

# Eisenhower Church of Christ

## I Am the True Vine

Isaiah used the vine as a type of Israel, planted and tended by the Almighty as the husbandman (Isaiah 5:1). Israel was not the true vine. Christ is the true vine (John 15:1). In John 14 the Lord had just said to the disciples, *“Arise, let us go hence.”* He had just eaten the last supper with the apostles. He said that He would not drink of the fruit of the vine again on this earth. Likely on the table from which they had just risen was the fruit of the vine. And now He says, *“I am the true vine.”*

In John 15:1-8, we find the following outstanding lessons about the vine and the branches. **(1)** That morality alone cannot save. **(2)** That there is but one true church. **(3)** That we should get in Christ, stay in Christ, and stay out of everything else or be lost.

Jesus said, *“Apart from me you can do nothing.”* Morality alone cannot save. Men can be morally good apart from Christ. Yet apart from Christ they can do nothing. There is no spiritual life apart from Christ. Cornelius was a moral man apart from Christ but he was unsaved (Acts 11:14). If morality alone can save then Jesus died in vain. If a man can be saved by his own goodness then Jesus died for no purpose at all. Why did He die if they could be saved by their own goodness? Let the moral man remember these words, *“Apart from me you can do nothing.”* There is no spiritual life apart from Jesus Christ, the true vine.

Thus we see that one must get into Christ to be saved. Paul says that we are baptized into Christ. That makes baptism necessary to salvation in Christ Jesus. You cannot do anything apart from Christ but you can't get into Christ unless you are baptized (Galatians 3:27).

This “true vine” is the true church. The vine is the spiritual body of Christ. The church is His body (Colossians 1:18). There is one body (Ephesians 4:4). There is but one body (I Cor. 12:20). Paul does not say “churches” but “the church.” If one desires to be united with Christ let him obey the gospel and thus be added to the “one body”, the church, the “true vine.”

The objector says that Christ is the true vine and all the denominations are branches. Christ said, “I am the vine and “ye” are the branches. “He” that abideth in me. Note the use of the personal pronouns. Do men refer to churches as “he” and “ye”? Is that the way they talk where you live? Is that the way your preacher talks? Would you say about the Baptist Church—he is a large church? The use of the personal pronoun shows that Christ was talking to His disciples and not to “churches”. Individuals are the branches and not organizations. But just suppose for a minute that the branches are churches. In what branch are you? You say that I am in the Baptist branch. Yes, but wait, Christ said abide in “Me”. You should not abide in a branch but in the vine. If you are in a branch you ought to get out of the branch and get in the vine. *“If a man abides not in me, he is cast forth as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.”* Abide in the vine or be burned. Do not abide in a branch. You cannot abide in a branch. A branch is a disciple or a Christian. Individuals are the branches and not denominations.

Did God set denominations in the vine? If so, which ones did He put in? If God set denominations in the vine it is strange that He never said anything about it. If He did mention them, please tell where?

For one to claim that denominations are the branches is an apology for something they know that is not mentioned in the Bible and a rank perversion of John 15. Denominations came into existence hundreds of years after Christ. They are of human origin and no one has a Bible right to belong to any of them.

The “true vine,” the church, was established by Christ and all Christians are members of it (John 3:5). The church is God's house. God's house is His family (I Timothy 3:15). God has no children outside of His family. From this chapter we learn that we must bear fruit to please God. *“Herein is my Father glorified that ye bear much fruit; and so shall ye be my disciples”*. You cannot bear fruit apart from the vine. To bear fruit you must be in the vine. How does one get in the vine? He must believe (Mark 16:15-16). He must repent (Acts 2:38). He must be baptized (Galatians 3:27). These

steps put one into Christ. Yet it is not enough to get into Christ. In Christ the branch must bear good fruit. The fruitless branch (disciple) will be lost. He will be cast forth and burned (John 15:6). Our duty in regard to this is clear. We must get in Christ, stay in Christ, and stay out of everything else.

Can a man be saved and go to Heaven and stay out of the vine? No, for Christ says, "*Apart from Me you can do nothing.*" It is Christ or nothing. It is the true vine or no vine. It is the true church or no church. Christ here teaches that you cannot be saved out of the church and you cannot be saved unless you stay in the church.

—G.K. Wallace

## Prayer Requests

**Tee Wood**, mother-in-law of Shona Wood, has been diagnosed with breast cancer. She had a lumpectomy a few weeks ago. Tee's family is asking that we keep her in our daily prayers.

## Concerns Update

**Lee Roy Bell** is doing better. His internal bleeding stopped on Saturday, June 13th; and has received two units of blood while in CCU. Lee Roy was scheduled to be moved into a room Wednesday, June 17th.

**Caleista Millican** was expected to be released from MCH, Wednesday, June 17th, to go back to Parks Methodist. Keep her in your prayers.

**Connie Lowe** did not get to see her doctor this visit to MD Anderson. She received two more injections. Connie will know more after having tests run on her next trip to Houston.

**Hazel Cavanaugh** went for her six month checkup Monday, June 15th in Lubbock.

**Glenna McCarty** is doing very well. She is scheduled for eight more sessions of therapy. Glenna is still having blood pressure problems.

