

Today we look into the great 15th ch. of John. I want to say to you that the 15th Ch. of John is a very difficult chapter. It may appear, on the surface, that it's very clear but you have to be very careful in interpretation or you will teach error.

Now there are those who take the 15th Ch. of John as th real Scrip. evidence that a person can be truly saved - truly Born AGain - and that same person can be cast off from Christ and be eternally lost. Now let me say to you that you can take isolated Scrip. and misinterpret~~XXX~~ them and prove most anything. But you have to take all the Scrip. and you have to be very careful that you know what the writer is speaking about.

This is the reason that the Lord has placed gifted people in this church to instruct. And while the Bible is open to all, there comes a time that there must be more than just the casual, lay interpretation of the Word of God and it's true in John 15.

In the Gospel of John and in all those writings of John, there's where we have the great teaching that God gives us Eternal Life. It's also in the Gospel that we're told that if we have this Life and are Born Again, we do not practice sin. And we show it by the life. But in John, of all the writings, we have the teaching that Eternal Life is an Eternal Gift and God does not take it away from His people.

For instance, in John 4:14 (we've already looked at it) Jesus said the water that I shall give you shall be IN you a well of water, springing up into Eternal Life. John 3:136, He says 'he who has the Son has Eternal Life'. In John 10:28, He says 'I give unto them Eternal Life and they shall not

never (it's a double negative) they shall not never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand'. John 18:9 (read) son of perdition (that's Judas, that the Scrip. might be fulfilled).

So, in John 15, we do not have this teaching at all. But it's easy to pull a verse out without understanding what the writer is talking about and say 'heres the proof supreme'. We will be true to the Scrip.

John 15 - Jesus is not talking about salvation at all. He's talking about fruit-bearing of the believer. In John 15, we have fruit - the word 'fruit' appearing 8 times and we have the word 'abiding' appearing 15 times. And that's what he's talking about. He's telling the believer something tremendous. He's saying if we are to bear fruit, we've got to abide in Jesus.

*Fruit - 8 times*  
*Abiding - 15 times*  
If we DO NOT abide in Jesus, we become worthless. We become worthless. I don't think that anybody here today ~~xxx~~ who has love in his heart and knows people would want to say that 'every person that's not bearing fruit is not a child of God'. If that is true, there are not many children of God. And there are not many, compared to the whole, any way you look at it. But how about you in your life today? Are you really bearing fruit?

For instance, the real fruit He's talking about is the fruit of another Xtn winning people to Christ. Are you really winning people to Christ? I hope you are. But if you're not, I'm not willing to say, on the basis of the Word of God, that you're lost and going to hell. And yet, ~~XXXXXX~~ this is what you'd have to, if you say that this chapter is teaching salvation.

It is not teaching that at all. We will see that after we go into it and when we see it, it does not lessen the tremendous teaching at all. It really is



the most convicting thing to my heart and to your heart. So let's look at it, verse by verse. But I want you to notice the latter verse of John 14. The latter part of John 14. He says there, the last statement there 'arise, let us go hence'. Let us go to the cross. Now the reason I say this - I want you to get the setting.

Jesus has been in an upper room. The disciples have been around the table, we think, and He's been engaged in table talk with them. Now they leave the Upper Room in the city of Jerusalem and they are making their way to the Garden of Gethsemane, which means that they had to pass through the valley of the Kedron, which separated Jerusalem (still does) from the Mt. of Olives.

*They are walking thru Kedron + all the vines + branches*  
Now when Jesus delivers John 16, 16 & 17, they are walking. It's an amazing thing. Maybe they stopped, I don't know. But they've left the Upper Room. Now passing through the Valley of the Kedron, they pass through vineyards. We believe it was the season of the year when the vineyards had been cut and a number of them were burned and probably, as Jesus spoke these words, He just waved His hand toward this. It's very possible and many people believe this is true.

