

“Abiding in Christ”
Scripture Lesson – John 15:1-11
Text – John 15:4

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Introduction

1. Here is a great mystery
 - a. Mystery is something which has not been revealed
 1. The mysteries of a lodge or sorority or fraternity
 2. Those things are known only when they are revealed
 - b. Here is the revelation of a great fact
 1. Christ dwells in us
2. Can only know it by experience
 - a. Shining of sun
 1. Blind man cannot see it, but no one says sun is not shining because the blind man cannot see it
 - b. Heat from stove
 1. Can only feel it as we come to stand near it
3. So can know this mystery because revealed to us by Christ
 - a. But can only benefit from it as we experience this abiding in Christ
 1. As one looks up and sees sun
 2. As one comes to stand by the stove
 - b. Old missionary who had long lived a defeated life. In his despair, his eyes fell upon the words, ‘Christ liveth in me,’ and jumped up, staid Presbyterian though he was and danced round and round his table saying, “Christ liveth in me! Christ liveth in me!”

I. What does abiding in Christ mean?

1. John 15:5 – “I am vine; ye are branches”
 - a. A branch abides in a vine
 - b. Gets its life from the vine
 - c. Produces fruit from the vine
 1. Vines expresses its life in branches
 2. Grape vine produces grapes
 3. Watermelon vine produces watermelon
2. So we are to abide in Christ
 - a. Get our life from Him
 - b. Let Him produce His life in us
3. It is to be continuous
 - a. Not spasmodic
 1. Too often our experience is for a short time and these times are far apart

II. How abide in Christ

1. Means trust
 - a. Means cannot trust ourselves

- 1. My preaching
- b. Cannot accomplish ourselves
 - 1. Anger
 - 2. Drunkenness
- c. Mrs. Galtney praying in New Orleans, "Lord not my will."
- d. Mr. Trimball worried about boy in service and was walking along by lake out at Lakewood Cemetery and God said, "Trust your boy to me." HE did and found a great relief.
- 2. Yield
 - a. Automobile or steamship
 - b. Animal
 - 1. Can determine in some ways

Back when I was just a boy I worked around horses a great deal and loved them. When I was about twelve years old I went to Paducah, Kentucky to spend a portion of the summer with a great aunt. One of these great aunts lived on the old family plantation. They had just moved out there and this uncle had a horse and wagon. He had cut a lot of grass around the place and wanted to haul it into the barn for hay, but he could not make the horse pull a load; he would balk and not move. One day when he was away from home I went out and harnessed the horse and hitched him to the wagon and when the uncle returned I was hauling hay. He could not understand how I could make a horse work. Well for some reason the horse yielded itself to me and would do what I wanted it to do and together we accomplished things.

- c. Live oak trees. They tell us they grow as far north as there is any vegetation and as far south as there is vegetation. But they grow most beautiful and large here on our Mississippi Gulf Coast. All the tree does is yield itself to the soil and climate and produces what they are able to make it.
- d. We are to yield ourselves to Christ and He will produce what He is able to produce.
 - 1. We will become what He makes us
- 3. So let us abide in Him
 - a. By faith
 - b. By yielding to Him

III. Results

- 1. Presence of Christ
 - a. A surgeon, the late Lord Moynihan of Leeds, had been invited to operate before a distinguished group of fellow surgeons. Someone asked him afterwards how he could possibly work with such a crowd around him. "Well," he answered, "It is like this: There are just three people in the theatre when I operate – the patient and myself." "Three," said the friend – "but that is only two. Who is the other?" "And the great Surgeon, God," he replied.
 - b. From "The Hero in thy Soul" – Gossip

“When Shackleton and his comrades were fighting their slow impossible way across that frozen land, chilled to the very soul, with heads bowed low against the icy blizzards, with weak and stumbling feet and half-dead with fatigue, they came through, so later they confessed to one another, though at the time they said not word of it, only because each of them felt that “Some One else was there more than they could see.” We too, have come through so far only because always there has been some One else beside us, more than we could see – because always a Voice has roused us when we fell asleep, always a Hand has pulled us back when, unknowingly, we tottered on the sheer edge of some precipice, always there has been One who saved us. “You don’t mean to say,” they scoffed at a scientist not so long ago in Paris, “that you credit that old impossible fable of Christianity – you, a man of science!” And he replied, “I do, and just because I am a man of science. For, as such, I dare not and cannot ignore the plain and staring facts of my own life.”

2. Do impossible

- a. Lt. who spoke to men’s Bible class about flying airplane when all aerilons were shot away just as they crossed English Channel. It is impossible to fly this particular type of plane without aerilons, but he said he flew best formation he had ever flown and men in his squadron said he did, too. He said he knew he could not have done it of himself that Christ was with him and helped him.
- b. Rev. A. N. Moffatt during his seminary course was working one summer in the mountains of Western Carolina and he went one day back up into one of the coves and found a family living there. The man had tuberculosis and only some small children and women were around the place. They needed a man and he decided to stay and help them. He said he never saw so much dirt and so many flies. He felt after the first night he could not stay and during the afternoon felt he must find some excuse to leave, but went off a while to have his devotion and he felt this was just the kind of thing Christ would do and he would be hands and feet for Christ. He said he no longer noticed the dirt and flies and that as he made seams for windows and doors, he somehow felt the glory and presence of Christ.

3. Prayer will be answered

- a. Verse 7
- b. Anything you ask – yes
- c. But this is provided you abide in Christ
- d. Many things would not ask for
 - 1. Million dollars
 - 2. Restoration of child to health and strength – Galtney’s. I could not ask that – had to say, “Lord thy will be done.”
- e. Dr. Sweimmer and boy with crushed foot healed

4. Verse 5 – Bring forth fruit

- a. My own life. Folks said I should not go into ministry because did not like to study. Could not go into sick room. Did not have ministers mind or temperament. I know they were correct, so what I am or have been or ever will be is due to what

Christ has made me. In finest church, have finest people, etc. But oh! How much more He could do with me if I would let Him have possession of all my life.

5. Verse 11 – Have joy

Conclusion

1. Will you come to abide in Christ?
 - a. Trust Him
 - b. Yield to Him
2. Go out
 - a. To have His presence with you
 - b. To do what can be done
 - c. To bear fruit for Him
 - d. To find joy under all circumstances