



Learn Your Bible

Resources to help you learn and understand the Bible

Short Study 056: The "I Am" Statements of Jesus 6. The True Vine

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(Note: You might profit from first attempting Short Study 028 in conjunction with this Study.)

Read John 15:1-8

Introduction. The Old Testament prophets pictured the Nation of Israel as a grape vine, planted and tended by God - a picture that will have been familiar to the disciples when Jesus spoke of *Himself* as the *True Vine*.

1. Good or Bad Fruit. Read Isaiah 5:1-7 to see God's assessment of Israel as a nation; then look at the following scriptures denouncing the nation's failures. Consider in what ways Jesus, as the True (or Genuine) Vine succeeded where Israel failed.

Isaiah 5:2

Ezek 15:2 & 8

Hosea 10:1

Hosea 10:2 **d**

For more on the fruit the Vinedresser (God) is looking for, see Matt 3:8-10; Matt 7:16-20; Romans 7:4; James 3:18.

2. The Pruning (John 15:1-2). Vines need a lot of attention to produce the best crop. Notice the two different branches that are pruned. In vine dressing, something is removed from fruitful branches to make way for yet more fruit growth. This cannot mean believers being removed from their attachment to Christ, but perhaps there are things in life that are taken away to make way for better things?

3. Remaining Attached (John 15:4-7). Jesus said we must be attached to Him and remain so. The Commentator, William Hendriksen, wrote: *The responsibility of abiding in Christ is placed squarely on men's shoulders*. What practices, do you think help one to abide? Here are some suggestions, but you may think of more.

Matt 18:20

Matt 28:9

John 12:46

John 14:23

John 15:7

1 Cor 11:24

Rev 2:10

To think about: Is there anything in my life that God might have to take away because it is hindering the production of 'fruit'?

To dig deeper: Read commentaries on this passage and anything you can find on abiding in Christ.