So I want you to see the scene that is before us. Jesus moving through the vineyard fields in the Valley of the Kedron, leaving Jerusalem, but going down the Valley to the Mt. of Olives. I have walked that way myself. Jerusalem is on a hill 2500 feet high. The Mt. of Olives 2700 feet. Jesus could stand on the Mt. of Olives and look right over into Jerusalem. I have myself. Some of you may have. If you haven't, you ought to. '

I would highly advise if you had a little money; you're in retirement; or you want to do something highly meaningful, just go to the Holy Land. Some



of it is not worth seeing but here's something that's tremendously important because it's still there and it'll be there when Jesus comes again. So, with this in the background, let's look at V. 1 of Ch. 15. Jesus says:

V.1a(read) 'true vine' - has there been any other vines spoken of in the Bible? Yes. Israel, throughout the O.T. is called the vine of Jehovah. But every time the Vine is mentioned in the O.T., it shows that Israel had failed God. And in Hosea 10:1(read). It's a great lesson there for the Xtn. We can't live for self; if we're gonna bring fruit unto Jesus.

*Hosea 10:1 - Is an empty vine that brings forth fruit to himself.*  
But Jesus says 'I am the True Vine'. Unlike Israel, who failed, I am the True Vine of God. V.1b(read) My Father is the cultivator. My Father is the One who cares and this speaks of the loving care of the Father for Christ and also the people of Christ. And it's a marvelous thing that the Xtn has a Father, who really cares and is ever trying to love him and make him what he ought to be.

And that's what He is pointing out here. Now, in V. 2, He gets in to the language of horticulture because this is the setting. The disciples understood this. The pruning (the cutting of branches) that there might be production in the vineyard. So He says

*Pruning - cutting branches (physically)  
Pruning - cleansing (spirit) + painful discipline*  
V.2a(read) notice? He's talking about fruit bearing. Now He says these branches are in Me. Now, this is always the description of a Xtn. In the Bible, when this phrase is used 'in me' - that means a person that's IN Jesus, through faith, that he's joined himself to Jesus, through faith. Now some would say that what this branch is is just a false professor and not a true believer.

*"In me" - desc. of every Xtn. - 2 Cor. 5:17*

Judas has already been cast out. He's not even there. Jesus is speaking to



Xtns entirely. This is not the way to interpret this. He's talking about true believers, who have accepted the Lord and they're IN Jesus but they're not bearing fruit. Do you see any people like that today? Many, many. But the purpose of this is to bring us to fruit bearing, if we're not bearing fruit.

*"He's taken away from usefulness."*

He says 'the branch in Me' - doesn't bear fruit He taketh away. Now what does it mean 'He taketh away'? The Bible teaches that a non-productive Xtn is taken away from usefulness. He's put on the shelf. We'll talk about this more when we come to V.6. Something very serious happens to a believer who's not productive. We must never forget this. And here's where the great blessing can come. So that's what He is illustrating by horticulture.

And every - V.2b(read) now here's the positive. How beautiful and how wonderful. Listen, when we are bearing fruit unto Jesus, He is always purging us, cleansing us, taking things out of our lives, bringing us under the control of His word, giving us new understanding - so that we <sup>become</sup> ~~more~~ more and more productive. That was true in the vineyard.

As the branches produce, they were <sup>purged</sup> pruned (they were cleaned) and they produced more and more. That's true in the Xtn life. The more you let the Lord use you, the more He WILL use you. The more you'll produce. You'll become more and more productive or you become more and more unproductive and more ~~xxx~~ worthless in the Kingdom of God.

*"more & let Ld. use you, the more He use you." SA - Hopkins*

When I was teaching the young fellows in the Seminary, I told them this: I said 'you men are praying (and they were. Many of them didn't have churches and it was just amazing how they were coming to me 'please help me get a church' and in class they were praying 'oh, Lord, use me') and I said 'well

that's not really the way to pray, men. Way to pray is 'Lord, make me usable' and when you become <sup>useful</sup> ~~unable~~, He'll wear you out'. That's true. If I'm usable, listen, listen, it happens in the life of anybody - when we're usable, God uses us more and more. You take in a church, if a person is really doing something, that's the person who's always asked to do something else.

That's the way it is. He becomes more and more usable. Why? Through purging. Here's one of the beautiful things about walking with the Lord. We never get to the place that we don't need purging. God's dealing with our lives; God showing us something that's wrong and He's cutting it out. Now sometimes, this is painful; sometimes it's chastisement; sometimes it's suffering; sometimes its denial of things and sometimes people get discouraged but listen, this should encourage every believer.

