

19 January 2014: Preached by Preacher Clement Chew

Topic: **Abide in Christ (part 1): Constantly Abiding**

Scripture Text: John 15:1-8

1. The word “Abide” means: remain, continue in a particular attitude or relationship. When we say constantly abiding, it is to emphasize the permanent abiding in Christ. This is not a physical abiding because Jesus was about to go away. Thus, this is about a rich spiritual relationship with Christ.
2. In John chapter 15, Jesus used the metaphor of a vine. A lot of work is required to prune a vine and after about three years, the fruits will then bloom. Jesus is the True Vine, different from the other vines in this world that are not true. He is the only source of life in this world. In Jesus Christ, a true believer will bear forth fruit.
3. “Every branch that beareth not forth fruit, he taketh away. Every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it” (v.2). We have first to be born again to abide in Christ Positionally, believers are holy before the Lord. But practically if we do not walk close to the Lord, we will sin against him. When we constantly abide in Christ, we will find that we will bear more fruit and even much fruit. We will live a life that is pleasing to our Heavenly Father, the Husbandman.
4. Without Christ, we can do nothing. If we do not walk with Christ, our life will be characterized by fruitlessness. We will show no fruits of repentance. If we do not abide in Christ, we will be cast off and thrown into the fire.
5. If we abide in Christ and the Words of Christ abide in us, then what we ask will be done. God's desires will also be our desires and we will think in a way according to the Scriptures. Thus, God will definitely give to us. To abide in Christ, we will have to go through a pruning process where we will bear more fruits but we have to endure this process. This is the mark of a disciple.