

In Christ Part 3

John 15

5 “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.

- In this Series we are talking about being In Christ...

Part 1. Our Righteousness comes from Christ

Part 2. Every Spiritual Blessing comes from being in Christ

Romans 11 NIV

11 Again I ask: Did they stumble so as to fall beyond recovery? Not at all! Rather, because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious. **12** But if their transgression means riches for the world, and their loss means riches for the Gentiles, how much greater riches will their full inclusion bring!

13 I am talking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I take pride in my ministry **14** in the hope that I may somehow arouse my own people to envy and save some of them. **15** For if their rejection brought reconciliation to the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? **16** If the part of the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy; if the root is holy, so are the branches.

17 If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, **18** do not consider yourself to be superior to those other branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you. **19** You will say then, “Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in.” **20** Granted. But they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but tremble. **21** For if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either.

22 Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, provided that you continue in his kindness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off. **23** And if they do not persist in unbelief, they will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. **24** After all, if you were cut out of an olive tree that is wild by nature, and contrary to nature were grafted into a cultivated olive tree, how much more readily will these, the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree!

- Here The Apostle Paul as a Jewish born again believer explains to a Gentile Church the significance of being added into God through Christ...
- Jesus is the Cultivated Olive Tree
- The Jews are the Natural Branches
- The Gentiles are the Wild Olive Branches

1. Because of Christ there are riches

Vs 12 -14

But if their transgression means riches for the world, and their loss means riches for the Gentiles, how much greater riches will their full inclusion bring! **13** I am talking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I take pride in my ministry **14** in the hope that I may somehow arouse my own people to envy and save some of them.

Why is this important for us to understand?

- Because Judaism is a Jewish Religion...
- Jehovah God is first the God of the Jews...
- And Jesus is a Jewish Messiah...
- The Jews were originally included in this and we were not...
- Paul is explaining that because of their transgressions God in his goodness has extended his goodness to the rest of us...

Vs. 11

“because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious.”

This is the Mystery the Apostle Paul spoke of...

- That because of Christ, the Grace of God that once only extended only to the Jews is now also extended to us...

Because of Christ there are riches

- There is a spiritual inheritance in God that is rich for those who are in Christ...
- Paul reveals the riches that were intended for the Jews are given to those who by faith are grafted in because of Christ...
- What are the Riches promised to the Jews
- God's Promise to Abraham -

“I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.

I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.”

All of these things are an indication of what's to come:

- In Christ - we are granted access into His presence...
- In Christ - we are granted fellowship with God...
- In Christ - we are given a new nature...
- In Christ - we are given a new citizenship...
- In Christ - peace, joy and comfort...
- In Christ - even a new aroma...

2 Corinthians 2

14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ's triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the

knowledge of him everywhere. **15** For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing.

2. Therefore we should walk Humbly

Vs. 17-20

17 If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, **18** do not consider yourself to be superior to those other branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you. **19** You will say then, “Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in.” **20** Granted. But they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but tremble.

- There are some who believe that salvation is irrevocable...
- This passage reminds us that even as many Jews who are the natural branches have been removed because of unbelief, we should avoid becoming arrogant, tremble and stand by faith lest we are broken off because of unbelief...

Stand by faith

Why is Abraham called the Father of the Faith?

Because he is the first one declared righteous by God, because of his faith...

Romans 4:3

“Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

Do not be arrogant, but tremble

Reminds me of:

Philippians 2:12

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—**continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling,**

- It seems our culture has gotten soft and talk like this messes with people...
- I have found a healthy fear to be a good thing...
- My Grandfather use to say - “I’m not afraid of heights, just the sudden stop at the bottom.”
- Everyone is afraid of something, just too often the wrong stuff...
- Some are afraid of hurting peoples feelings, but not God’s...
- Some are afraid of disappointing others but how about God...

- The first part of this verse Paul says “continue to work your salvation”
- In other words there are moments in your life, places in your life, and times in your life when you are going to have to figure who are you going to serve; God, Self or Others... at those cross roads, work out your salvation...

Work out your salvation with fear and trembling...

because it’s better that we fear God more than anything else...

It’s better that we fear God more than anyone else...

How many people lost there stand - because they lost their tremble?

3. God is Able

Vs. 22-24

22 Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, provided that you continue in his kindness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off. **23** And if they do not persist in unbelief, they will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them

in again. **24** After all, if you were cut out of an olive tree that is wild by nature, and contrary to nature were grafted into a cultivated olive tree, how much more readily will these, the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree!

- Paul ends this passage with hope for the Jewish People...
- God is Able...
- In the last days I pray we witness a Revival over Israel...
- I pray we witness a supernatural harvest of Jews coming to faith in Jesus...
- I pray that our faith in Jesus and the transformation of souls all over the world provokes the Jews to desire their own Messiah...

- Right now the Church in Iran is one of the fastest growing churches in the world...
- I pray this Revival in Iran will lead to a Revival in Israel...

Closing Song:

Romans Chapter 11 reminds us that:

- Jesus is our life line... You do not support the root, but the root supports you.
- Like a branch that takes nourishment from the tree, Jesus is life...
- Christ is the Cultivated Olive Tree and we are the wild olive branches that are grafted into him...
- In Christ we are nourished and grow and prosper spiritually...

John 15

5 “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.