*God pruned me on vacation*

I'm so glad that God still deals with my heart and still purges ME. I'm GLAD. If He ceases to do this, it means that we're not productive, that we're just put over here on the side and the Lord can't even use us and this has happened to a lot of people. Don't let this happen to you. I've seen this for years where people would not obey the Lord and they just lost everything. They were over on the side and God loved them, but no fruit.

And nothing is sadder than to be worthless - worth nothing - nothing is sadder than to be worth nothing for the Lord. That's what He's talking about here - that continuing fruit bearing.

*bread* 3(read) now He's already told them this in Ch. 13. When He says 'ye are clean' He's talking about the Born Again Xtn, who's come to Jesus, been washed in His blood and really is saved. Now He's saying to the disciples, He's saying 'your clean, you're clean through My Word'. You've already repented



and you've trusted Me. But He goes on in the next verse: though you're clean, He says, you've got to do something else..

V. 4a(read) now this is a command. Now BEING in Christ and ABIDING in Christ are NOT the same thing. We have to understand this. You see, you can BE in Christ; you can be a believer and that places you in Christ but that does NOT mean that you're abiding in Him. You're never commanded to be IN Christ anywhere in the Bible. Why? Because when you come to Christ, you're IN Him.

*Never comm. to be "In Christ,"  
But comm. "to Abide."*  
But we are specifically commanded to ABIDE in Christ. This is an imperative verb. ABIDE in Me, He says. You're clean. But it's not enough just to be a believer. ABIDE in Me and I in you. WHAT does it mean? ABIDE in the Lord? It means to have such a relationship ~~between~~ to Jesus that we draw our strength, our power, our motivation, that we live in sustained conscious fellowship with Jesus. That we never think of doing anything apart from the power of Jesus.

That we're forever drawing upon the strength of Jesus, to live for Him; to witness for Him; anything that we do - the power comes from Jesus. Now can a person be a believer and not do this? He can. You know this. Even the people who ABIDE in the Lord, at times, catch themselves NOT abiding. Sometimes, I do myself. I try to abide in the Lord all the time, but sometimes I will find myself ~~xx~~ trying to work it out and trying to furnish the power and the Lord'll bring me back - to the ABIDING.

Here's something that we just have to stay with and we have to learn. You say 'well, what REALLY helps us abide?' I tell you the best thing is for you to establish a discipline in Bible study and to get up - early - an hour before the family gets up, in your home - and feed on the Word of God and pray

If you will do this (if you're not) this will change your life. That alone will change any life. Just an early morning Bible study with prayer. That's just ONE thing. Plus obeying the Lord. As the Word is revealed and following the light that we have. And, constantly, determining never to be cut off from that abiding relationship but to keep in union, in fellowship, unbroken - which means we must confess our sins when they come. We must keep a clean slate before the Lord - so that we can have constant fellowship; constant drawing on him; constant fruitfulness and as we'll see later, the fulness of His joy in our life.

Here's the real Xtn life. Here's what it means to be filled with the HS. Just another way. When we abide in Christ, we are filled with the HS. We're drawing all of our strength from the HS. That's really what the fulness of the HS is. He's saying 'abide in Me and I will abide in you' is what He's saying. V.4b(read)that should be clear. You cut a branch off from the main trunk and that branch has no power; no possibility of producing anything.

Only death! Jesus says that you would expect a branch pulled out of its stock to produce fruit just as quickly as you can produce fruit unless you are abiding in Jesus. You say 'but if I'm in Jesus, I have some strength'. The amazing thing about the Xtn life is this, my friend: the strength that I have is dependent upon my obedience and my response to Jesus. I can say I'm a believer and be dead within myself.

Simply because I'm a believer does not give me the power of God. It comes through appropriating that power. It simply makes that power AVAILABLE to me. Some people never understand this. You've got to appropriate the power. The power is available to the Xtn. but he does not experience it unless he appropriates it by continually abiding in Jesus. And this calls for an



obedient life - a life of vigilance, of constant attention to our lives.

