



Pruning from the Vinedresser



PART 3

THE CHRIST TREE
A Study of John 15:1-11

Pastor Matt Jones



I. SETTING OF THE LORD'S METAPHOR

- A. The symbol and context of John 15,
- B. The sobering question before us
- C. The solution to this question

II. THE SECURITY OF LIFE IN THE MESSIAH

- A. There is security for those who abide in the vine.
(Jn. 5:24, 6:39-40, 10:25-29; Rom. 8:29-30, 38-39, 11:29; Eph. 1:13-14)
- B. There is no security for the fruitless, because they have chosen to abide outside the vine and hence will be pruned.
- C. There is false security that many have, which Jesus and His gospel aims to expose.

Evidences that neither prove nor disprove one's faith:

1. Visible Morality (Matt. 19:16-21; 23:27)
2. Intellectual Knowledge (Rom. 1:21; 2:17ff)
3. Religious Involvement (Matt. 7:21-24, 25:1-10)
 - 4. Conviction of Sin (Acts 24:25)
 - 5. Sincere Feelings (Matt 23)
6. Time of Decision (Luke 8:13-14)

III. SKEPTICISMS AND LESSONS OF THE MESSAGE

- A. What about my friend who...?
- B. What about me, how do I know...?
- C. What about God...?

REMINDER / INVITE TO YOU:

Please join us for our annual

Christmas Eve Service

(this Sunday, the 24th, at 9AM and 11AM)

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

Reflective Questions for You and Your Small Group

1. The Bible speaks a lot about the assurance of salvation. When you became a Christian, how did you know you became one? (Rather, how did you know GOD saved you?)
2. Discuss the fine line between a healthy self examination of one's faith (2 Cor.13:5) and the traps of performing works for God's approval or giving in to critical doubt. When is doubt bad and when is it a tool of God for training in righteousness?
3. Was there ever a time in your Christian life where you felt more fruitful than you do today? Share.
4. How can your Community Group be in prayer for you this Christmas week? How are you seeking to share the gospel this holiday season? How is the gospel blessing you this Advent season?