

A MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH AT CHINO HILLS

John 15:1-8

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER JHX327 - SEPTEMBER 2, 2012

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

"Just Making Sure"

THE THEME OF JOHN'S GOSPEL WOULD BE TWOFOLD:

John 1:1,14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God.**
:2 He was in the beginning with God... :14 And **the Word became flesh** and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:12

But as many as **received** Him, to them He gave the right (*the invitation, the power, the heart, the energy*) to become children of God, to those who **believe** in His name:

We recently took a Sunday to look at a few of
the things that are happening in the middle east as iran prepares to attack Israel and as Israel prepares to defend itself – the situation will affect the entire globe to some degree.

This would make it a good time for each of us to determine
whether we are not only authentic Christians but are we Christians at all, and perhaps for most of us - - are we "flourishing as we approach these days?"

John 15:1-8

"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. :2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every *branch* that **bears fruit** He prunes, that it may bear **more fruit**. :3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. :4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. :5 "I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears **much fruit**; for without Me you can do nothing. :6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw *them* into the fire, and they are burned. :7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. :8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear **much fruit**; so you will be My disciples.

**As we enter even more into the coming events of the Last Days,
the Bible warns about the increasing danger of apathy
and a loss of faith**

Luke 18:8

Howbeit, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"

1 Corinthians 16:13

Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave (be man-like), be strong.

This is our lab for the rest of our lives...

2 Corinthians 13:5

Examine yourselves as to whether you are in **the** (not a) **faith**. **Test** yourselves. Do you not **know** yourselves, *(it's obvious to those who've experienced Him)* that Jesus Christ is **in** you? - - unless indeed you are **disqualified**.

Examine peira¿zw peirazo, pi-rad'-zo;

to labor over. to endeavor, to scrutinize, to carefully look all the way around.

Test dokima¿zw dokimazo, dok-im-ad'-zo;

to pour the acid. to test. to be approved.

Disqualified ajdo/kimob adokimos, ad-ok'-ee-mos;

a castaway, unproven. Not authentic. In the sense that someone is unacceptable, unworthy, disavowed.

On Location in John 15

These words were spoken to the 11 disciples now as they are walking from the upper room, Passover meal to the garden of Gethsemane. Judas has gone out to meet up with the priests and rulers to secure the arrest of Jesus. As they must pass by the Temple Mount and the Temple itself, they would have seen the awesome golden vines that had become part of the Temple decoration. It symbolized Israel's relationship to God and every Jew knew it.

"Just Making Sure"

1.) You belong to Him

vv. 1-3

"I am **the true vine**, and My Father is **the vinedresser**. :2 **Every branch** in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. :3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

1a.) Reconfirm the relationship

v. 1-2

"I am **the true vine**, and My Father is **the vinedresser**. :2 **Every branch** (in) Me

Make Sure There are Three in this Relationship

2 Corinthians 5:19

for **God** (the vinedresser) was (in) **Christ** (the true vine)
reconciling the **world** (the branches) to Himself,

MAKING SURE YOU BELONG TO HIM

1b.) Reconfirm the progress

v. 2b

:2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

Fruitfulness develops into more fruitfulness which develops into...

:5 "I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

Much Fruitfulness

:8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

develops into a sustained fruitfulness which develops, prepares you for the day of harvest...



takes away

grk 142 airo (ah'-ee-ro);

to remove, to lift up, to take up or away from where it has gone or been; figuratively, to raise up or to suspend. Also translated: to carry, or hold up

On a Winery, the vinedresser

(the owner/operator)

will survey the crop in the field to determine each vine and its branches. If he sees a branch that should be producing but isn't he will lift up the branch and secure it. Then he will take water and begin to wash the branch with the water by hand which stimulates new growth and encourages the branch to be revitalized in the vine.

The Vinedresser – The Father

will encourage a branch that has become unfruitful, to have it wrapped or tied back close and against the vine and its strength.

James 4:8

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

Verse 2b

Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

□ Prunes grk 2508 kathairo (kath-ah'-ee-ro);
to wash, to cleanse, to cut back; to scale back.

In Any Beautiful Garden, There's Pruning Going On
There Are Seasons For Pruning

What is Beautiful Now – Began With Painful Pruning

Pruning Can Be in The Form of Suffering

Psalm 119:67

Before I was **afflicted** (pruned) *I went astray*, but now I keep Your word.

