



JACKSON CHURCH OF CHRIST  
*Family Matters*

JULY 24, 2022

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Greg Dowdy  
Charlie Kluesner  
Doug Lester  
Brian Mitchell  
Todd Newman  
Kenny Simmons  
Scott Spraggs  
Trey Walls

**Lessons for Today**

**AM: Brian Mitchell**  
"I Am the True Vine"  
John 15:1-8

**PM: Brian Mitchell**  
"I Am the Bread of Life"  
John 6:35-51

**I Am the True Vine**

In OT times Israel was regarded as God's true vine. God used the nation of Israel to accomplish His purposes in the world. They were His vine and He thus cared for them, pruned them, and cut off all unfruitful branches making them more capable of producing fruit (Is.5:1-7). God had done all that He could have possibly done to enable Israel to bear much fruit and yet she produced less and less.

Thus, as a result of her unfruitfulness, God ceased blessing and protecting Israel and she was eventually taken into captivity. Israel was a vivid illustration of the tragic consequences of unfruitfulness which leads us to our lesson in this article. Since Israel as a nation ceased to bear fruit, God needed a new vine through which those connected could receive His blessings. That vine, as we see in the gospel of John, is Jesus Christ (Jn.15:1).

**What does it mean to be a part of the vine?** Perhaps a better question to ask is; what does it mean to be a part of Christ, since He is the vine? It means that we are a part of His body, which is the church (Eph.1:22-23). One can not be connected to the vine (Christ) without being a part of His body. Only those who have put on Christ in baptism are a part of His church and thus connected to the vine (Gal.3:26-27). One other question of significance is: what is the significance of being a part of the vine? In other words; why do men need to be in Christ? God's means of accounting men righteous is identifying them with His Son, who is righteous. Therefore it is only by being in Christ, where all spiritual blessings are (Eph.1:3), that men can be righteous in the sight of God.

**What are the obligations of those who are a part of the vine?** In short those who a part of the vine must bear much fruit (Jn.15:5, 8). But what does it mean to bear fruit? "Fruit bearing includes every activity of the Christian. It includes, but is not limited to, acts of love and Christian charity. It embraces every act which Christ if present would do, but being absent, must depend on His followers to do for Him" (Guy Woods). The Bible discusses a number of activities which are identified with the Christian's bearing of fruit. They include, but are not limited to, soul winning (Rom.1:13), living lives of holiness (Rom.6:20-22), singing praises to God (Heb.13:15), and engaging in general good works (Col.1:10).

**What happens when those in the vine don't fulfill their obligations?** Jesus reveals that there are some branches that are simply unfruitful and thus are removed from the vine and cast out to wither (Jn.15:2, 6). This, of course, poses an insurmountable obstacle for those religious groups which teach the impossibility of apostasy or once saved always saved. These fruitless branches are Christians, as Jesus shows, "they are in Him." The problem with those who are cast out is not that they were never Christians, as some suppose, the problem is that they bore not fruit as Christians and thus served no useful purpose.

Jesus is the true vine and those in Him have life and thus have the responsibility to bear much fruit in the name of Him who gave them life. God wants Christians to bear much fruit and it is in fact through doing so that we glorify God (Jn.15:8). The key to bearing fruit is abiding in Jesus. The key to abiding in Jesus is obeying His words. The key to obeying His words is loving Him. The key to loving Him is knowing Him. Thus the more we know and love Jesus, the more obedient we will be to Him. That only leaves one question;

**Are You a Part of the Vine?**

**Brian Mitchell**

**Worship Times**

Sunday

Bible Class: 9:00 am  
AM Worship: 10:00 am  
PM Worship: 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7:00 pm

**For the Record**

Sunday Class: 91  
Sunday AM: 136  
Sunday PM: 66  
Wednesday PM: 57  
Contribution: \$4271  
Budget: \$4464

**Think on This...**

You hem me in,  
behind and before,  
and lay your hand  
upon me.  
**Psalm 139:5**

**Celebrating This Week...**

Birthdays

Sue Kellett: 07.24  
Tori Bryan: 07.25  
Virginia Lowery: 07.25  
Mike Green: 07.26  
Isabelle Long: 07.27  
Sondra Swiney: 07.27  
Kay Simmons: 07.30  
Dylan Seabaugh: 07.30

Anniversaries

Ryan & Mikayla Foltz:  
07.25  
Leon & Debra Dexter:  
07.28

## Serving This Week

**Announcements:** Larry Dowdy

### SUNDAY

**Greeters:** Larry & Margaret Dowdy

**Ushers:** Shawn Myers/Trenton Bryan

**A/V:** Mat Kee

**Lead Singing:** Phil Swiney

**Head Lord's Table:** David Selvig

**Scripture:** Sid Naramore

**Prayers:**

**AM:** Phil Singleton/Steve Simmons

**PM:** Scott Watson/John McLain

### WEDNESDAY

**Lead Singing:** Todd Newman

**Lesson:** Aaron Cozort

"Those Who Hunger & Thirst for Righteousness"

