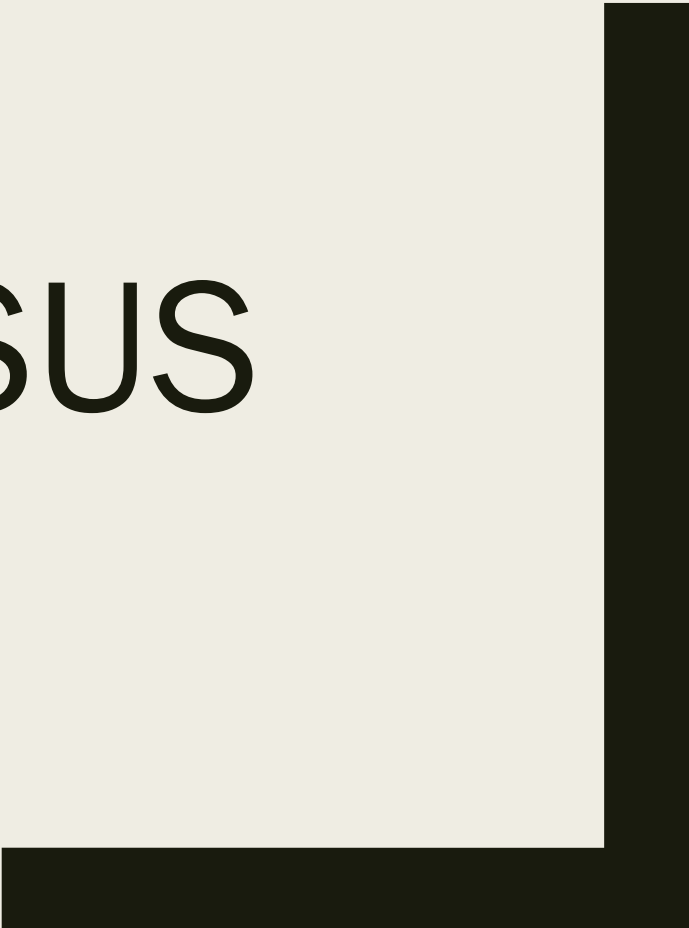




KNOWING JESUS

BY GROWING IN GRACE



2Peter 3:18

- “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.”

CCIC BELIEVES THAT;

- 1. CHRIST IS OUR CENTER. (Galatians 2:20)
- 2. LOVE IS OUR BOND. (Colossians 3:14)
- 3. GOSPEL IS OUR MISSION. (Mark 15:16)

KNOWING JESUS BY LEARNING JESUS' HEART.
(Matthew 11:28-30)

- 1. COME TO JESUS. (The Call) “Come all of you who are weary and burdened”
- 2. GIVE UP HUMAN CONTROL. (The Challenge)
“Take my yoke upon you”
- 3. LEARN FROM ME. (The Promises)
- “For I am gentle and humble in heart, You will find rest for your souls, For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

CONCLUSION.

- “Learning to view troubles and trials as instruments in God’s hand is an important key to our Spiritual growth. Serving Jesus can come at a cost to us – some say should come at a cost.
- We are not promised an easy or pain –free life. But Jesus’ promises are not there so that we may simply endure, but to live a life of victory. Victory is in Jesus has the heart of Jesus within us.”

TEXT: John 15:1-8

- ““I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes^[a] so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.”

John 15:5-8

- “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”

MESSAGE LAST SUNDAY.

- 1. THE CALL. “Come to me all who are weary and burdened”
- 2. THE CHALLENGE. “Take My yoke upon you”
- 3. THE PROMISES. “”For I am gentle and humble in heart, You will find rest for your souls, For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

“GROWING IN GRACE BY ABIDING IN THE TRUE VINE.”

- 1. BECAUSE JESUS IS THE TRUE VINE. The genuine source of Spiritual life.
- “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.”
- In contrast with Israel as the failed vine.
- Isaiah 5:1-7.

“GROWING IN GRACE BY ABIDING IN THE TRUE VINE.”

- “I will sing for the one I love a song about his vineyard: My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. ² He dug it up and cleared it of stones and planted it with the choicest vines. He built a watchtower in it and cut out a winepress as well. Then he looked for a crop of good grapes, but it yielded only bad fruit.”

“GROWING IN GRACE BY ABIDING IN THE TRUE VINE.”

- “Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴ What more could have been done for my vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only **bad**? ⁵ Now I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge, and it will be destroyed; I will break down its wall, and it will be trampled.”

“GROWING IN GRACE BY ABIDING IN THE TRUE VINE.”

- “I will make it a wasteland, neither pruned nor cultivated, and briers and thorns will grow there. I will command the clouds not to rain on it.” ⁷ The vineyard of the LORD Almighty is the nation of Israel, and the people of Judah are the vines he delighted in. And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed; for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.”

“GROWING IN GRACE BY ABIDING IN THE TRUE VINE.”

■ Symbol.

■ Vineyard.

■ Owner.

■ Good grapes.
faithfulness.

■ Wild grapes.

■ Hedge\Wall.

