



13TH SEPTEMBER 2020



TODAY:

Series: The Great I Am

Study 8: I Am the True Vine – John 15:1-17

Speaker: Pastor Tony

For viewing log on to the Church Website - ftgbc.org.au

Sunday 20th September

Series: Significant Hymns and Songs

Study 1: Will You Anchor Hold – Hebrews 6:13-20

Speaker: Pastor Tony



*'I am the vine
you are the branches.
He who abides in Me,
and I in him bears much fruit;
for without Me
you can do nothing.*

John 15:5

Message From Tony

Abiding As Branches

The image of a branch gaining all its sustenance and strength from the parent vine is a beautiful description of man's total dependence upon God, without whom we can do nothing, for in Him we live and move and have our being.

When Jesus Christ, the Son of God walked the earth, He demonstrated this truth, for He lived His entire life in utter dependence upon the Father. I can do nothing of Myself, He said, I speak only that which I have seen from my Father (John 5:30). Though Jesus Christ was fully God, He lived His life in His humanity. Jesus lived as God intended man to live, in utter dependence upon God.

Christ walked in spirit and truth and only said and did those things that He heard from the Father. He demonstrated how man should live. He lived His life so that the life of God could be lived through the Son of Man in His humanity.

Although Jesus Christ was fully God, He drew all His strength from His Father in heaven, demonstrating how you and I should live our lives as God's children, drawing all our strength from our Lord Jesus Christ. For without Him we can do nothing.

We are to walk in spirit and truth and to do only those things that we hear from Christ our Saviour, so that His life may be lived in us and through us.

Until we humbly confess that in and of ourselves we can do nothing, we will foolishly and unsuccessfully attempt to produce good fruit in our own strength. Let us meditate on this vital principle that Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. We are to abide in Him and allow His Spirit to live His life through us.

Amazing Grace

*Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I'm found
Was blind, but now I see*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my Fears relieved
How precious did That grace appear
The hour I first believed*

*Through many dangers toils and snares
We have already come
'Twas grace hath brought us safe thus far
And grace will lead us home*

*When we've been there ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun
We'll have no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun*

*Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I'm found
Was blind, but now I see*

Songwriter: John Newton



An easy puzzle to keep your brain working this week.



"I AM" THE VINE

Discover the hidden words.



C	V	L	A	P	T	T	N	S	U	N	X	W	J	T
J	E	S	U	S	S	W	N	I	C	P	V	P	O	S
B	V	W	E	E	V	O	N	E	N	L	P	A	B	A
R	Q	L	N	D	C	Q	X	A	V	E	K	R	E	C
A	V	I	V	C	V	U	V	P	U	E	Q	A	D	R
N	U	M	I	F	R	I	E	N	D	S	L	B	I	I
C	S	D	F	M	X	V	U	J	B	M	J	L	E	F
H	F	L	P	R	O	S	P	E	R	D	F	E	N	I
E	I	R	H	T	F	R	U	I	T	X	R	S	C	C
S	T	N	U	U	W	D	W	G	B	H	N	E	E	E
U	Q	H	E	I	A	U	O	N	T	J	P	I	N	X
H	U	J	R	T	T	D	H	F	T	X	S	E	F	E
Z	B	K	S	F	Z	V	C	N	D	K	V	M	D	K
U	C	E	U	D	M	U	N	I	E	E	K	A	G	J
G	A	R	D	E	N	E	R	M	S	N	N	Z	S	W

Word Bank

PROSPER
FRUIT
OBEDIENCE
FRIENDS

SACRIFICE
PARABLES
JESUS
BRANCHES

FRUIT
VINES
GARDENER
GOD



AMAZING FACTS

Written by Doug Batchelor

Hampton Court Grapevine

You might be surprised to learn that the world's biggest grapevine is not located in France, Spain Italy or any other Mediterranean country where grapes typically thrive. It is in England!

The Hampton Court grapevine was planted in 1768 by Lancelot Brown. Some 120 years later it was measured and found to be four feet around the base. Today this grapevine is 13 feet (almost 4 metres) around the base and the longest branch extends 120 feet. Indeed, the Hampton Court vine is the largest and oldest grapevine in the world. During it's 250 year life time it ahs outlived six glass green houses that were each built and then dismantled around it.

