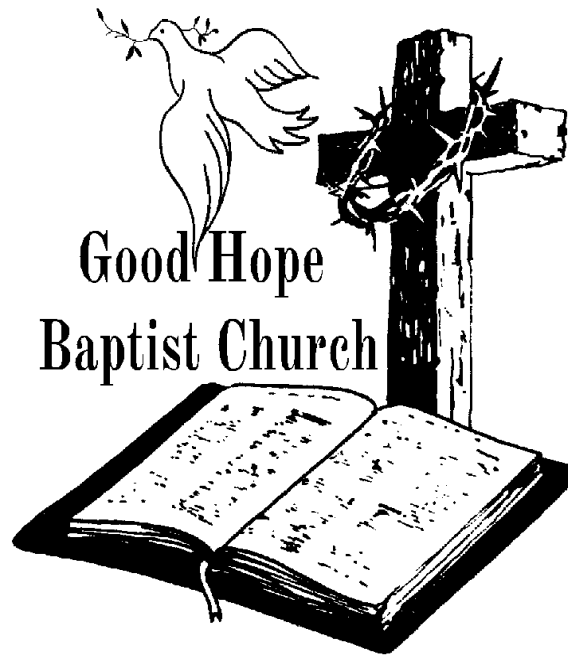


His Joy Remaining

John 15:11



Good Hope
Baptist Church

Living Together In The Love Of God

4038 Graham Sherron Rd
Wake Forest, NC 27587

Pastor David Buffaloe
Home 919-562-9456 Cell 919-600-4925
online at bibleteacher.org

FOCAL Read Responsively John 15:11 These things have I spoken unto you, **that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.**

ILLUSTRATION There was once a basketball coach who was driving through the country side and saw a young farm boy who was seven feet tall. He stopped his car and went up to the boy. **"Son, I want to give you a scholarship to college. I want you to play basketball."** The boy replied, **"Sir, I don't know how to play basketball"**. The coach replied, **"That's all right. We can teach you how to play basketball. We can't teach you how to be seven feet tall"**.

Many Christians today - in fact, I'd say, a majority of them - are saved by faith in Christ but living just as miserable a life as the unsaved unbeliever is living. They have the *potential* to have great and joyous lives in the Lord. Like the seven foot tall farm boy they are *born again* into the Family of God, called to be kings and priests before God, but instead are living as if they are peasants without potential. God wants more for His people.

If you are *born again* by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, then this message this morning is for you. If you are not born again - and don't have a clue what I'm talking about - I will share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with you before I close this message. Hang on for just a moment while I talk to the Christians.

Christians, life is not a Monopoly Game, and Jesus Christ is more than your "Get out of hell free" card!

The Lord Jesus said:

FOCAL John 15:11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

"These things have I spoken unto you". Jesus Christ is the Coach Who, seeing us, says "I want you to be more than you are now. You are born into the Family of God by faith in Me." You are born into the Kingdom of God with great potential. You are supposed to be seven feet tall *spiritually*. The Lord Jesus wants to teach you so that you can

Ephesians 3:18-21 comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; (19) And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.

The Lord does not save a Christian so that you can be like *the walking dead* of the world. You are Living Beings, New Creatures, created by God and the workmanship of God. It is God Who ...

Ephesians 3:20 is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

God works in His Church and in His Christians. We are His *workmanship*, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God has before ordained that we

should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:10).

You are designed to be like Jesus. Jesus told His disciples:

FOCAL John 15:11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

Coach Jesus wants His joy to remain in us, and wants our joy to be full. God is glorified when His Children are like Jesus, when His Children have the joy of Jesus, when His Children have the full joy that is our birthright.

1. To Have Christ's Joy In Me I Must Abide In The TRUE Vine

ILLUSTRATE William Booth, the founder of the Salvation Army on one occasion was granted an audience with the Queen of England. She asked him, "General Booth, what is the secret of your ministry? How is it that others are so pale, so pallid, so powerless, so weak, and you are so mighty?" General Booth - always humble but always truthful - told the Queen "Your Majesty, if this is so, it is because God has all there is of me."