And Jesus is pointing this out. Now Jesus is the One who really produces the fruit. I can't produce a thing. But I bear the fruit. Isn't that beautiful? The Xtn BEARS the fruit - it's pinned on my life. I'm the brance; Jesus is the SOURCE and produces it, through me. Just like the branch doesn't produce the fruit; it comes from the Vine. But it's hung on that branch.

*(a) Jesus produces fruit  
(b) I BEAR the " fruit is hung on the branches. NO*  
Like a peach tree. Peaches are on the branches, they're not on the trunk,

but that trunk is the producer of the peaches and Jesus is the producer of all the fruit but He hangs on my life. Isn't that something? And God wants to hang on my life the beautiful fruit of Heaven so that people can see it until they can just pluck, as it were, and almost eat it because it's so real, they know it's the fruit of Jesus.

*fruit unless  
branches  
bear.*

*What kind of fruit?*  
You say 'well, what kind of fruit is He talking about?' All right - what is fruit? Fruit is the outward expression of the inward life. What is the inward fruit of the Xtn? *(a)* The fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, meekness, temperance, self-control Gal 5:22& 2

*501 - perfect  
Peach Tree*

But you see, this is talking about a greater fruit than just the inward fruit of the HS. What did Jesus produce? He produced His people. What does the vine produce? Branches. What are we to do - what's to be the ultimate fruit of our life? Another Xtn. You see, WE were saved to reproduce ourselves. What's the greatest that ever happened to you? When you came to know Jesus! How did you come to know Jesus? Somebody, in all probability, lead you to Jesus.

*often hear  
no peaches*

How is this world going to know Jesus? Xtens reproducing themselves by abiding

xy in Jesus. We're to reproduce ourselves. This is the ultimate fruit. Not enough to just say that I have the Spirit in my heart, but to have definite proof, reproduction in my life. That my life, my word, my witness is bringing others to Jesus. This is the ULTIMATE. This is the reason that we're left here. If this were not true, when we're saved and baptized, just as well go right on to Heaven.

But we're left here for a great cause. Sometimes people ask me the question: Why? Why has grandmother been left here? She's ninety, she's suffering. Why? You have a real clue right here. Grandmother may be bearing fruit unto Jesus. That's leading someone to Him. She may have a powerful witness in that hospital and in that Rest Home. She might be the only person, in a large family, who really knows Jesus and these people come to her, week after week, her lost son, her lost daughter, her lost neighbors and they see her there.

She talks about Jesus. God knows what He's doing. We'll understand all this. But this is what Jesus has in mind. The reproduction of ourselves in the lives of others. I encourage you all the time, to bring people here to hear the Bible. Really, this is a part of fruit bearing. This ought to be a joyous thing. Now this is not ALL of it, but this is a part of it. I've been introduced to any number of people this morning, who were brought here by others.

You never know what's going to happen. A young girl just accepted Christ. Because someone cared. See? All the time, there's an opportunity. And we ought to use it. We ought to USE that opportunity. This is the highest call of God: is to reproduce ourselves in the life of someone else.

V. 5a(read) the 'ye' in this sentence is plural: 'you all are the branches'.



He's not excluding anyone. He's talking about His people here. 'He that (read 'b' portion) isn't that wonderful? MUCH fruit. He spoke on A fruit; He's spoken of MORE fruit (v.2) and now He speaks of MUCH fruit. Now, everybody wants to be productive. Everybody. God made us to be productive.

*fruit more fruit much fruit*  
Did you know that? You take any person who's really happy today is the person who is productive in some areas. He's got a business; he's got a career or something -- he's really doing something with it. This is the way it is in the Xtn life. He wants all of us to be productive and more and more productive. And He says if we abide in Him, He keeps purging us, He keeps making us more and more effective, more and more fruit, more and more abiding -- and the Xtn life gets more and more exciting.

There's just nothing like the Xtn life. That's absolutely no end to it. Look now at last part of V.5(read) What does He mean 'without Me'? He's been talking about abiding. He's not talking about salvation. Without abiding in Me, out of fellowship with Me, out of that vital contact where your power and your life comes from, ye can do nothing. You believe that?

