

“WORD OF LIFE”

December 14, 2025

51. CHRIST – HIS PERSON (31)

T. TO THE BELIEVERS

17. The Vine

18. The Abiding Place

Suggested Hymns: # 1163 / # 233 / # 12

Additional suggested hymns: (*Just to be in You*) / (# 1110) / (# 36)

✚ “Your words were found and I ate them, And Your word became to me The gladness and joy of my heart,” (Jer. 15:16)

John 15:1 - I am the true vine, and My Father is the husbandman.

John 15:4 - Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.

John 15:5 - I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.;

✚ “Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, ...” (Eph. 4:13)

❖ Christ is the vine (John 15:1a)

➤ “My Father is the husbandman”, the source of life (John 15:1b)

- God the Father is growing the vine, Christ, and all of us are branches in Christ
- God the Father, is cultivating the vine, Christ, with its branches in Christ.
 - the branches of the vine and are good for nothing except to express the vine.
 - all that the vine is and has is expressed through the branches.
Individually,
 - the branches are the regenerated ones.Corporately,
 - they are the church, the Body of Christ.
- The branches, the believers in the Son, are for the expression of the Son with the Father.
- As branches we are filled with Christ as life,
 - for to be a branch in the vine means that Christ has become our life.

➤ “Abide in Me and I in you” (John 15:4).

- Our life and our enjoyment are to abide in the vine.
- Our destiny as branches is to remain in the vine.

➤ “Apart from Me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5)

- A branch of a vine cannot live by itself, for it will wither and die apart from the vine.
- The relationship between the branches and the vine portrays the relationship between us and the Lord.
- We are nothing, we have nothing, and we can do nothing apart from Him.
- What we are, what we have, and what we do must be in the Lord and by the Lord in us.

✚ “But he who prophesies speaks building up and encouragement and consolation to men.,” (1Cor. 14:3)

✚ The vine is everything to the branches. Whatever is in the vine is also in the branches. The vine Christ, is a great enjoyment for us, the branches. From the vine and through the vine we receive everything we need: life, nourishment, light, water. We need to abide in the vine and do everything by abiding in the vine.

✚ Christ is also the abiding place. He tells us to abide in Him. Christ is our abiding place, our dwelling place, our home, and we need to be fully settled in Him.

{Reference: The Conclusion of the New Testament Ch. 51 letter T-17 & 18}
[Preparing this “word of life” (SUPPLYING THE WORD IN MEETINGS OF MUTUALITY) was motivated by:
The Elder’s Training Book 8, Ch. 4, and The Administration of the Church and the Ministry of the Word, Ch. 11]}

Hymn 1163 Experience of Christ— Abiding in Him

1 He's the **vine** and we're the **branches**,
We should e'er **abide** in Him, [John 15:5]
And let Him **abide** within us
As the **flow of life** within. [John 7:38]

Chorus:

In the vine, in the **vine**,
In the vine, in the vine,
We would know Thee, [1Tim 2:4]
Lord, more deeply, [John 15:4]
E'er **abiding** in the **vine**.

2 As we **hear** His instant **speaking**,
He's the rich **indwelling Word**;
To **abide** we must be **faithful** [Col. 3:16]
To the speaking that we've **heard**.

3 For 'tis here we know **abiding**
In the real and deepest way; [John 15:10, 16]
If we **love** our **Lord** completely,
We would **do** whate'er He'd say.

4 Then His **love abides** within us,
And in love **abiding**, we [John 15:10, 11]
Know the **joy** of life-communion,
Full and perfect harmony.

5 Oh, how **precious** this **abiding**,
Oh, how intimate and sweet;
As the fruit of life is added, [John 15:11; 16:24]
And our **joy is made complete**.

Joh 15:7 –

If you **abide** in Me and My **words abide**
in you, ask whatever you will, and it
shall be done for you.

Joh 15:9 –

As the **Father** has **loved** Me, I also have
loved you; **abide** in My **love**.

Joh 15:10 –

If you **keep** My **commandments**, you will
abide in My **love**; even as I have kept My
Father's commandments and **abide** in
His love.

