

A DEVOTIONAL SERIES ON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

CONTINUE

John 8:31 “(Jesus said) If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

Jesus said, “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing” (John 15:4-5) Jesus’ words in John 8 and John 15 speak of the relationship you have with Him and His word. With these words, Jesus says that continuing to have faith in Him, worship Him and continuing in His word brings about freedom (John 8) from sin and produces fruits of faith (John 15.)

“Abiding in Jesus is having faith that He is the Messiah, the one sent by God to save you from condemnation because of your sins. It is also a continuing relationship with Him. Abiding in Him is having an inseparable relationship with Him such as a grape cluster is connected to a branch, which is connected to a vine. If you sever the cluster from either the branch or the vine the grapes cannot mature and be harvested for fruit or juice. Separated from Jesus means there is no spiritual life in you, no forgiveness of your sins and there will be no heaven come the last day.

Satan tells untruths such as once saved, always saved. He wants you to believe if you are an official member of a church or live a good moral life you will go to heaven. The truth is, Jesus says, it is a continuing faith and trust in Jesus alone that saves. “If you abide in Me and I in you. . .,” “If you remain continuously in His word. . .” then you have a relationship with Him that has God’s promise of everlasting life in heaven.

There are 31 different Bible verses that are about “abiding in Christ.” There are 8 verses that speak about Jesus’ dwelling or living in you. The context of these verses is either those who abide in Christ or have Christ living in them who receive God’s forgiveness of their sins or have the promise of eternal life or both. Your

relationship with Jesus, He abiding in you and you in Him is the key to being set free from your slavery to sin and freed from hell to reside in heaven.

Prayer: You, dear Jesus, through Your life, death and resurrection have overcome Satan, sin and eternal death. Send Your Spirit into my heart to give me faith to accept your freeing work in my behalf. Lead me daily through Your word and the Sacraments to receive my victory which You have won for me. Amen.

Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;
Curb those who by deceit or sword
Would wrest the kingdom from You Son
And bring to naught all He has done

Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow'r make known,
For You are Lord of lords alone;
Defend Your holy Church that we
May sing Your praise eternally.

O Comforter of priceless worth,
Send peace and unity on earth;
Support us in our final strife
And lead us out of death to life.
(LSB 655)