**Blair Saldana** will be scheduled to have the malignant kidney removed since the cancer seems to be contained. Blair may not have to have chemo. He is Connie Lowe's son-in-law.

Jack Wright said that his brother **TJ Wright** is not responding to treatment as he should. He is not doing too well at this time. Keep Timothy Joe in your prayers.

## Prayer List

Cody & Kala Ausbrook; Lee Roy Bell; Susan Bosse; Mack Bradford; Charles Browning; Jane Burroughs; Neva Carrigan; Diane Carver; Hazel Cavanaugh; Steve Chavez; LaDonna Chism; Ruby Davis; Dayton Dennard; Jewell Bettles-Dennard; Brian Drake; James Drake; Nancy Fisher; John Ford; Hattie Gilmore; Anna Groves; Winford Hambright; Linda Horton; Lon & Lana Howard; Bobby Hunt; Susan Lee; Tracy Leeth; Katie Limer; Connie Lowe; Elder & Glenna McCarty; Flossie Montgomery; Patsy Montgomery; Juan & Estella Morolez; Avery Ojado; Judy Phillips; Evan Rector; Elvia Ruckman; Carmen Settle; Brenda Simmons; Charles Simmons; Nancy Slife; Marilyn Upshaw; Bré elle Watts; Lisa Wells; T.J. Wright; Toya Zambelli

## Eisenhower's Shut-ins

Mildred Bell; Neva Carrigan; Roberta Hamil; Winford Hambright; Janice Laminack; Dusty and Kathy Marshall, Elder and Glenna McCarty; Caleista Millican; Janelle Shirley, Wilma Squire and Lester Whisenant.

Remember to keep all of our sick, shut-ins, the bereaved, our military personnel and the spiritually weak in your daily prayers.

## Youth

### Bible Quiz Question...

In what city would you find the Sheep Gate, the Fish Gate and the Tower of Ovens?

### Last Week's Bible Quiz answer...

The occasion was the cutting off the ear of the high priest's servant, Malchus, by Simon Peter. (John 8:10-11).

## FYI

Denny Wilson is hosting a weekly radio program called "**Christian Take Aim**" at 6:30 pm Tuesdays; [www.thegospelradionetwork.org](http://www.thegospelradionetwork.org). Feel free to please pick up a business card on the youth table in the foyer.

Watch "*In Search of the Lord's Way*" every Sunday morning at 7:30 am on CBS, channel 7.

Also, tune in to hear a message from the Brown Trail Church of Christ on the "**Speaking the Truth in Love**" program every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. on ABC.

## Events

A "**Ladies Night Devotional**" is scheduled for Friday, July 31st in the Annex. There will be several speakers from our congregation. Also, an "overnight lock in" is planned after for all those who want to brave the floor. More details and the time will follow.

## Thank You

Thank you for all the support and prayers for our family. The cards and visits were greatly appreciated. Thank you also for the lunch that was prepared for us. You are a blessing to our family.

Winford, Janice & family

Dear Ladies of Eisenhower Church of Christ,

Thank you for your thoughtfulness in providing delicious food for our family and friends prior to the service for our dear mother, LaJean Hambright.

We are so grateful for your helping hands that lifted us up in our time of grief. Please know we will pay your kindness forward.

God Bless and Thank you,  
Carolyn McCallum, & family

## Office News

We need to replenish our meat fund. If you would like to make a donation, please make your check payable to the church and specify "**Meat Fund**". This fund is to help purchase the meat for special occasions such as funerals, etc. Any amount will be greatly appreciated as always.

## Thought to Remember

To handle yourself use your head; to handle others use your heart.

**June 21st, 2015**

Announcements  
 Song Leader  
 Sermon  
 Opening Prayer  
 Scripture  
 Second Prayer  
 Closing Prayer  
 Lord's Supper

**A.M.**

Jeff Wesson  
 Denny Wilson  
 Allen Weakland  
 Jeff Wesson  
 Richard Siler  
 Bill Tolbert  
 Craig Wesson

**P.M.**

Jeff Wesson  
 Craig Wesson  
 Allen Weakland  
 Jeff Wesson  
 Trinidad Wood  
 Jacob Carson  
 Rudy Ochoa

West...

Larry May  
 Tony Marrs  
 Clint Titlow

Tom Sorenson  
 Communion  
 (In Library)

East...

Scot Straw  
 John Carroll  
 Isaiah Armendarez

**Other Responsibilities:** *Elder* Jeff Wesson 561-5302 *Deacon:* Rudy Ochoa 214-0398 *Pulpit:* Chris Butler 362-7486 *Table:* Tom Sorenson 631-2518 *Song Leaders:* Denny Wilson 325-340-2291 *Recording Duties:* Cody Wesson 561-5302 *Contributions:* Cody Wesson 561-5302

**Sunday AM"**

*"Hearts Wide Open"*  
*(II Corinthians 6:11-13)*

**Sunday PM**

*"Value of a Soul"*  
*(Mark 8:36-37)*

**Our Records**

*Bible Class...*91  
*Morning Worship...*131  
*Evening Worship...*79  
*Wednesday...*106  
*Contribution...*\$5,533.00