■ Destruction of vineyard.
and exile.

Meaning.

God's chosen people. (Israel).

The Lord (God).

Righteous living, justice,

Sin, idolatry, injustice.

God's protection

God's judgement through invasion

“GROWING IN GRACE BY ABIDING IN THE TRUE VINE.”

- I. THE TRUE VINE.
- A. It is Christ's Identity. The true vine- the real source of Spiritual life. In contrast with the Israel as the failed vine.
- B. The Father's role: The vinedresser who cultivates, prunes, and tends for fruitfulness.
- C. All life and fruitfulness in a believer comes from union with Christ.

“GROWING IN GRACE BY ABIDING IN THE TRUE VINE.”

- II. THE FATHER’S WORK IN THE BRANCHES. V2.
- “² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes^{[a](#)} so that it will be even more fruitful.

“GROWING IN GRACE BY ABIDING IN THE TRUE VINE.”

- A. Unfruitful Branches: Represent false Disciples—those outwardly connected but lacking life.
- B. Fruitful Branches: Pruned (Disciplined) by God for greater fruitfulness.
- C. Spiritual growth often involves divine pruning through trials, correction of the word of God, and refinement.

“GROWING IN GRACE BY ABIDING IN THE TRUE VINE.”

■ III. THE POWER OF GOD’S WORD. V3

- “³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.”
- A. The word’s Role. It cleanses the believer’s heart and mind.
- B. Ongoing Renewal. The word continually purifies as we remain receptive to it.

“GROWING IN GRACE BY ABIDING IN THE TRUE VINE.”

- C. Connection. The pruning happens through the word. V.2”
You are already clean because of the Word I spoken to you”
- Hebrews 12:2 “ For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart”
- Ephesians 5:26 “ to make her holy, cleansing^[b] her by the washing with water through the word, ”

“GROWING IN GRACE BY ABIDING IN THE TRUE VINE.”

■ IV. THE CALL TO ABIDE.

- Vv.4-5 "Abide in me and I in you. "apart from me You ca do nothing.
- A. Mutual Abiding. A Relationship of continual dependence and union with Christ.
- B. Spiritual Vitality. Fruit –Bearing is not produced by human effort but by abiding in Christ.
- C. Application: Abiding= ongoing trust, obedience, and communion with Christ.

“GROWING IN GRACE BY ABIDING IN THE TRUE VINE.”

- V. THE CONSEQUENCE OF DISCONNECTION. V6.
- “If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away like a branch and withers..”
- A. Separation leads to death. Spiritual barrenness and eventual judgement.
- B. Example: Like a severed branch-lifeless, brittle, and fit only for burning.
- C. Warning: True Life and security are found only in Abiding relationship with Jesus Christ.

“GROWING IN GRACE BY ABIDING IN THE TRUE VINE.”

- VI. THE PRIVILEGE OF ABIDING. V7.
- “⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.”
- A. Abiding and prayer. Deep union shapes desires to align with God’s will.
- B. Power in Prayer. Fruitful prayers flows from a heart filled with Christ’s Word.
- C. Application: Effective prayer is the overflow of a life sync with God’s heart.

“GROWING IN GRACE BY ABIDING IN THE TRUE VINE.”

■ VII. THE PURPOSE OF ABIDING. V8.

“⁸ This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”

■ A. Fruit-bearing Glorifies God. The ultimate purpose of abiding.

■ B. True Discipleship. Evidence by visible, lasting fruit-Christ like character and influence.

■ C. Final goal: God’s glory through transform lives.

HOW TO GROW IN GRACE BY ABIDING IN CHRIST?

- 1. WE NEED TO ABIDE IN CHRIST THE ONLY SOURCE OF LIFE.
- 2. WE NEED TO ALLOW THE FATHER TO PRUNE AND TENDS US.
- 3. WE NEED TO ALLOW THE WORD OF GOD TO PURIFY US.
- 4. WE NEED TO HAVE A COMPLETE DEPENDENCE AND COMMUNION WITH CHRIST.
- 5. WE NEED TO KNOW THAT DISCONNECTION BRINGS JUDGMENT BUT ABIDING IN CHRIST BRINGS POWER THROUGH PRAYER.
- 6. WE NEED TO KNOW THAT BEARING FRUIT GLORIFIES THE FATHER.

REFLECTION QUESTION;

- 1. WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME, PERSONALLY, TO ABIDE IN CHRIST EACH DAY?
- 2. WHAT KIND OF SPIRITUAL FRUIT IS BEING PRODUCED IN MY LIFE RIGHT NOW?
- 3. HOW DO I USUALLY RESPOND TO GOD'S PRUNING WORK-RESISTANCE OR TRUST?
- 4. HOW CAN I REALIGN MY DAILY PRIORITIES TO REFLECT THE PURPOSE OF GLORIFYING GOD?

CONCLUSION;

- ***“ABIDE IN CHRIST DAILY AND EVERYTHING YOU DO, DO IT ALL FOR THE GLORY OF GOD” LORD HELP ME TO WALK WITH YOU EVERYDAY. AMEN....***