Throughout the year the vine is carefully pruned, fertilized and thinned by specialists trained in viticulture. Because of this tender care this single grapevine once produced 383 kilograms of delicious black dessert grapes in one year.

Jesus compares himself with the grapevine.

'I am the true vine, and my father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.' John 15:1

Source:

Amazing Facts

Volume 2

www.afbookstore.com

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Bible Study, Old Testament Characters – David

Loving Your Enemies – 1 Samuel 24:1-22

“I love my enemy. I love God. It’s my next door neighbour I can’t stand!” “He hurt me so much that I don’t think I’ll ever be able to forgive him.” “Of course I’ve dealt with my anger and resentment. I just can’t stand to be in the room with him.”

It’s sometimes difficult to love those who have hurt us deeply. Saul slandered and falsely accused David. He hated and feared him because God had anointed David to become king in his place (1 Samuel 16:1-13). In order to protect his power and position, Saul kept trying to kill David. In this chapter we observe David’s response

What person, or type of person, do you find difficult to love? Explain

Read 1 Samuel 24:1-22. In what ways did Saul have an overwhelming military advantage over David (vv. 2; 22:2; 23:13)?

In spite of this military advantage, how does David suddenly have the opportunity to kill Saul (vv. 3-4)?

How do his men interpret the circumstances (v. 4)?

If you were in David’s position, why might you have been tempted to follow the counsel of your men?

Why do you think David is ‘conscience stricken’ after cutting off the corner of Saul’s robe (vv. 5-6, 10)?

How can viewing our enemy from God’s perspective enable us to have a change of heart like David?

How does David’s proper understanding of himself and of God’s judgement set him free to love his enemy (vv. 8-15)?

How can a similar understanding help us love others more freely?

Describe the powerful effect David’s attitude and actions had on Saul (vv. 16-21)

Identify one or two people who might be considered your enemies (for example, someone who irritates you, dislikes you or has hurt you). What practical steps can you take to serve as a channel of God’s love to the person(s) you have identified

Questions taken from ‘A Life Guide Bible Study Book’ by Peter Scazzero

New Teaching Series

We are starting a new series next week titled 'Significant Hymns and Songs'. To help with this, I'm inviting you to let me know of a favourite or significant Hymn/Christian Song for you, but also, why. As such, I'm looking forward to hearing from you over the next couple of weeks by phone or email. Tony



Birthdays:

18th Sept: Lena S

Remember to notify editor of any other celebrations in your family.

Zoom Home Groups

Two new Zoom home groups have commenced. One of these is on a Wednesday evening starting at 8pm and the other is on Thursday afternoon at 2pm.

Both groups are using the Bible Study material which is currently being made available in the weekly news sheet. Please contact Pastor Tony if you would like to be involved in either of these groups.



Pastoral Availability:

Tony will be working from his home office but can be contacted on 0406686715.

Please note: Under current restrictions Tony can only meet personally with people under special circumstances. If you have a need to meet, please contact him.



To continue worshipping the Lord with tithes and offerings you can:

Do a bank transfer into the Church bank account. Details are:

ANZ -Ferntree Gully Baptist Church

BSB: 013287

Account: 296710027

Cheques written to Ferntree Gully Baptist Church may be sent to:
Andrew Ullrich 15 Chedworth Crt Kilsyth Sth 3137



Financial Report August:

Income – \$6,720.00; YTD \$16,138.00;
YTD weekly average \$1,793.11

Expenditure – \$7,931.47; YTD \$15,254.09;
YTD weekly average \$1,694.90



Treasurer Report

Budgeted average weekly offering - \$2,125; Budget required \$19,185.00

As such for 2020/21 we are currently minus \$3,047.00 or minus \$380.88 per week against budget.

Term Deposit \$31,364.29, Cheque Account \$34,337.75 (This includes the \$15,000 given by the ATO)

Capital Expenditure: Church ceiling works \$19,155.40 & lighting \$1,496.00. This includes GST which we will claim back.

