

CONSTANTLY ABIDING OR . . . ? **(Bible Correctors and Lose Your Salvationists)**

We know that we have **passed from death unto life**, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother **ABIDETH in death**. - 1 John 3:14

And **ye have not his word ABIDING in you**: for whom he hath sent, him **ye believe not**. – John. 5:38

The word “**ABIDE**” is a curious word with a wide latitude of usage in that, depending on the context, it may mean, remain, tarry, continue, dwell, and so forth (it is where the word “**ABODE**” comes from). Its interpretation is **KEY** to this whole passage. Depending on how one manipulates this word, one may read various meanings **INTO** John 15. The word **ABIDE** and **ABODE** (in the sense of dwell) can even be used in the future sense in that some were told to abide somewhere, not having reached that destination yet (Luke 19:5; 24:29; Acts 16:15). Jesus promises that He and the Father will make their future **ABODE** with believers (John 14:23). The word “**DWELL**” is often synonymously substituted for the Greek word for “**ABIDE**” by the KJB translators in certain situations (John 6:5, 6; 1 John 3:17, 24; 4:12, 13, 15, 16; 2 John 2; Acts 28:16). Of course, the “Bible Corrector,” “Lose Your Salvationist,” and “Kingdomite” (Faustites) crowd would like it to mean “stay,” continue, or remain **IN CHRIST** so that it appears that you can lose either your salvation or your no hellfire and kingdom status. Kingdomites make “eternal” life to be either temporary, non-continuous, or interrupted life in this process of such manipulation. Nevertheless, a believer that has passed from death to life does not abide in death but abides in Christ. A lost man does not have God’s word abiding in him, but all believers do. To approach John 15, we must recognize such truth.

The Two Trees

Ye shall **KNOW** them by their **FRUITS**. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every **GOOD TREE** bringeth forth **GOOD FRUIT**; but a **CORRUPT TREE** bringeth forth **EVIL FRUIT**. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and **CAST INTO THE FIRE**. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall **KNOW** them. -- Matt. 7:16-20

And now also the ax is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth **GOOD FRUIT** is hewn down, and **CAST INTO THE FIRE**. -- Matt. 3:10

But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father **HATH NOT PLANTED**, shall be **ROOTED UP**. -- Matt. 15:13

I am the **TRUE** vine, and my Father is the husbandman. -- John 15:1

There are two different trees parabolic-ally taught by our Lord, the evil, false professing, corrupt tree and the good, true, **FRUIT BEARING** tree. The **TWO** trees either produce **GOOD** fruit or **EVIL** fruit. A corrupt tree only produces evil fruit, whereas a **GOOD** tree produces only **GOOD** fruit. Unlike the true vine, the **WHOLE CORRUPT TREE is CORRUPT**. The corrupt tree is nothing short of **FALSE PROFESSION** and concerns itself with unbelievers pretending to be believers. The Father did not **PLANT** these **EVIL FRUITED PLANTS** or **UNBELIEVER TREES**, which must be cut down, plucked up, and **BURNED**. Unlike these **UNBELIEVER TREES**, the believing **BRANCHES of the TRUE VINE** are planted by the heavenly Father, whose branches bring forth only good fruit or else **NO** fruit but **NEVER** evil fruit. But now to deal with the **GOOD** tree’s branches:

The True Vine and its True Branches

I am the **TRUE** vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch **IN ME** that beareth **NOT** fruit he **TAKETH WAY**: and every branch that beareth **FRUIT**, he **PURGETH** it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are **CLEAN** through the **WORD** which I have spoken unto you. – John 15: 1 - 3

Jesus is the true vine or tree. Jesus is parabolic-ally represented as the **TRUE and GOOD VINE TREE** as opposed to the **LOST FALSE, CORRUPT TREES** [Matt. 3:10; 7:16-20; 15:13], which were preached against by Jesus and John the Baptist. Nevertheless, this Jesus tree is the **TRUE** and **GOOD** one. It follows that the Good Vine’s branches are **TRUE LIVING BRANCHES** as well. True believers, who bear fruit, are purged to bring forth more fruit and who are **CLEAN** through the word. If they do not bear fruit any longer, they are pruned back and taken away but are still clean through the word. If they were already **NOT** abiding in the vine, how could they be **TAKEN AWAY** from the vine (something that cannot be said of unbeliever Judas, who never was in the True Vine)?

