# FRUIT BEARING BRANCHES

## JOHN 15:1-3

1. **THE LORD MAKES A STATEMENT OF HIS RELATION TO SUCH BRANCHES: HE IS *THE TRUE VINE* (15:1)**
   1. Vines Exist As The Life Source Of Whatever Tributaries Are Produced
   2. But The Lord Adds A Very Important Distinguishing Qualification: “True”  
      1. Vines Were Not Only Common In That Agricultural Society, But Had Particular Significance For The Nation Israel  
         1. As A Fruitless Vine, Israel Was A Disappointment To Her Owner
         2. As A Fruitless Vine, Israel Was Worthy To Be Burned With Fire
      2. One Of The Most Common O.T. Designations For The Messiah Was That Of “Branch”
2. **THE HUSBANDMAN PERFORMS A MINISTRY THAT IS DEPENDENT ON THE NATURE OF THE BRANCHES (15:2)**
   1. Fruit Bearing Branches Are Pruned
   2. Fruitless Branches Are Taken Away
3. **THE INSTRUMENT THE HUSBANDMAN USES TO DO HIS WORK OF PRUNING (15:3)**
   1. Our Common Tendency is To Identify The Instrument As Any Painful Experience We Go Through
   2. It Is The Scripture That Does The Pruning