**Prayer:** Mat Kee

**Elder Chair:** Allen Hedge

**Communion to Shut-Ins:** Scott Spraggs

**Worship Organizer:** Scott Spraggs

## Daily Bible Reading

**July 24:** Song of Solomon 1-4

**July 25:** Song of Solomon 5-8

**July 26:** Isaiah 1-3

**July 27:** Isaiah 4-6

**July 28:** Isaiah 7-9

**July 29:** Isaiah 10-12

**July 30:** Isaiah 13-15

## Continuing Prayer Needs

**\*\*Contact the office with updates\*\***

Marian Allmon

Ginger Avery

Tony Boyd

Mark Blaylock

Thelma Brown

Bill Dillman

Kelly & Trudy Garland

Juanita Hedge

Tim Hosey

Diana Ivanovich

Betty Jones

Sid Naramore

Carolyn Neese

Wanda Raper

Lena Schweain

Susan Seabaugh

Earl Silvers

Steve Simmons

Lee Simpson

Sarah Singleton

Fred Stoffregen

Kay Strobel

Don Tawney

Mike Turnbow

Lucky Vander

Chris Weaver

## Youth Corner

- **July 25:** **SYS** at Dexter. Bus will leave at 5:45pm
- **August 6:** **Youth Devo** at 6pm at Mitchells'
- **August 8:** **SYS** at Shady Acres
- **August 15:** **SYS** at Bernie

## Upcoming Area Events

- **August 7-10:** **Pacific Gospel Meeting** with **Phil Sanders**—flyer posted
- **August 21-24:** **Cape County Gospel Meeting** with **Ron Daly**—flyer posted
- **September 10:** **Arnold Ladies Day** with **Julie Orr**—flyer posted

## Remember in Prayer

- **Terri Bryan** will have shoulder replacement on Friday, July 29. Please pray for a successful procedure and smooth recovery.
- **Lena Schweain** is continuing to recover from Covid and although **Iverne Glass** was exposed when visiting Lena, she has tested negative and is out of quarantine.
- **Glenn & Maggie Colley**, family of Deanna Finch are both in hospice care at separate facilities and the family appreciates our prayers.
- Prayers are needed for the families, campers, and counselors who were at BYC last week. There was a tragic accident at the camp on Friday that took the life of a grandfather of two campers. The family needs prayers as they grieve the unexpected loss (Taylor and Carter families), but there were a couple of older teen campers and several counselors that witnessed and responded to the accident. They are all struggling in various ways due to the trauma they saw and experienced.

## News & Notes

- Elders and Deacons will meet on **Sunday, August 7** at 4pm in the fellowship room. All elders and deacons should make every effort to be at this meeting.
- All ladies are invited to gather for a **baby shower** honoring **Kayli Naramore** on **August 14** at 2pm in the fellowship room. Kayli & Cody are expecting a baby girl in September and are registered at Target and Amazon.
- **Thursday School** registration is open for 3- & 4-year-olds and we still have a few openings available. Please share this opportunity with any young families who may be interested in enrolling their child. Flyers are available on the entryway table to share or post.
- Our next pick-up date for **Paragould Children's Homes** is **September 12**. Donated items should be placed in the labeled collection bins in the room across from the ladies' rest room. *This week's item: HE Laundry Detergent.*

## Paragould Children's Homes School Supplies

It is time, once again, to gather school supplies for the Paragould Children's Homes. Please bring requested items and place in the marked box outside the office **Sunday, September 11**. Lists for items needed are posted and available on the entryway table.

## Elder Request

We would like to kindly ask you to not enter the auditorium on Sunday mornings until the second bell has rung as the influx of people prior to the end of class is disruptive to the teacher and class members. We also ask everyone to take advantage of the interval between Sunday school and worship to use the restroom, get a drink, and take care of these needs for your children as well. We realize families with young children may need to go out during our worship period due to necessity. Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

## Daily Email Group

We are setting up an email group to send encouraging messages, Bible verses, quotes, and Christian jokes, etc. The email is intended for us to get to know each other better and become more interactive as a whole. Periodic questionnaires will be sent throughout the year to share additional information with the group. You may join at any time by emailing [310mustardseed@gmail.com](mailto:310mustardseed@gmail.com) or contacting Ashlee Garland at 573.944.9089. Daily emails begin August 1 (Mon-Fri).