*"Without me" refers to abiding, not salvation*  
Now many people - the way they read it is: you can't do HARD things, but you can do the little things - and here's where we miss it. You know what your life is made up? It's not made up, primarily, of life and death. And a visit with the President. It's made up of LITTLE things. You're living tomorrow above this world, you're facing the pressures of the family and of the job, the discouragements of life -- it's a war, in a wilderness. Jesus says 'without this abiding in Him, ye can do nothing!' And this word 'nothing' is -- we put it together and we lose it's meaning.

When we break it down, we can see it. No Thing. We can do no thing. You say

'is this true?' That is, literally, true. Now you can engage in a lot of activity without being in communion with Jesus, but you can't do anything that will ever amount to anything. Pretty humbling, isn't it? And when we try to do anything, including run our own home, make our own living, without this relationship with Jesus, we're in trouble.

I begin the day with a schedule. I have to live by schedule. And the first thing I put on it is GTWG - Get in Touch With God. But sometimes, before I can get away from my home, the doctors will call me at the hospital or I'll be called over to Muldrow or somewhere and I will get so busy until I will go - say - until 12 or 2 - with GTWG. But I have never done that in my life that I was not frustrated and the HS reminded me that I had failed to stop and get in touch with Jesus.

*can*  
*Does your ~~gas~~ run another mile*  
*when out of gas?*  
SM You say 'well, but doesn't Jesus overlook when we get busy?' No, He doesn't.

How ~~about~~ about your car? Does your car keep running on just a few more miles when the gasoline gives out? If you're a Xtn, why doesn't it keep running on? When that gasoline give s out in your car, it STOPS. Right in the middle of Garrison Avenue. It's just as real with communion with Jesus. Unless I, in my own personal life, have taken time to invite Jesus into my life... you say 'But I invited Him in when I became a Xtn'.

I'm talking about something far deeper than this. I'm talking about this continual walk - you've got to invite Jesus into your affairs. You say, 'well, He knows He's welcome'. No, He won't come in. That's what prayer is - it's the invitation of the Lord to come in to your situation, every moment of every day and to give you the power and the wisdom and the victory to rise above your flesh and above the world and produce. And it's exciting.

Now that's an exciting life. And that's what most ~~people~~ people don't do



and you know that. They just think if they can come to church, you know, and hit and miss -- that's the reason they're so defeated. How about you? Is Jesus real? Listen, if you're a Xtn, Jesus will absolutely give you all the strength and wisdom you need for the living of these days, if you'll abide in Him.

But without Him, you can do no thing. You can't do a thing, worth while. You can engage in a lot of activity but you've not done a thing. You've not done a thing that's fruit bearing; you've not done a thing that will ~~xxx~~ bless your life - you're without power. You're trying without Him and you just can't do it.

V.6a(read) what a frightful word this is. I don't like to teach things like this. I like to teach the part that says 'the more fruit you bear, the more He prunes you and the more you keep bearing'. But ~~this~~ is His Word. He says 'if a man abide not in Me, he's cast forth, as a branch and is withered.' Still a branch. He's 'cast forth as a branch'. But ~~withered~~. And the word 'withered' means 'dried up'.

*v. 6 - "Cast forth & dried up" - loses his job & witness & more he phys. removed*

What is He talking about? He's talking about one of the most significant things that's taught in the Word of God, concerning the Xtn life. He's ~~xxx~~ saying 'if we do not bear fruit, we become useless and He actually takes away our gift, our responsibility, puts us on the shelf. Sometimes judges us. The Bible in I John 5:16 speaks of a 'death' - 'a sin unto death'. Sometimes a man can go so far that God just removes him. A believer can get so far out of the will of God, that God just removes him from the scene.

Takes him by death. Takes him to the judgment seat of Christ. Is it possible for a person to become useless and dried up and cast aside? Listen, I



preach positively. I don't try to constantly uproot people from their ground. But I've dealt with thousands of people to the sorrow of my heart. I've seen many people who have dried up and were cast aside. Useless in the Kingdom of God. And some of them, who, at one time, were tremendous<sup>ly</sup>/useful.

