

## THURSDAY

## Abiding in Jesus

- Synoptic Gospels = Matthew/Mark/Luke = describe similar events of Christ's life/ministry = for different target audiences
- John's Gospel unique=greater emphasis on signs/conversations rather than making Christ's preaching main focus

**John 20:30–31** <sup>30</sup>And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup>but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

**John 12:32–33** <sup>32</sup>And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself." <sup>33</sup>This He said, signifying by what death He would die.

- Lifted up = refers to cross
- Self-sacrificing love of God = demonstrated on cross = magnet
- **1 John 4:19** We love Him because He first loved us
- God demonstrated His love by dying for us while we were sinners to justify us by His shed blood of everlasting covenant = made righteous by faith/ acquitted / brought into right relationship with God
- This quarter = have seen many who encountered Jesus
  - made choices about the truth / light He brought
  - either accepting His love / or rejecting His love
- Secret to spiritual growth / health = abide in Christ
  - What does it mean to "ABIDE" in Christ ?
  - How do we know we're ABIDING in Christ?
  - What assurance do we have if we're abiding in Christ?

- John 15:1-11 = ten times Jesus uses word abide/abides
- Abide = REMAIN / DWELL / CONTINUE IN

**John 15:1–11** <sup>1</sup>“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup>Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in Me, and I in you. **[COVENANT TERMINOLOGY = GOD DWELLING AMONG US = IN US]** As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. **[FRUIT/PROOF OF ABIDING = CONTINUE IN SERVICE TO HIM]** <sup>5</sup>“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. **[FIRE = SYMBOL OF DIVINE JUDGMENT = APOSTATE CHRISTIAN WHO DOES NOT ENDURE TO THE END= NOT SAVED]** <sup>7</sup>If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, **[MUST REMAIN IN HIS TEACHINGS]** you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. <sup>8</sup>By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. <sup>9</sup>“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. **[TRUE LOVE = SELF SACRIFICING]** <sup>10</sup>If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, **[TO ABIDE = CONTINUE IN OBEDIENCE TO HIS COMMANDS]** just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. <sup>11</sup>“These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.

**1 John 5:11–13** <sup>11</sup>And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. <sup>12</sup>He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

<sup>13</sup>These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

- Salvation = absolutely secure for those who remain “in Christ”
  - living in covenant relationship w/Him.
- BUT = if we allow something to destroy our union w/ Him,
  - we die spiritually = become barren branches that produce no fruits of righteousness
- Final fate of dead branches = is to face divine judgment at end of time = be cast into hell-fire to suffer the second death and perish (Revelation 21:8)

**1 John 2:3–6** <sup>3</sup>Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. <sup>4</sup>He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. <sup>5</sup>But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are **in Him**. <sup>6</sup>**He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.**

**1 John 4:12–16** <sup>12</sup>No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, **God abides in us**, and His love has been perfected in us. <sup>13</sup>By this we know that we **abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit**. ...<sup>16</sup>And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who **abides in love abides in God**, and God in him.

The secret is to stay connected to Jesus. He is the Word of God, the Bread of Life, the Light of the world, the Door of the sheep, the Good Shepherd, the Resurrection and the Life, the Way, the Truth and the Life, and the True Vine.