

Sermon Notes

The True Vine Part 1

March 2nd – March 3rd, 2024

- **The True Vine**
 - Vision Series. Why do a vision series??
 - Reach Up, Rise Up, Reach Out, with hand motions!!
- **John 15:1-8**
 - One True Vine, many branches. You and I are the branches...connecting to the true vine.
 - **John 15:4-7** all focus on remaining in Jesus. Must be important.
 - Context: The Last Supper. That means tomorrow life is going to kick them in the teeth.
 - How do they “remain”? They continue in faith in their confusion and despair.
 - Even if they stumble a little, (which they did). **Psalm 37:23-24**
- How do we “remain” in the True Vine? It’s very much the same...
 - Before we get to that, you can’t remain unless you are “in Christ” in the first place!
 - How do we connect with Jesus? “Repent and follow me.” Sinner’s prayer. Faith, new life...
 - Go directly to Jesus and start a relationship with him!!
 - Potential pitfall: imposter saviors.
 - What do you trust in to make things ok? To save you??
 - Possible examples of imposter saviors:
 - Material possessions? See Jesus as a way to get those material possessions??
 - Weird one: sickness. Example of someone I know...
 - Christian culture, but miss Jesus. Church, theology, group belonging.
 - Bad religion and **John 10:10**. Oppressive religion?? Pointless religion?? I implore you to find Jesus, not the thief!!
- Ok, how do we remain?? Continue in faith whatever, even in our confusion and despair.
 - Rich Young Ruler example: **Mark 10:17-27**
 - He seemed pretty motivated!! He believed Jesus has something wonderful to give!!!
 - However, he did not remain connected to the True Vine. Why?
 - What can cause us to not continue in the faith, to not remain in Christ?? A short list of examples:
 - 1) Valuing material things more than a life with Jesus. Even with the promise of eternal life!
 - I wonder what his “great wealth” was? Surely much less than what we have. So...
 - Most of us have to make that choice at some point. Ex: Me, coast or struggle??
 - 2) When life kicks you in the teeth.
 - Like what happened to the disciples right after the Last Supper!
 - Illness, tragedy, disappointments, love lost, broken relationships, financial hardships..
 - It can be hard to believe in a loving God when you feel broken and discarded.
 - 3) Church junk.
 - Church splits, strife, moral failure, oppressive religion, pointless religion, etc...
 - From a pastor’s perspective, it’s hard on this side of the pulpit too. Lance...
 - What happens if we remain?? (even if we stumble) **Mark 10:28-31**
 - Keeping your eye on the prize! 100 fold return?? Persecutions...and eternal life!!
 - Reach Up: connect with and remain in Christ.
 - John 15 was at the last supper, where Holy Communion was initiated. **1 Corinthians 11:23-25**
 - Paul wasn’t there at the last supper. But Paul received redemption in the New Covenant.
 - We receive of the same promise, Communion – to share in this Holy connection with Jesus.
 - So, let’s connect with Christ together.
 - If you have stumbled. If you are depleted. If you are ready to start a relationship with Jesus.
 - Let’s give thanks together, remember what Christ has done, and pray for each other.
- **Send off:** prayer@goodhope.ag Thank you so much for tuning in today! Have a blessed day!