

ANALYSIS:

1. How important is it to “abide in Christ” according to this chapter?

2. What is said about “joy” in this chapter? _____

3. Why does Jesus distinguish calling his disciples “friends” and no longer “servants”? _____

4. Why does Jesus say the world would hate his disciples?

5. What effect did Jesus' words and deeds have on unregenerate men?

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

Let's look at the words “abide in me [Christ]” since those who do so bear “fruit” (vs 2, 4), “more fruit (v 2) and “much fruit” (vs 5, 8). The Father purges [frees from impurity] His children so they may be more fruitful (v 2). Jesus said to His disciples, “Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you” (v 3). Again Jesus said, “If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you,” you will have answered prayer (v 7). And again Jesus said, “If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love” (v 10). Our abiding in Christ is determined by our love for and acceptance of the words of scripture; for it is a lamp, a light, a sword, a hammer (Ps 119:105; Eph 6:17; Jer 23:29). Have you read your Bible today carefully, prayerfully and obediently?

What purifying effect has the word of God had in your life today? You recognized something that ought to be confessed, forsaken, cut out or changed to please your Lord? Or you saw something you should do?

Good! What are you doing about it right now, so that you actually obey our Lord and have fullness of joy?

HELP:

1. Very! Abiding in Christ is necessary: to bear fruit (vs 2, 4), more fruit (v 2), and much fruit (vs 5, 8); to avoid being cast forth, withered, cast into the fire, burned (v 6); to pray and receive (v 7); to experience Christ's love (v 10); to have fullness of joy (v 11).

2. Jesus taught that by abiding in Him and keeping His commandments, His joy would remain in his disciples and their joy would be full (v 11).

3. Jesus does not call his disciples servants because servants do not know what their lord does, but he calls them friends because He shows them all things (v 15).

4. If the world hates you, know that it hated me first; and the world will hate you because you are not part of them, and because I have chosen you out of the world (vs 18-19).

5. Jesus, by words and deeds, convicted them of sin, he exposed their sin, they hated Him and His Father without a cause (vs 22-25).