Joh 15:11 –

These things I have spoken to you that
My **joy** may be in you
and *that your joy may be made full.*

(Hymn Just to be in You – for maintaining the spirit)

Hymn 233 Praise the Lord— Remembrance of Him

1 O what a **miracle**, my **Lord**,
That **I'm in Thee** and **Thou in me**,
That Thou and I are **really one**; [John 14:20]
O what a wondrous mystery! [1Cor. 6:17]

2 For me Thy **body** Thou didst give,
That I may ever share in Thee;
For me Thy **precious blood** was **shed**,
That from my **sins** I might be **free**.
[Matt. 26:26 – 28]

3 By **resurrection** Thou didst change
Thy **form** and as the **Spirit** come;
Thou wouldst that I **be filled** with Thee
That all Thy **riches mine become**.
[1 Cor. 15:45; 2 Cor. 8:9; Eph 1:7; 2:7]

4 Now as the **symbols** we behold,
Thy **loving self** we see anew;
We **thank** Thee for Thy **heart's desire**
As all Thy travail we **review**.
[1 Cor. 11:23 – 25]

5 We **eat** the **bread** and **drink** the **wine**,
And to Thy **sweetness** we are led;
In **spirit** each **receiving** Thee, [John 6:56, 63]
Our spirits with Thyself are **fed**.

6 We long to **eat** and **drink** e'en more,
To take Thyself in spirit thus, [Eph. 3:19]
Till Thou shalt **all our being fill** [Eph. 5:18]
And **true remembrance** have from us.

Joh 6:56 –

He who **eats** My **flesh** and **drinks** My
blood abides in Me and I in him.

Joh 6:57 –

As the living **Father** has sent Me and I
live because of the **Father**, so he who
eats Me, he also shall **live** because of Me.

Joh 14:11 –

Believe Me that **I am in** the **Father** and
the **Father is in Me**;

Joh 14:20 –

In *that day* you will know that
I am in My Father,
and you **in Me**,
and **I in you**.

(Hymn 1110 – for maintaining and filling up the time)

Hymn 12 Worship of the Father— As the Source of Life

1 O **God**, Thou art the **source of life**,
Divine, and rich and free! [John 1:4; 5:26]
As **living water** flowing out
Unto eternity! [1John 2:25; 5:11, 13, 20]

2 In **love** Thou in the **Son** didst flow
Among the human race; [1John 4:9]
Thou dost as **Spirit** also flow
Within us thru Thy **grace**.

3 Though we in **sin** and **wickedness**
Went far from Thee apace, [Rom. 3:24]
Yet in the **Son** Thou didst **redeem**,
Bestowing **life** and **grace**. [Eph. 1:7; 2:7]

4 Though we have often slighted Thee,
Thy **Spirit** often **grieved**, [Eph. 4:30]
Yet Thou dost still as **Spirit** come
As **life** to be received. [John 6:63]

5 Thou as the **Spirit** in the **Son** [2Cor. 3:16]
Hast **mingled** heretofore; [Gal. 4:6]
Thou wilt thru **fellowship** anoint
And increase more and more.

6 The **love** of **God**, the **grace** of **Christ**,
The **Spirit's** flowing free, [John 14:26]
Enable us **God's** wealth to share
Thru all **eternity**. [John 16:15; 17:10]

7 The **Father**, **Son**, and **Spirit—one**,
So richly **care** for us; [1Pet. 5:7; 2Cor. 13:14]
Thy **love** with **one accord** we sing
And e'er would praise Thee thus.

1Jo 1:1 –

That which was from the **beginning**,
which we have **heard**, ... **seen** with our
eyes, which we **beheld** and our hands
handled, concerning the **Word of life**

1Jo 1:2 –

(And the **life** was manifested, and we
have seen and testify and report to you
the **eternal life**, which was with the
Father and was manifested to us);

1Jo 2:24 - ..., that which you heard
from the **beginning**, let **it abide** in you.
..., you also will **abide in** the **Son** and **in**
the **Father**.

1Jo 2:25 –

And this is the **promise**
which He Himself promised us,
the **eternal life**.

(Hymn: 36 – hymn for conclusion)