To have Christ's joy in me - the fruit of God's Holy Spirit - I must *abide in the True Vine that is Christ*. Jesus said:

CONTEXT John 15:1-3 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. (2) Every branch in me

that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. (3) Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

Our Lord Jesus starts out by telling us that **the source of our joy as believers is found only by clinging to Him.**

We cling first of all to **Jesus and only Jesus**. We cling to the Jesus of the Scripture. Jesus said:

I am the True Vine

WORD STUDY The word translated as "**true**" is the Greek **ALETHINOS** (**αληθινος** pronounced *al-ay-thee-nos*'), which means "**that which has not only the name and resemblance, but the real nature corresponding to the name, the genuine article**".

ILLUSTRATE I am terribly allergic to a plant called *poison ivy*. Ivy is a vine, but poison ivy is a vine with a bite to it. There's an old saying, "**Leaves of three, let it be**", but there are an awful lot of plants and vines in nature that have "**leaves of three**". I have seen people maimed, their eyes swollen shut, and scarred because of contact with poison ivy. Just as poison ivy mimics harmless ivy, there are Spiritual Vines in this world that mimic the True Vine that is Christ. The Bible says:

1 John 2:18-19 Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now

are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. (19) They went out from us, but they were not of us: for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

that in the end of times there will be one who will rise up called The Anti-Christ. He will present Himself as the Way unto God, and he will deceive many. But the Bible also tells us that, **the Anti-Christ SHALL (Future Tense) come**, but it goes on to say that **there are many anti-Christ**s.

There are anti-Christ's all over this world, people who put themselves in the place of Jesus Christ.

It frightens me how Christians so readily accept what someone says on television without *testing what is said by the Scripture*. The Bible says that we can determine *who* these anti-Christ's are because "**they went out from us, but they were not of us**". The anti-Christ's *start in the Church!* "**They went out from us**". They started among God's people. **But they were not of us**. They looked like us, they talked like us, but they were not of us. **They went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.**

The anti-Christ's who depart from the True Vine that is Jesus. They ignore His Word. They reject Him as the only Way. They make *other ways acceptable* as means of coming unto the Father. Jesus has said **I Am the True**

Vine. He is the only Way. We read:

1 John 2:22-24 **Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. (23) Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: but he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also. (24) Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father.**

There are many **lying vines** out there, but they are not the Christ. Jesus alone is the Christ. Jesus is above all other gods, principalities, and powers. Someone has said:

ILLUSTRATE To the **artist**, Jesus is the one altogether **Lovely** (Song of Solomon 5:15). To the **architect**, Jesus is the **Chief Cornerstone** (I Peter 2:6). To the **astronomer**, Jesus is the **Sun of Righteousness** (Malachi 4:2). To the **baker**, Jesus is the **Bread of Life** (John 6:35). To the **banker**, Jesus is the hidden **Treasure** (Matthew 13:44). To the **builder**, Jesus is the **Sure Foundation** (Isaiah 28:16). To the **carpenter**, Jesus is the **Door** (John 10:7). To the **doctor**, Jesus is the **Great Physician** (Jeremiah 8:22). To the **educator**, Jesus is the great **Teacher** (John 3:2). To the **engineer**, Jesus is the **new and living Way** (Hebrews 10:20). To the **farmer**, Jesus is the **Sower and Lord of the Harvest** (Luke 10:2). To the **florist**, Jesus is the **Rose of Sharon** (Song of Solomon 2:1). To the **geologist**, Jesus is the **Rock of Ages** (I Corinthians 10:4). To the **Judge**, Jesus is the only **Righteous Judge** of man - (II Timothy 4:8).