*XX Book of Heb. - theme is being put on shelf & left behind*  
Matter of fact, this is what the book of Hebrews is all about. We have a whole book in the Bible that was written as a warning to Xtns not to be put on the shelf; to keep on with the Lord and be productive. Be productive.

I'm thinking of people right now, who, at one time, were abiding in the Lord and were so happy and productive who, today, are absolutely nothing in the Kingdom of God. Just put on the sidelines. Put on the sideline. Because they didn't abide. *XXX*

*XX Branch - only good to bear fruit. Could not even use to fire sac in Temple*  
If we're not useful in the Kingdom, God won't tolerate it. We're saved to

be useful. And do you realize that the branch that bore the fruit was good for nothing except to bear fruit? It could not even be used as the fire for sacrifice in the Temple. The only thing that could be done with the branch, the useless branch, they were gathered up and burned. The law of the Rabbi said the wood of the branch is no good. Except to bear fruit!

*Ytn no good except to bear fruit. Math. 5:13 "Salt lost savor..."*  
The Xtn is no good except to bear fruit. This is the reason that nothing

hurts my heart more than to see a person that's heard the Gospel, came to Christ and yet, is living a life for self. Israel is a empty vine. She produces fruit unto herself (Hosea 10:1) 'fruit unto myself' - just living for self, and not for Jesus or others. How sad. And people like that build empires and I have friends who live in tremendous houses and they have things that I could never touch, but I KNOW, in my heart, that they are miserable because they are living unto themselves.

No fruit. No Fruit! But the person who dares to abide in the Lord, no matter



who he is, ~~xxxxx~~ God's continually blessing that life. And it becomes sweeter and it becomes more powerful all the time. Not less. Jesus says 'I'll keep pruning you'. 'Making you more like Myself and you'll become more and more effective, until the sundown comes and the resurrection of the body, where you'll be completely perfect.'

He says 'if a man abide not in me, he is cast forth'... who does that casting? God, in that first instance. He's the One who does it. This is Gods judgment. It's a frightful thing we're talking about. But notice the last of the verse - it's something that man does.

V.6b(read) doesn't say 'they gather men'. Talking about the branches off the vine. Says 'when a branch on a vine becomes useless and non-productive, men just take those things and throw them away and they're burned up because they are no good'. No good. And it shows how utterly useless the individual becomes. Just as useless as a branch that is just thrown aside when it ceases to be useful. When he ceases to be productive.

Now Jesus speaks this word to His disciples - not to discourage them - but to ENCourage them. Because having spoken of abiding and fruit bearing in their lives and continual fruit bearing, He, then, shows them what will result, if they abide and bear fruit. And here's one of the greatest things in the Xtn life. There are four things that He says will happen in the life of a person, who abides in Jesus and bears fruit.

① V.7 He says you'll get your prayers answered. Would you like to get your prayers answered? Now, many people pray and they don't get their prayers answered. And we have a very foolish doctrine that goes around 'well, you just pray and you'll get anything you want'. The Bible doesn't teach that. You get your prayers answered, if you're abiding and abounding. That's what

V.7 says. V.7a(read) abide in Me (if you have that constand fellowship and you're drawing your whole life from Me) My words abide in you (now, what is He talking about?) This first is that sweet, personal communion with Jesus. Don't be discouraged. Sometimes God is more mystical to some people than others. Some people have more head - they have to 'think' their way more. Don't put God in a box here. But still, by faith, there is a communion with JC that is so real, and so sweet.

Sometimes it's greater than it is at other times but that abiding in Jesus is communion 'if ye abide in Me (that's communion) but then He says something else 'and My words abide in you'. What's that? That's control. What does it mean for His word to abide in us? It's to live by His Word. And that means we ought to, every day, take it into our system. We ought to come on Sunday like this, bring our friends, but then, every day, we ought to take teh Word into our system and it ought to LIVE in us and be the controlling power of our lives.

Says 'quite a life'. It is. Say 'that makes it burdensome'. No, it doesn't. It's the most exciting life in the world. The HS gives us power to do it and the more we do it, the more excited we are and the more happy we are and the more we want to do it. I'm not talking about Law - I'm talking about God's Grace in my heart. In your heart. If ye commune with me in sweet day by day fellowship and My words abide in you (if you're controlled by My Word) ye shall what?