Jesus told this audience that the true branches, who **ABIDE** in Him (**IN ME**), are **CLEAN**. Hyper and overly dispensational brethren cannot be very happy with such a situation. For how did these O.T. saints (at that time) get **CLEAN**, since Christ had not yet died nor arose? They became **CLEAN THROUGH CHRIST’S WORD**. So, not only do we have saints **IN HIM**, but we have **CLEAN** saints **IN HIM** in the four Gospels. Also, invisible church brethren must need be disappointed at all these branches being **IN CHRIST**, for that is not supposed to happen **BEFORE** the cross or Paul. Of

course, Baptist Purgatory heretics, Kingdomites, and “Lose Your Salvationists” delight in trying to *FORCE* believers into hell fire and/or the Lake of Fire.

The Audience

“He that eateth my flesh . . . **dwell**eth in me . . .” (John 6:5, 6)

Jesus has defined who dwell or **ABIDE IN HIM**. Kingdomites often challenge the context as to who is being addressed to make out like Christ is only addressing believers. The fact is that both the saved and the unsaved were most likely present in this audience in that Judas had not yet been exposed as a false, non-abiding, unbelieving, mere professing branch, who never had abided in Christ. Such an audience demands that the general *COMMAND to ABIDE IN HIM* applies to both the saved and the unsaved here. Obviously, the false professor Judas and other unbelievers can be commanded to **ABIDE** in Him, even not having yet done so, but Judas and unbelievers could *NEVER* be told to “continue” to abide in Him or to “remain” in Him. The saved, who already were *IN HIM (IN Christ)*, are commanded to abide *IN HIM* in both the Gospels and the epistles. New Testament Christians are told to **ABIDE IN HIM** or else suffer shame and lack of confidence (1st John 2:28). Then there is the passage (1st John 3:6 - 9), which tells us that anyone, who **ABIDETH** in Him, **SINNETH NOT and CANNOT SIN**.

The Reason for Abiding in Christ

Abide *IN ME*, and *I IN YOU*. As the branch **CANNOT** bear *OF ITSELF, EXCEPT IT ABIDE* in the vine; no more can ye, except ye **ABIDE IN ME** I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth *IN ME*, and *I IN HIM*, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for *WITHOUT ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING*. . . John 15:4 - 5

If ye **ABIDE IN ME**, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my *DISCIPLES*. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: **CONTINUE IN MY LOVE**. If ye **KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS**, ye shall **ABIDE** in my *LOVE*; *EVEN* as I have kept my Father’s *COMMANDMENTS*, and **ABIDE** in his *LOVE*. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your *JOY* might be *FULL*. -- John 15:7 – 11

Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. – Jude 1:21

The reason for abiding in Christ is to produce fruit not to gain salvation or the kingdom. Without Christ, believer branches can do nothing without the *TRUE VINE*. The true believers are *IN CHRIST (IN ME)* and *CLEAN THROUGH HIS WORD*. They are represented as the true branches of that *TRUE VINE*. Fruit bearing and discipleship cannot be achieved without abiding in Christ. While a believer can abide in Christ positionally, in regard to salvation, he must abide in Christ’s love practically for fruit bearing and discipleship. Keeping His commandments is to abide in His love. Christ set the example of abiding in His Father’s love and keeping His commandments. If one positionally “abides” *IN CHRIST* by the new birth, he is practically admonished and instruction to abide in Him for discipleship and fruit bearing, to enable their prayers to be answered, and for full joy. It also enables them to bear much fruit—not to gain or even to keep their salvation or eternal life or kingdom status. The purpose of this parable is “fruit bearing” *NOT* salvation or some escape from Hell Fire. Believers, whether carnal or non-carnal, are incapable of doing anything in or by themselves, except they abide in Him (per 4 Gospels and Epistles).

