

Introduction

1. Up till now: in the Upper Room
2. Apparently, Christ rises – to Gethsemane
3. He evidently teaches as He walks along

1. BELIEVERS HAVE UNION AND COMMUNION WITH CHRIST

- 1) "I am the true vine" – a parable here:
 - (i) a claim to Godhood – see all the "I am's"
 - (ii) life is to be had, not from Church, but Christ
- 2) This parable shows:
 - (i) the need to be grafted into Christ by faith
 - (ii) only He can supply the Spirit to us
 - (iii) by which the "fruit" is produced: Gal. 5
- 3) All believers have this relationship:
 - (i) union with Christ
 - (ii) communion with Him

APPLICATION: We are "in Christ"!

2. WE MUST EXPECT TO SEE FALSE CHRISTIANS MIXED WITH TRUE CHRISTIANS IN THE CHURCH

- 1) v.2: "every branch"
 - (i) they are said to be "in me"
 - (ii) but they have no "fruit"
 - (iii) and will at last be removed

OBSERVE: Explain "in me". Not Arminianism
- 2) We distinguish: "visible" / "invisible" church
- 3) This factor explains so much:
 - (i) one reason for decline
 - (ii) and for division

- (iii) and for error and false teaching
- APPLICATION**: Let us examine ourselves!

3. THE TEST OF A CHRISTIAN IS A HOLY LIFE

- 1) Union with Christ brings us:
 - (i) Justification – imputed righteousness
 - (ii) Adoption – "sons of God"
 - (iii) Sanctification: "new creatures"
- 2) What a Christian:
 - (i) was: "our old man"
 - (ii) is: "a new man"
 - (iii) Not: both at the same time
- 3) Why the believer is now holy:
 - (i) God the Trinity dwells in him: "Temple"
 - (ii) his/her heart bears God's image
 - (iii) sin cannot have dominion in him

APPLICATION: We are to strive after holiness!

<p>PSALM</p> <p>45: 2 – 6</p> <p>80: 7 – 11</p> <p>80: 14 – 17</p>
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4. TRUE CHRISTIANS WILL BE "PRUNED"

- 1) v.2: God "purges/prunes" the Christians
 - 2) This is how a fruit-tree is treated:
 - (i) unwanted twigs cut off: habits / words / attitudes / types of conduct / etc.
 - (ii) by the "knife": God's sharp dealings in affliction: "It was good for me..."
 - 3) A Puritan saying: "God prefers to see a hole in our clothes rather than a dirty stain"
- APPLICATION**: Do we welcome the knife?

CONCLUSION

1. Peter hears the cockere
2. Eli hears the Ark taken
3. David's child dies