Psalm 119:71

It is good for me that I have been **afflicted**, *that I may learn* Your statutes.

Every Real Christian Must Get Pruned

Acts 14:21-22

And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, 22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations **(PRUNINGS)** enter the kingdom of God."

Romans 5:3-4

And not only that, but we also **glory in tribulations**, (PRUNING) knowing that **tribulation produces** perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope.

Romans 12:12

rejoicing in hope, patient in **tribulation** (PRUNING), continuing steadfastly in prayer;

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in **all our tribulation**, (PRUNING), that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

MAKING SURE YOU BELONG TO HIM

1c.) Practice the reality

v. 3

You are **already** clean
because of the word which I have spoken to you.



already

grk 2235 ede (ay'-day);

at a definite point in time. To have been done, it's happened.



Clean

grk 2513 katharos (kath-ar-os');

To be made literally or figuratively pure. To be judged having no impurity

All of this is true... "Because of the Word"
And what does His Word say ?

Romans 3:22

This righteousness from God comes through faith
In Jesus Christ to all who believe.

??? are you In Jesus Christ (not into) but (in) - can you say that your life is hidden in Christ – that in every way - it is no longer you living, its Jesus Christ living through you in this world ???

Take This Test;

To Abide Means to Dwell / Live / Exist

Which Means This; - (#1) Communion with God.

(#2) Fellowship with the saints. (#3) perpetual in prayer, (#4) active in the Bible = these are guarantees that your life will produce.

"Just Making Sure"

2.) He belongs to you

vv. 4-5

2a.) Jesus is our source

v. 4

:4 **Abide** in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it **Abides** in the vine, neither can you, unless you **Abide** in Me.

If He Belongs to You
There is a Continuous Dynamic to Your Relationship with Him.

A Hungering, A Longing, A Pursuing After God

MAKING SURE HE BELONGS TO YOU

2b.) Jesus is our power

v. 5a

:5 “I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who **Abides** in Me, and I in him, bears *much fruit*;

2c.) Jesus is our producer

v. 5b

for without Me you can do nothing.

"I am the vine," – you're not the vine

This means that I AM your source of all power, strength,
and resource which flows from ME, The Vine

you are the branches. – I'm not a branch

“This means that you cannot have any power, strength,
and resource because branches aren't designed for that.
Branches are what **hold the fruit that flows from the vine**
– that's ME” says Jesus

*As (Abiding Believers) we can Rejoice at all times
Because we can WATCH the fruit come forth*

STOP TRYING TO BE THE VINE

“Everything Depends on Me – Everybody Needs Me”

"Just Making Sure"

3.) Together we are useful

vv. 6-8

JUST MAKING SURE WE'RE USEFUL

3a.) Am I living life for Him ?

v. 6

:6 If anyone **does not abide** in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.

As a branch, I am good for nothing... else

Its very interesting to know that vine-branches aren't used to make furniture. They're not used to build a house or fences. You wouldn't use vine-branches for anything else – not even for a fire because they really don't burn, they are almost consumed in an instant.

Branches are good for only one thing and one thing only.

To Hold Out The Fruit That Originates in The Vine.

Galatians 5:22-25

But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, :23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. :24 And those *who are Christ's* have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. :25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Philippians 1:6

be confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

JUST MAKING SURE WE'RE USEFUL

3b.) Am I experiencing Him ?

v. 7

:7 If **you abide in Me**, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

by abiding, his “heart-issues” become mine. There is a priority-transfer, a deposit of God made in my heart.

The key to answered prayer is our abiding in Him.

JUST MAKING SURE WE'RE USEFUL

3c.) Am I a true disciple ?

v. 8

By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit;
so you will be My disciples.

Matthew 7:13-23

“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. :14 Because narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. :15 “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. :16 You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? :17 Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. :18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor *can* a bad tree bear good fruit. :19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. :20 Therefore by their fruits you will know them. :21 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. :22 Many will say to Me in that day, “Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ :23 And then I will declare to them, “I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!”

Luke 12:32

“Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

John 17:21-23

that they all may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. :22 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: :23 I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

The End