

FRUIT BEARING BRANCHES

JOHN 15:1-3

I. THE LORD MAKES A STATEMENT OF HIS RELATION TO SUCH BRANCHES: HE IS *THE TRUE VINE* (15:1)

- A. Vines Exist As The Life Source Of Whatever Tributaries Are Produced
- B. 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
 - a. As A Fruitless Vine, Israel Was A Disappointment To Her Owner
 - b. 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”

II. THE HUSBANDMAN PERFORMS A MINISTRY THAT IS DEPENDENT ON THE NATURE OF THE BRANCHES (15:2)

- A. Fruit Bearing Branches Are Pruned
- B. Fruitless Branches Are Taken Away

III. THE INSTRUMENT THE HUSBANDMAN USES TO DO HIS WORK OF PRUNING (15:3)

- A. Our Common Tendency is To Identify The Instrument As Any Painful Experience We Go Through
- B. It Is The Scripture That Does The Pruning