

Grace Bible Church
Pastor Teacher
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Tree of Life
Weekly Review
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The Doctrine of Eternal Security. JOHN CH 15.

JOH 15:1, “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.

Here is JOH 15 beginning with the unity that exists between the LORD and the believer and the LORD and HIS logistical support for following HIM and HIS kingdom.

JOH 15:2, “Every branch [believer] in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every {branch} that bears fruit, He prunes it, that it may bear more fruit.”

What does this mean as far as the free will is concerned? It means that every believer has the opportunity to glorify the LORD simply by keeping things simple.

JOH 15:3-4, “You are already clean because of the word which He said that he is the one who has spoken

to the disciples. Abide Me [that is to have some fresh abundant life which is made inside of us] and I in you. And I in you. As the branch or the believer cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither {can} you, unless you abide in Me.

Fruit that is fresh is food that you desire as you live in JOH 10:10, when the life that we have is life abundant.

JOH 15:5-8, “I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch, and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you. By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and {so} prove to be My disciples.”

As you live or abide in HIM, your thoughts start to align with HIS thoughts. When that happens the things you desire are in HIS plan for you to have and so, you are able to ask what you will and receive it because it is in HIS will for you to have it.

JOH 15:9-12, “Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My

commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and {that} your joy may be made full. This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.”

This is to love one another unconditionally, impersonally. Not because there is necessarily something you love in the other person but because you love Christ and that is HIS command. This *agape* love is different than a personal love *phileo*.

JOH 15:13-15, “Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. You are My friends, if you do what I command you.

No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.”

JOH 15:16-18, “You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and {that} your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He may give to you. This I command you, that you love one

another. If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated} you.”

This is that agape, impersonal love. And again the principle of living in HIS plan for you life.

JOH 15:19-21, “If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me.”

Now, I want to focus today on the fact that we should be alert because there are always individuals who distort passages like JOH 15:2. **“Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it, that it may bear more fruit.”**

The verse is used to by ignorant believers to say that you can lose your salvation. But do you see the word salvation in this verse? What about those who say that verses 2 and 6 are teaching about who can lose their salvation?

JOH 15:2, “Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it, that it may bear more fruit.”

JOH 15:6, “If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch, and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.”

You don't see the word “lose” because our LORD is teaching HIS disciples the importance of the principle of **abiding** which refers to our **fellowship** with our LORD and **not** our salvation.

Do you see the word “sin” in these verses? So, when a believer does willfully sin, he does not lose his salvation, he loses the principle of **abiding** or **fellowshipping** with our LORD.

In HEB 10:23-26, Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some,

but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near. For if we go on sinning willfully [and we do] after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

Why does there no longer remain a sacrifice for sins?

HEB 10:27, (The High Priest, our LORD) does not need daily, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins, and then for the sins of the people, because this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.

Do you see the word **salvation** in JOH 15:2, No.

So, there are those who distort passages like **JOH 15:2, Every branch [believer] in Me that does not bear fruit, He [TLJC] takes the fruit away.**

The question is what did our LORD mean when HE said that if we do not bear fruit that He will “take away” the branches or the believers.

Then in JOH 15:6, they also distort the verse when it says that **“If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch, and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.”**

Notice that our LORD said to those who do not abide in HIM are thrown away as a branch, and dries up; it does not say that they are found and they gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

I also need to be sure that all of you understand that you cannot lose your salvation and we will approach this subject very carefully by using the word “Approach.”

By approach I mean as you are living the spiritual life, you proceed to advance toward the goal that is set before us you as **PHI 3:14** says, **“I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of GOD in Christ Jesus.”**

To do this you have to make sure that you do not fall away from the LORD but believe that you can live the spiritual life as you forget what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead.

Our “first approach” concerning the Doctrine of Eternal Security which I call the Positional Approach: ROM 8:1; EPH 1:3-6; JUD 1.

The positional approach is that every believer is in union with Christ and is perfect in their position, but not in their condition.

ROM 8:1, There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Notice, if you are “in Christ,” then this verse says you will never be condemned or judged by GOD no matter what you think, say, or do or what others think, say, or do.

Why?

Because there is no condemnation or judgment for those who are *en Christou Ieesou* or in Christ Jesus.

Now, there is conviction by GOD the Holy Spirit, which is legitimate guilt, but there is a condemnation which is not one of them. Conviction comes from the ministry of GOD the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit conviction always gives us a way out in which the grace of GOD is magnified and reconciliation is the goal of GOD the Holy Spirit.

It is the Spirit verses Satan. Carnality verses charity. Conviction verses condemnation. It is life spiritually or death experientially.

Now, even though our lives will be judged according to the word of GOD; (JOH 12:47-48), it is an evaluation of our works not condemnation for our sins.

JOH 12:46-48, “I have come as light into the world, that everyone who believes in Me may not remain in darkness. And if anyone hears My sayings, and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. He who rejects Me, and does not receive My sayings, has one

who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.”

Let me give you a few passages that make this clear.

First of all, we have our LORD’s word on the type of judgment we will face; **JOH 7:24, “Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.”** Notice that there is such a principle called a “righteous judgment.”

In JOH 3:17, the Lord Jesus Christ addresses the subject of judgment when we read: **“For GOD did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him.**

JOH 5:22, “For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son,”

JOH 12:47-48, “And if anyone hears My sayings, and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. He who rejects Me, and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.”

Even when our LORD had to judge us which was really HIS way of evaluating the lifestyle that we live; HE did

so with grace and honor motivated by agape love, which we saw earlier.

Look at JOH 8:15-16, “You people [in context the Pharisees] judge according to the flesh; I am not judging anyone. But even if I do judge, My judgment is true; for I am not alone in it, but I and He who sent Me.”

Of course, most of you have heard these passages throughout the Word of GOD and when we are told that we are “in Christ” that is our position and not our condition. Therefore, our position in Christ guarantees that there is no condemnation for any of us who have been saved.

Look how clear the apostle Paul gets right to the point; ROM 8:38-39, For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of GOD, which is in Christ Jesus our LORD.

I love how Jude deals with this subject in JUD 1:24-25, Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only GOD our Savior, through Jesus Christ our LORD, be glory,

majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

Now, what we have noted so far really has to do with the fact that we share what Christ has and we share who Christ is.

1JO 3:1-2, See how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of GOD; and such we are. For this reason, the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of GOD, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is.

Now, our LORD is seated at the right hand of the Father and we share everything that HE has and everything that HE is. **ROM 8:29, “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren;”**

Here are some examples of these blessings we have **“in Christ.”**

1. Christ is absolute Righteousness; 2CO 5:21.
2. Christ is elected, we share HIS Election, EPH 1:4.

3. Christ has a destiny; we share HIS Destiny, EPH 1:5.
4. Christ is the Son, we are in union with Christ, we share HIS sonship; 2TI 2:1.
5. Christ is the heir; we share HIS heirship; ROM 8:16-17.
6. Christ is sanctified, we share HIS sanctification; 1CO 1:2.

7. Christ is a King; we share HIS Kingdom; 2PE 1:11.
8. Christ is the High Priest; we share HIS Priesthood; HEB 10:10-14.

Let me remind you that the Bible says that we will all have to face, not only deserved suffering but also underserved suffering as well; PHI 1:29; 1PE 3:12-18.

1PE 3:12-18, For the eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, And His ears attend to their prayer, But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil. And who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled, but (instead) sanctify Christ as LORD in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence. and keep a good conscience

so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better, if GOD should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong. For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to GOD, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the Spirit.