To the **juror**, Jesus is the faithful and true **Witness** (Revelation 3:14). To the **jeweler**, Jesus is the **Pearl of great price** (Matthew 13:46). To the **lawyer**, Jesus is the **True Advocate** (Isaiah 9:6). To the **newspaper man**, Jesus is **Tidings of great joy** (Luke 2:10). To the **oculist**, Jesus is the **Light of the eyes** (Proverbs 29:13). To the **philanthropist**, Jesus is the **unspeakable Gift** (II Corinthians 9:15). To the **philosopher**, Jesus is the **Wisdom of God** (I Corinthians 1:24). To the **sculptor**, Jesus is the **Living Stone** (1 Peter 2:4). To the **servant**, Jesus is the **good Master** (Matthew 23:8-10). To the **student**, Jesus is the incarnate **Truth** (1 John 5:6). To the **weary**, Jesus is the **Giver of Rest** (Matthew 11:28). To the **Sinner**, Jesus is the **Lamb of God** who takes sin away (John 1:29). Jesus Christ is the Living and Incarnate **Word of God** (Revelation 19:13).

Jesus Christ is the True Vine, and we who believe are His branches. We abide in the Christ. We abide in Jesus. Jesus said:

CONTEXT **John 15:4-5** **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. (5) 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.**

The Christian *cannot bear fruit of himself*. We can only bear fruit when we **abide in Christ**. If we as Christians and as Christ's Church **abide in Christ** then we **will have much fruit**.

WORD STUDY The word translated "abide" is the *Aorist Active Imperative* of the Greek MENO (μενω pronounced men'-o). This word means "to rest in, remain in, to have a settled confidence in".

2. To Abide In Christ I Must Die To The World And To Myself

Abiding IN CHRIST means there can be no fence sitting. You are saved by faith alone in Christ alone. You live victorious lives by faith alone in Christ alone!

Jesus illustrated this by saying:

John 12:24-26 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. (25) He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. (26) If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honor.

How do I **abide in Christ**? Look at wheat seed. It is dead and by itself *until it is buried*. Once buried in the soil, God takes over. He makes it grow and produce other grains of seed. I abide in Christ by *dying to what I think, and burying myself in Christ*. I "let His mind be in me" (Philippians 2:5). I stop trying to do it *my way* and, clinging to Him, I do it *His Way obeying His*

Word.

ILLUSTRATE I love the comic strip "Peanuts". If you read that strip you know the running gag where Lucy entices Charlie Brown with a football. She'll tell Charlie, "Come on, I'll hold the ball and you kick it". Initially Charlie Brown will refuse to trust Lucy because she has deceived him so many times before. In one strip Lucy told Charlie, "Look. I'll give you a signed contract promising not to snatch the ball away. A signed contract is legally binding Charlie Brown." Charlie looks at the contract and says, "You can't snatch the ball away with a contract. No one would do that! Boy, I'm going to really kick that old pigskin this year." Charlie backs off, runs toward the ball, and just as he gets there Lucy - as usual - snatches the ball away. Charlie goes up in the air, misses the ball, and ends up on his back. Lucy, standing over him, points to the contract. "Of course, if it's not been notarized it's not legally binding". And she grins.

How many times have you been suckered that way? As Christians we do this over, and over, and over again. We get their eyes off of Jesus and His Word and start doing things *our way*. What is our reward for compromising with the world? Flat on your back, with Lucy standing over you grinning like a mule eating briars.

Jesus warned us:

CONTEXT John 15:18-21 If the world hate you, ye

know that it hated me before it hated you. (19) If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. (20) Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. (21) But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.

The world does not love Jesus. It hates Jesus. It is like Lucy, holding the football and telling us "we won't snatch it away this time". We sit there and talk ourselves into taking our gaze off of Jesus. We follow that which is not Him, but an anti-Christ or the word of the world - and find ourselves, *just like Charlie Brown*, flat on our backs while the world stands over us grinning.

