm-tossed sea—"O you of little faith!"
 - a. We have never moved a mole hill in the back yard hill let alone a mountain into the sea
- 6) He prayed with full assurance that he was heard and would be answered
 - a. We present prayers to God but expect little to no answers
- 7) He exposed Peter when he served as an instrument of the devil—"Get behind me, Satan!"
- 8) He ascended the Mount of Transfiguration, then descended to the valley of the demons
- 9) He declared his Father's will to be his food
- 10) He expects his church to prevail over the resistance of the gates of hell
- 11) He upset the tables of those who reduced the House of Prayer to a den of thieves
- 12) He faced man's judgment without whispering a word
- 13) He went to the cross without a whimper

Question: How closely are you following the true Jesus?

Question: Should our lives be different than his?

Note! As a pastor, it is not my calling to run this church. My calling is to follow the true Jesus, then lead you to him. It is only to the level of our conformity to him and our abiding in him that we are fit to be called his followers. Only then will we see the mighty acts of God. Until then we are as blind as the world, powerless as a non-believer and as useless as an infidel.

Call to Action

I Watched the Republican Debate

- They guaranteed the end of America as soundly as do the Democrats.
- Why? Because both parties insist that our problems are economic
- Every person claims to have the way out
 - Not one called for seeking God or following the true Jesus
 - You say this can't happen? Why not? Is not Jesus the Lord of the nations? Are not the nations as dust in his Father's hands? Without bowing to Jesus' lordship, no nation can long survive.
 - Not one called for national mourning over our senseless sins
 - Not one called for moral, ethical and spiritual repentance
 - All hide like cowards behind the claim that we are a secular nation
 - Like Pilot, they wash their hands of Jesus and expect to survive
 - All posed as blind leaders of the blind

Where is the Church?

- **It's easy to point to DC**, but our Lord is the hope of the world, not politicians.
- **Just when the world needs us**, our lamps are out of oil. Our salt is as dead as sand. We're useless!

President George Washington

During the terrible times of the Revolutionary War, President Washington repeatedly counseled his troops to put their faith and trust in God. Here is one of his messages:

"The time is now near at hand which must probably determine, whether Americans are to be, freeman or slaves; whether they are to have any property they can call their own The fate of unborn millions will now depend, under God, on the courage and conduct of this army Let us therefore rely on the goodness of the cause and the aid of the Supreme Being, in whose hands victory is, to animate and encourage us to great and noble actions."

In his first Inaugural Address as President of the United States, Washington reverently acknowledged our country's dependence on Almighty God:

"It would be peculiarly improper to omit in this first official act, my fervent supplications to that Almighty Being who rules over the universe - who presides in the council of nations - and whose providential aids can supply every human defect, that his benediction may consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the people of the United States, a government instituted by themselves for these essential purposes."

I call upon this church to be the pocket of faith and obedience that God will use to bring a true awakening as well as assured grace from our heavenly Father.

If you don't know how to do that I will teach you. But God will require our wholehearted commitment.

I close with the words of Jesus: **"He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"**