

**SERMON 12**

**TEXT**

*“I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman”* John 15:1

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It is evident from the words of the text, that there has been another vine which must have proved itself false, else Jesus would not have said, *“I am the true vine”*. The vine has been used in various parts of the Scriptures under different figures or types; sometimes figurative of a woman: as we read, *“They wife shall be as a fruitful vine”* Psalm 128:3. Sometimes as a people – *“Thou hast brought a vine out of Egypt”* Psalm 130:8. Also, *“For their vine is of the vine of Sodom”* Deuteronomy 32:32. *“Yet I had planted thee a noble vine, wholly a right seed: how then art thou turned into the degenerate plant of a strange vine unto me?”* Jeremiah 2:21.

Now, in the creation we find the Lord created Adam good (Genesis 1:31). He was then as a noble vine; but we find the first Adam was the figure of Him that was to come (Romans 5:14). Hence Jesus said, *“I am the true vine”*.

Now this true vine is alive, for Jesus says, *“I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore”* Revelation 1:18. But death was pronounced on the degenerate plant of a strange vine (Jeremiah 2:21), which was the first Adam. But the Lord is now seeking those who are of the true vine, that He may graft them – that he may be the husbandman of them as he was of the woman’s seed, Jesus, who bore the fruit of immortality; and he says, *“Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away”* John 15:2.

How does he take them away? It is by the death of the mortal body, their spirits being separated from their souls and bodies. Thus proving they abode not in him, being cast forth as a withered branch – that is their mortal bodies have withered. *“And every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it that it may bring forth more fruit”* John 15:2.

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Now, then, to the believers in the first principles of the doctrine of Christ, the true vine, who believe for the salvation of the soul, and are bearing fruit of that faith, see in the foregoing words that something further is set before you.

Then what purification is necessary that ye may bear more fruit? Is immortal life, only to be obtained by the death of the mortal body? We answer it is not; because there are witnesses of this truth in each dispensation in the persons of Enoch, Elijah, and Jesus, and the promise of the Lord is, *“I will cleanse their blood that I have not cleansed”* Joel 3:21.

Here is the purification necessary for the immortality of the mortal body. Here is what man must submit to before he can come to be a branch of the true vine. *“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 ye can do nothing”* John 15:5.

Now, see here the two grafts; the first you must be grafted into him to receive of the virtue of his death, which brings the soul unto life in the resurrection as the angels; secondly, being brought to life, that life may be grafted into you, that you may bear much fruit, which is to live eternally, without the death of the mortal body or the soul; by having the law of Christ within you, which frees from sin and death, *“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death”* Romans 8:2. Jesus Christ said, *“Because I live, ye shall live also”* John 14:19.

For as the first vine (which was the first Adam) by becoming degenerate brought the death of the mortal body into the world: so doth the true vine, or Jesus Christ, bring life into the world. The first Adam being of the dead earth, and Jesus Christ, the latter Adam, the living earth, being the Lord from heaven, a quickening Spirit. *“And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul (yet his body the dead earth); the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. The first man is of the earth, earth: the second man is of the Lord from heaven”* 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:45,47. To bring immortal life to the living earth.

The first Adam, though called a vine, figurative of the true vine Jesus Christ, proved himself to have borne sour grapes.

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But Jesus Christ, the latter Adam, bears the sweet grape which makes that wine which will cheer God and man at that union when mortal has put on immortality, *“At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you”* John 14:20. This is that vine Jesus spoke of when he said, *“I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it new in the kingdom of God”* Mark 14:25. That is when those that are vines, as he is a vine, shall bear their tender grapes (Song of Solomon 2:15).

And now the husbandman, God the Father, is come, having sent his Spirit, *“The Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom (Jesus says) the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you”* John 14:26.

And the immortal Bridegroom will come down into His garden to see whether the vine flourishes (Song of Solomon 6:11); that vine which will be the bride of His Son, being Jerusalem above (Galatians 4:26), their offspring they are then to bear, being born not of blood, being the tender grapes, which are the fruits of their bodies born in immortality, death being swallowed up in victory, they being then the vineyard of the Lord. Then will they sing the song of their beloved (Christ) touching His vineyard. That is, they will sing unto God the Father, that their beloved Christ has chosen Jerusalem above to bear those vines which shall be planted and become the vineyard of God. *“Now will I sing to my well beloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. My well beloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill”* Isaiah 5:1.

This vineyard is the Israel of God: *“For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant”* Isaiah 5:7.

But the house of Israel, during the three dispensations, have borne wild grapes through their blood not being cleansed. But now the Spirit of truth is come, and is bringing all things to the remembrance of Israel which are written in the Scriptures, and is opening the seals and showing unto them the Scriptures, which are still to fulfill, and pointing out the rewards which are

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shortly to be conferred on those who receive its testimony, when their sorrows will terminate and God will make the old earth new, according to the words of the prophets.

But unless they abide in the vine, Jesus Christ, till He abide in them, they cannot become of the choicest vine, for He is the choicest vine. *“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me”* John 15:4. Those who have the vine grafted into them will be a new generation. *“This shall be written for the generation to come: and the people which shall be created shall praise the Lord. When the people are gathered together, and the kingdoms to serve the Lord”* Psalm 102:18,22.

But these things are not committed to the bondservant; but the bondservant (the man of sin) will serve those who are redeemed from the earth, the evil being then bound (Revelation 20:2). *“Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve”* Matthew 4:10.

But those in whom the Spirit dwells are not bondservants, but as the Son, knowing the Father’s will. *“A seed shall serve him; it shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation”* Psalm 22:30. Which is the life of Israel, which has been hid with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3), and it shall come forth and serve Him in them, and that generation is eternal; it has no beginning of days nor end of life (Hebrews 7:3), but they who possess it possess eternity, and eternity is counted a generation unto the Lord. But man must first dwell in it until then, because it is the Spirit which does the work, and not the man.

The people spoken of being gathered together, being the ten tribes, being scattered among the Gentiles by mixture of marriage – and the two tribes who are to be gathered from those who are known as Jews – the Gentiles being grafted in with them into the pure olive, Jesus; so that no man knoweth to what tribe he belongs: for God will fulfill in them the words of Isaiah, *“And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the*

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*dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth”* Isaiah  
11:12.

And his messengers are now being sent forth to preach redemption of both soul and body, and bring them from under the sentence of the law, being the curse pronounced on the body. *“Cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life”* Genesis 3:17. For the fullness of the Spirit of God will bring them back to remember their first lover. *“But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly”* Matthew 6:6.

*“I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture”* John 10:9. Into the Spirit and out of the Spirit – their mortal bodies.

*“And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills, and all nations shall flow unto it”* Isaiah 2:2.

*“And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all”* Ezekiel 37:22. *“And the Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day there shall be one Lord, and His name one”* Zechariah 14:9.

*“Lift up your heads, O ye gates: and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in”* Psalm 24:7.

*“I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again (in Spirit), and receive you unto myself; that where I am there ye may be also”* John 14:2,3.