V.7(latter part)read. so that's the way you get your prayers answered. The Bible has not promised to answer the prayer of the disobedient but those who commune; theose who are controlled.

7. He goes on in V.8 and He give another result of this thing. V.8(read) 'herein'



means 'in this matter of abiding and producing fruit'... ~~XXX~~ He says when you bear fruit, the Father's glorified but He says something else. 'You proove, by your fruit bearing, that you're not just a professor, just a church member, that ~~xxxxxx~~ you really are a follower. You are a disciple, of Jesus'.

You bring glory to God in Heaven. See, we're left in this world to glorify God. Jesus said 'let your light so shine before men, that they may SEE your good works and glorify the Father, which is in Heaven'. God wants an unbelieving world to SEE on the branches of my life, the wonderful fruit of the Lord being ~~xxxx~~ produced. We're God's advertising agency.

*S M* The Prince of Wales came to America; he went back home. Someone said 'what did you learn in America?' He said 'I learned 'early to be, early to rise, if you expect to succeed, you've got to advertise'. What are you advertising about Jesus today and about the Father? That's the glory that comes to Him is the advertisement of the fruit of our live. Not our words - just our words - the real fruit of bringing others to Him and that Light, which the world knows came from Him; ~~xxxxxx~~ that it's not just us but that it's Jesus living IN us.

*3* Now let me just move on to V.11 (I've got to conclude this) but here is the THIRD thing and I certainly don't want to deprive you of this, in case something were to happen and you were not back next Sunday. V.11(read) what are 'these things'? What has He been talking about? Always interpret Scrip. in it's context and you'll never go wrong. 'These Thing' - abiding and bearing fruit. That's what He's been talking about, for ten verses. He says 'these things have I spoken unto you, that' -- that WHAT? 'That MY joy might remain IN you and that your joy might be full'.

Do you have joy today? Some of you do but some of you may not. Do you have

joy today? Is it possible to have joy? Not only to have joy but to have the same kind of joy that Jesus had. Why did Jesus have joy? Because He <sup>joined</sup> was ~~going~~ to the Father and He bore fruit. What makes a person joyous? It's to be USEFUL for God. I'm telling you!! Never joyous or filled with joy, until you're useful!! For the Lord!!

~~Rxxx~~ But Jesus says 'you will be filled with joy'. So many people say to me they say all the time, every week 'how do you go so long'? And I say 'well, I don't work'. 'You don't WORK?' I say 'I don't call it work because my work and my joy are one'. It's not work for me to teach this S.S. class. This is JOY. Why? Because I believe that this is God's Work and He gives me the strength and the joy that I never think of the labor in it, I'm so overwhelmed by the JOY.

ADn THIS is the reason that satan will do everything within his power to keep you from really being involved, being faithful, living for self, thinking that brings joy. It don't do any such thing! 'Scuse the English: it AIN'T so! We have the most bored, unhappy generation that's ever lived, with more leisure time, more vacations -- Why? Because it's not doing the will of God.

When we do the will of God and producing in our lives, we are happy. We can't be bored. Impossible to be depressed because we're so involved with others. Listen, how in the world can I be depressed? How can I be depressed? You say 'but you're a pastor'. Anybody who gives himself to the Lord becomes a minister in his own right and God is using that person to minister to people all the time.

It's not jsut the pastor. Anybody who dares to be used of the Lord - God



will use them and you'll find your telephone ringing and you'll find yourself going and you'll be so happy, you can hardly stand it. That's the law of God. AND many people NEVER find this out. So some people don't even want to join a ~~church~~ church 'Oh, I don't want to get involved'. And that's satan.

The happiest person in this church is the person who's right at the center of the responsibility and has more to do than he can do, to save his life, and has to go to Jesus to get enough strength and power to carry on. That's the happy person.

Dr. R.G. Lee(I was a close friend of him) he just died. He was 91. He'd been 92 in November. Dr. R.G. Lee is the most remarkable, outstanding preacher of this generation. He's the best known preacher. He had thought the Lord would let him live until Jesus came. He told me so.

End of Tape