(These figures are final costs but are not included in the Income and Expenditure shown above.)

On my daily walk:

Look who I found
on the bike path.



I Need Thee Every Hour

This hymn's author, Annie Hawks, joined a church whose pastor was the hymn writer Robert Lowry. He recognized Annie's talent for writing and challenged her to use it to write hymns. He told her that if she wrote the words, he would write the music.

*I need Thee every hour, Most gracious Lord;
No tender voice like Thine Can peace afford.*

*I need Thee, oh, I need Thee; Every hour I need Thee;
Oh, bless me now, my Savior! I come to Thee.*

*I need Thee every hour, Stay Thou near by;
Temptations lose their power When Thou art nigh.*

*I need Thee every hour, In joy or pain;
Come quickly and abide, Or life is vain.*

*I need Thee every hour, Teach me Thy will;
And Thy rich promises In me fulfill.*

*I need Thee every hour, Most Holy One;
Oh, make me Thine indeed, Thou blessed Son.*

Christianity in Iran.

Research by GAMAAN a secular research group in the Netherlands found Christians in Iran are approaching one million (1.55 of population)

However, leaders of Christian agencies warn of problems:

Iranians are attracted to Christianity because they think it is part and parcel of the free, secular, and democratic West. (Almost 4 in 10 Iranians drink alcohol, which is forbidden in Islam.)

“Christian” can imply anything from a “vague attraction” to a “genuine love of Christ and a growing knowledge of the Scriptures.”

House churches can lack governing structure resulting in false teaching, financial irregularity, and pastoral dictatorship. There is a risk that church growth is outpacing discipleship, exasperated by the fact that many leaders are now in prison, or have been forced out of the country.

Mike Ansari, president of Heart4Iran, says, ‘the church is highly marginalized, scattered, and segmented.’ He believes personal evangelism is most effective but risky so satellite television has become important.

Source: Christianity Today

Praise and prayer for Giovanni;
Praise that he is back home after
falling and cracking a bone in his
shoulder. But prayer for him and
Angela as he recovers.

Pray for our Uni and school
students; Johanna, Bethany,
Simone, Andrew and Ashley
as they complete assignments and
Prepare for end of the year
assessments. All are doing course work on-line.

Pray for Mirjam Engele who being a primary school teacher is doing most
teaching on-line which can be very tiring.

Pray for our church elders and pastor as they commence preparing a
COVID safe plan and looking at ways as a church, we can transition into
meeting together in some form.

Pray for Tony, that he may be encouraged in his role and have wisdom
and sensitivity as he seeks to support church members. Pray for Lynne as
she supports him.



Pray for staff and volunteers of Reach Beyond at
both Kilsyth and Kununurra as they continue to
process and transmit programs into the Asia area
in over 30 different languages.

Pray for producers of the programs, most of whom
are living in areas hugely affect by Covid-19

Especially keep the team at Kununurra in prayer as temperatures and
humidity in the area become extreme.

Keep Dale Stagg, CEO of Reach Beyond Australia, in prayer as he guides
the organisation through this challenging time.

Prayer also for Adrian Olney (National Relations Manager) having
surgery (his third) on Wednesday 16th to remove a cancerous tumour.

**Prayer is the core of the day.
Take prayer out and the day would collapse . . .**

Amy Carmichael

Pray for the MISSIONS & WORKERS
we take an interest in including...

Andrea Rothweiler (Wycliffe PNG)

Ange Bakhtiari FTG Nth Primary

School chaplaincy

Andy and Cathie Staunton

(GIA Cambodia)

Mukti Wings of Hope

Reach Beyond

Helga



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Elders:

Rainer Lupp - 9758 4195 (Secretary)

Andreas Ullrich - 9762 7115 (Treasurer)

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WITHOUT GOD
our week would be
SINDAY
MOURNDAY
TEARSDAY
WASTEDAY
THIRSTDAY
FIGHTDAY
SHATTERDAY
7 days without God
makes ONE WEEK