

DEEP IN SCRIPTURE

Today's Verses & Notes

January 4, 2006

What does it mean to abide?

John 15:4-7

“Abide in me, and I in you.”

--“Abide” = “*meinate*” = *orist imperative of “meno”*

-- Translated “*continue*” (8:31,32); “*remain*”;

--*Implies concerted effort; choice; act of will; diligence; perseverance. But how?*

**As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine,
neither can you, unless you abide in me.**

--*What are fruit? Important!*

[John 15:8: “*By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit,
and so prove to be my disciples.*”]

--*Ability to produce fruit comes from vine / Christ. How? Pray? Faith? Grace?*

I am the vine, you are the branches.

-- *Note: “you” here specifically means the 12; So how does this all apply to us?*

He who abides in me, and I in him,

he it is that bears much fruit,

for apart from me you can do nothing.

--*Reiterates that source is Jesus, but nothing?! Are we completely depraved?*

If a man does not abide in me,

he is cast forth as a branch and withers;

and the branches are gathered,

thrown into the fire and burned.

--*Very powerful vivid imagery to farm people!*

-- “*If . . . does not?*” again implies an open possibility = *f(choice)*;

--*Result? Not merely saved with no rewards (i.e., 1 Cor 3), but hell fire!*

*. . . Hebrews 6:4-6! “For it is impossible to restore again to repentance those who have once been enlightened,
who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of
the word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they then commit apostasy, since they crucify the Son of
God on their own account and hold him up to contempt.”*

--*Therefore, eternally crucial necessity!*

If you abide in me, and my words abide in you,

--*Once again emphasizes choice / effort / act of will.*

-- “*My words?*” How?! Which ones specifically?

ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you.”

--*WHOA?! To what extent? “WHATEVER”?!!*

--*Health & wealth? No suffering? No worry? No enemies? No fear?*

--*Key: rightly, prayerfully, humbly, study, meditate, live out His Word.*

DEEP IN SCRIPTURE PROGRAM:

- Each week discuss intriguing, important, or controversial verses;
- Chosen by guests or myself or by you (email, letter, forum);
- Website: Scriptures & notes; archives; links; special offers; FORUM

BREAK

“Why should we trust this collections of old books?”

1. WHERE DID IT COME FROM?

KEY: No Bible like we have it for nearly 350 years after death / resurrection of Christ!

1: “The Scriptures” or “writings”:

“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

2 Timothy 3:14-17

2. Oral Tradition

“Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ. I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain the traditions even as I have delivered them to you.”

1 Corinthians 11:1,2

Now I would remind you, brethren, in what terms I preached to you the gospel, which you received, in which you stand, by which you are saved, if you hold it fast -- unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

1 Corinthians 15:1-5

[W]hat you have heard from me before many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

2 Timothy 2:2

3. Epistles:

“So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by letter.”

2 Thessalonians 2:25

“I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these instructions to you so that, if I am delayed, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and bulwark of the truth.”

1 Timothy 3:14,15

4. Gospels:

- Earliest quotes from Gospels?
- 1 Clement & Didache
- But no direct quotes nor mention of sources; Therefore, could be oral tradition.
- IRENAEUS, Adv. Haer. 3.1 (quoted by Eusebius, HE 5,8,2): “Now Matthew

published among the Hebrews a written gospel also in their own tongue, while Peter and Paul were preaching in Rome and founding the church. But after their death Mark also, the disciple and interpreter of Peter, himself handed down to us in writing the things which were preached by Peter, and Luke also, who was a follower of Paul, put down in a book the gospel which was preached by him. Then John . . .”

5. Therefore, at end of 1st century: Letters, Gospels, Revelation, & others.
6. For 200 years: copied, quoted, transmitted, translated, collected
7. Lists of Scripture: Wider use of term.
8. Marcion & Arius: “Scripture alone” heresies!
9. So, Councils of Rome (382 AD), Hippo (393 AD), Carthage (397 & 419AD) settled Canon of inspired Scripture.