

SPRING MORNING BIBLE CLASS 2022

JOHN 15:1-16 part 8

"Withered branches"

John 15:5-6 PHILLIPS: "It is the man who shares My LIFE and whose LIFE I share who proves FRUITFUL. For the plain fact is that APART from Me you can do nothing at all. The man who DOES NOT SHARE My LIFE is like a branch that is broken off and withers away. He becomes just like the dry sticks that men pick up and use for the firewood."

FRUIT BEARING—UNBELIEVERS, LIFE of —JUDGMENT:

1. There are the _____ branches. Jesus said **4 THINGS**:

☞ **FIRST THING:** The unattached branch is "_____" and _____ by itself;

- It (branch) is _____ abiding in the Vine and _____ attached. Note the words "of itself" (v. 4), _____ by itself. To say that a branch must be attached and abide in the Vine MAY SOUND REDUNDANT (being in excess or having some unusual) at first. But the truth is pointed: There is _____ LIFE and _____ FRUIT in LIFE apart from Christ. Just as a branch suspended out in mid-air or lying on the ground without any attachment to the Vine is _____ and _____.
- Those who seek life and meaning someplace other _____ in Christ are doomed to _____. The unattached and suspended branch is of and by _____--all alone upon this earth—and it is doomed to be by _____.

☞ **SECOND THING:** The unattached branch CANNOT bear (produce) fruit, not _____ and _____ fruit that is acceptable and pleasing to God. It CANNOT bear (produce)...

- any _____ or _____ that is acceptable to God.
- _____ that is acceptable to God.
- _____ to the saving grace of God.

☞ **THIRD THING:** The unattached branch DOES NOT _____ the nature of bearing (producing) fruit in life: the fact that he or she can do _____--CANNOT _____ and CANNOT _____ life—APART from Christ. NO ONE BEARS (produces) FRUIT APART FROM CHRIST...

- no one lives or experiences _____.
- a man is _____ to find the meaning, purpose, and significance to life.

☞ **FOURTH THING:** The unattached branch is _____. He is cast forth to wither and to be gathered and cast into the fire and burned.

- "CAST FORTH" (bal'-lo exo) "to throw or let go of a thing without caring where it falls; to scatter; to give over to one's care uncertain about the result; outside of doors." The unattached branch _____ to be unattached, so God _____ it. It

is given over and give up to be unattached. God abandons it. It (branch) is cast out of the WAY and left to itself to do as it (branch) _____.

- “Withered” (xeraino) means “to be dried up, wrinkled, peeled; to become sapless and bare; to lose energy and strength.” The unattached branch experiences everything withering away—its...

☞ _____ and _____,
☞ _____ and _____,
☞ _____ and _____,
☞ _____ and _____,
☞ _____ and _____,
☞ _____ and _____,
☞ _____ and _____.

- “GATHERED” (synago) could be “the day of JUDGMENT _____”. “They gathered” is probably God having His angels gather up all the unattached branches, “all that offend, and them which do iniquity”. (Matthew 13:41)
- CAST INTO THE FIRE and “BURNED” (kaio) means “consume with fire”. Just like Moses saw a bush that was burning without being destroyed. So he decided to go closer to the bush and see how a bush could continue burning without being burned up.” (Exodus 3:2-3 ERV)

2. Andrew Murray, the author of “the true Vine” asked you the question, “Is our life fresh, green, and vigorous, bringing forth its fruit in its season? Let us accept every warning with a willing mind, and let Christ’s “if a man abide not” give new urgency to His “abide in Me”.
3. Andrew Murray asked you to open your eyes and see if there are withered branches in your church? Look for young believers, whose confessions were once bright, but who are growing cold. Search out old members, who have retained their profession, but have lost the life that once appeared to be there. Let ministers and believers take Christ’s words to heart, and ask the Lord whether there is anything to be done for branches that are beginning to wither. And let the Word “ABIDE” ring through your church until every believer has caught it—there is no safety without a true abiding in Christ.
4. **PRAY TOGETHER:** “Withered! O my Father, watch over me, keep me, and let nothing ever for a moment hinder (block) the freshness that comes from a full abiding in the Vine. Let the very thought of a withered branch fill me with holy fear and watchfulness in Jesus’ Name. Amen.

REMIND NO CLASS ON NEXT SUNDAY MAY 1, 2022 due Men’s Retreat Weekend. Resume the class on MAY 8, 2022.