

UNDERSTANDING THE MEANING OF A PASSAGE

40 DAYS IN THE WORD • PART 5
FEBRUARY 26, 2012

Observation: What does it say?
Interpretation: What does it mean?
Correlation: What other verses explain it?
Application: What will I DO about it?

JOHN 15:1-17

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no FRUIT, while every branch that does bear FRUIT he prunes so that it will be even more FRUITFUL. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear FRUIT by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear FRUIT unless you remain in me.

I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much FRUIT; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much FRUIT, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

As the Father has LOVED me, so have I LOVED you. Now remain in my LOVE. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my LOVE, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his LOVE. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: LOVE each other as I have LOVED you. Greater LOVE has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear FRUIT- FRUIT that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: LOVE each other."

PROBLEM VERSE:

Vs. 6 *"If anyone doesn't remain in me, he's like a branch that's thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned."*

SOME BASIC RULES OF INTERPRETATION

1. _____
Ch. 13 to 17 = Jesus' final words of comfort to his disciples before his arrest.

Vs. 11 *"I've told you these things so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete!"*

2. _____
"Love" = mentioned 9 times in this passage
"Fruit" = mentioned 9 times in this passage
"Fruit" & "Fruitful" = 45 times in New Testament
What is meaning of "fruit" in this context?

3. _____
John 15:4 *"Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me."*

• BEARING FRUIT

Vs. 8 *"This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."*

• BEARING FRUIT

Vs. 11 *"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete."*

• BEARING FRUIT

4. _____
Vs. 7 *"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you!"*

• REMAINING IN CHRIST PRODUCES

14:13 *"I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."*

• _____ BRINGS GLORY TO GOD!

16:24 *"Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete!"*

• _____ GIVES ME COMPLETE

JOY!

15:16 *"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name!"*

• I BEAR FRUIT BY

MY PERSONAL APPLICATION

"Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house upon the rock." Matthew 7:24