ILLUSTRATE I've never watched a DVD where there wasn't a long - and I think unnecessary FBI warning that I've got to watch before I can ever see the movie. That's an unnecessary and intrusive warning because I have no intention of stealing a movie. But they have to put it at the front of every movie because of the thieves. Jesus Christ gives us all a warning in our text today, and you need to *pay attention* to it. He says:

CONTEXT John 15:6-7 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. (7) If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done

unto you.

Each and every one of us who are Christians have a choice.

a We can abide in Christ - bear much fruit - ask what you will and it shall be done unto you. The Church and the Christian who abides in Christ *has his prayers answered*. God hears and answers the prayers of His united Church, bound to Christ, doing what Jesus said. Or,

b We can refuse to abide in Christ - become withered - gathered of mankind, cast into the fire, and be burned. The branch or the Church that detaches itself from Christ dries up, and eventually is burned up by the world itself. That's not what the Lord wants for any of us. He wants us to bear **much fruit**. He wants the **fruit of the Spirit** to spring forth in and through His Church.

Galatians 5:22-26 ... the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, (23) Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. (24) And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. (25) If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. (26) Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

You cannot abide in Christ until you die to yourselves. Someone once said "Unless Jesus is President in

your life, He will not be Resident in your life".

The Spirit of God will not work through you until you decide to *do His Will no matter what others do*. Jesus said:

CONTEXT John 15:12-13 **This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. (13) Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.**

We **abide in Christ** by laying our lives down. We love others **as Jesus has loved us**.

Elisabeth Elliot said **"The world looks for happiness through self-assertion. The Christian knows that joy is found in self-abandonment. 'If a man will let himself be lost for My sake,' Jesus said, 'he will find his true self.'**"

Dr. Adrian Rogers of Bellevue Baptist Church once stated:

Now, God's plan for you, are you listening, is that you have joy, but not ordinary joy. Full joy, constant joy, conspicuous joy, contagious joy, God's plan is that you have fullness of joy. Now, if you're saved and you don't have joy, there's something very wrong. A joyless Christian is a contradiction in terms. God has intended that you have joy, consistently, for the Bible says rejoice in the Lord always and you're not to have inferior joy, you're to have joy unspeakable and full

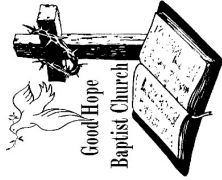
of glory. I don't know everything about you, but this I know about you, you want joy. I know that about you. You want joy and it is God's plan that you have joy. "

We will have Christ's joy - and His Presence as well as His blessing - as long as we cling to Him and do His Will.

Too many Christians want to tack their Christianity onto their lives, as if it were an accessory. Our faith is not an accessory - it is who we are.

His Word is our lifeblood.

May God touch your hearts with His Word!



Good Hope
Baptist Church

4038 Graham Sherron Road
Wake Forrest, NC 27587

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Living Together In The Love Of God

FOCAL Read Responsively John 15:11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

John 15:11; Ephesians 3:18-21; Ephesians 3:20

**1. To Have Christ's Joy In Me
I Must Abide In The TRUE Vine**

John 15:1-3; 1 John 2:18-19; 1 John 2:22-24; John 15:4-5

WORD STUDY The word translated as "true" is the Greek ALETHINOS (αληθινος pronounced *al-ay-thee-nos*'), which means _____

WORD STUDY The word translated "abide" is the *Aorist Active Imperative* of the Greek MENO (μενω pronounced men'-o). _____

**2. To Abide In Christ I Must Die
To The World *And* To Myself**

Abiding IN CHRIST means there can be no fence sitting. You are saved by faith alone in Christ alone. You live victorious lives by faith alone in Christ alone!

John 12:24-26; Philippians 2:5; John 15:18-21; John 15:6-7; Galatians 5:22-26; John 15:12-13

a We can _____

b We can _____