New Testament saints are responsible for *KEEPING* themselves in the love of God (Jude 21), but they are not responsible for keeping their salvation. Only He that saves to the *UTTERMOST* can *KEEP* their salvation and their exemption from hell. Obviously, once *IN Christ* positionally, one cannot get out of Christ in the sense of the new creature being lost, but one can stop abiding *IN HIS LOVE*. It goes without saying that Jesus Christ kept His Father’s *COMMANDMENTS* and so **ABIDED** in His *LOVE*, without any need neither of gaining salvation or the kingdom nor to keep the same. This is further commentary on *ABIDING IN CHRIST*, namely, the add-on of *ABIDING in His LOVE*. We must keep *CHRIST’S COMMANDMENTS* to **ABIDE** in His *LOVE* (in contradistinction to the *LAW’S COMMANDMENTS*). This is all about discipleship, fruit bearing, and *FULL JOY* remaining in the believer—not about escaping hell or salvation or kingdom’s inclusion.

The Lost, Dead, Withered Branches

IF a man **ABIDE NOT IN ME**, he is **CAST FORTH AS A BRANCH**, and is **WITHERED**; and *MEN* gather them, and **CAST** them into the *FIRE*, and they are **BURNED**. – John 15: 6

It cannot be said of unbelievers that they are clean through the word. False professors, who are not true branches of this tree, who have never abided in Christ and do not abide in Christ, are worthless, dead, and withered branches are not *IN Christ* and are fit only to be burned. They are good for nothing and certainly not good for bearing fruit. They have never been sustained by the root of the *TRUE VINE*. The false professing branches are not in the *TRUE* vine as *TRUE* branches, **IF** not abiding *IN Christ* are to be gathered by *MEN* to be burned in the fire. Note that they are cast forth “**AS**” a branch. This is a direct application to Judas, who never was clean nor ever was *IN Christ* and never was a branch. Note that **IF** the

man abides not in Christ, he is *NOT* a “true” branch but is cast forth AS A **BRANCH**; he is a “false” branch that is *CAST* forth “**AS**” a branch. He only seems like a true branch. Big difference! He belongs in the corrupt tree not the **TRUE** Vine.

Now, notice that nothing was said in John 15 about the lake of fire and nothing was said about hell fire and nothing was said about the Judgment seat of Christ, which Jesus’ audience did not even know the JSOC existed at that time. Granted, the word “fire” is used, but if the fire in this parable is hell, it is the only place where “*MEN*” throw the unsaved into hell (or the carnal saved, or the believers that lost their salvation, or all who lost their no hell fire and kingdom status, depending on the false kingdom exclusionist or Faustite false teachers’ view). If you can lose your position *IN CHRIST* and lose your *ETERNAL LIFE* status and lose your no--hell status, then a man can be *IN CHRIST* and then get *OUT* of Christ and be lost.

We reject such an *INFERENCE*, which is based merely on innuendo and inference, using and manipulating some nuance of language. Nevertheless, if the non-abiding applies to Judas, who *DID NOT ABIDE IN CHRIST* nor never had dwelled in Him, then the problem is solved. Baptist Purgatory heretics some Kingdom Exclusionists insist that this means that carnal, saved, believers are cast into hell and the Lake of Fire. Yet, are they willing to also insist that those carnal believers are no longer *IN CHRIST* during that time (1000 years)?

Parabolic False Teaching

It is a very weak position that hides behind the veil of a dictionary or a parable (which is veiled truth in a real story) in order to promote one’s doctrinal or unbelieving agenda. Obviously, a complex parable is not the final word on doctrine, since in many cases the parable’s meaning was to be hidden from some. Moreover, all the details of a parable are not always symbolic of something as demonstrated by “men” throwing the branches in the fire as opposed to angels. Nevertheless, like Clint said, “A man ought to know his limitations” . . . when he interprets or reads things into such parables. Positionally, a believer always abides or dwells in Christ and Christ and the Holy Spirit are always constantly abiding in the believer.

-- by Herb Evans