

According To The Gospel of John

Larry's selection for our scripture reading Sunday is rich with words that lift up our Lord and Savior. As His time draws near to go to the cross, He seeks to comfort His disciples saying, *"Let not your heart be troubled... (John 14:1)*. Interesting that Jesus would be thinking about His disciples when He is moments from horrible pain and suffering. He wants them to believe in Him and be assured that He is *"the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6)* and through faith they can know *"that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:3)*

Jesus, the one true "vine" reveals to us, the "branches" of our need to depend on Him, exhorted us saying, *"He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit" (John 15:5)*. This abiding that we are called to embrace in our lives is revealed back to Jesus through a willingness to keep His commands (John 15:10). For a matter of fact, our theme this year which directs us to love one another is one of His most important commands (John 15:12). We love only when we abide in Him.

If I were one of His disciples (apostles) at this time in His ministry, I would not have yet grasped what was about to unfold. Jesus seeks to comfort them with assuring words about the "Spirit of truth" (John 16:13) who would come to them only after His death, guiding them in "all truth," both past and future. That very Spirit has provided for us the Word of God which we read today: the very truth all mankind needs in order to abide in Jesus through love.

Our last chapter shows us a time when our Savior prayed for His followers. The time had come for the Father to "glorify Your Son" (John 17:1) through the cross. With His time on earth coming to a close, He prays for the proclamation of the new kingdom which would begin soon on Pentecost. His desire was and is that all believers "may be one" (John 17:21) so that "the world may know that You sent Me" (John 17:23).

We are blessed to have the written word of God before us, revealing to us the beautiful portrait of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the will of those who wish to be His followers. May you abide in Him today and every day to the glory of Him who gave all so we could have eternal life.

Dennis