


**Keep On Keeping On:
Instruction from
Jesus Christ on
How to Make Habitual
the Practice of Righteousness**

Scripture Reading:

John 15: 1-6

INTRODUCTION and REVIEW

The NT grace-believer's position in Christ is his/her new and real identity



A part of the new identity is that we are clothed with Christ's righteousness - II Cor 5:21



Our purpose on Earth is to put into PRACTICE our positional righteousness by:

Yielding ourselves to God as ones that are alive out from among dead-ones - Rom 6:13b

INTRODUCTION and REVIEW

Then, yield your bodily members as weapons of righteousness:

- Your mind, set on things above - Col 3:1-3
- Your hands – Eph 4:28, I Thess 4:11
- Your feet – Rom 10:15, Eph 6:15
- Your eyes – Phil 2:4, 3:20
- Your mouth – James 1:26; cf 3:8-10
- Your whole body - I Cor 6:19-20

INTRODUCTION

Now, we
come to the
need of
consistency:

- **How do we practice righteous activities with consistency?**
 - The answer is found in John 15, which explains how God has enabled us to habitually produce righteousness

**The
Participants
of
Consistently
Righteous
Activities
(John 15:1,5)**

- ◇ **Jesus Christ the TRUE Vine** - vs 1, cf Jer 2:20-21
 - ◇ The source of Life for fruit-bearing branches
- ◇ **God the Father, the husbandman** (farmer) who prunes the branches - vs 1
- ◇ **NT grace-believers** the branches - vs 5

The Process of Making Righteous Activity More Consistent

“Fruit” NT usage = production of:

- Plants
- Humans
- Believers - cf Jn 12:24, Rom 1:13
- Good works that come from good character
- Supernatural production of good character – Gal 5:22-23

The Process of Making Righteous Activity More Consistent

Non-productive branches are removed

- Jn 15:2
- I Cor 11:29-30
- I Cor 5:3-5
- Heb 6:7-8, 12:6

The Process of Making Righteous Activity More Consistent

Productive branches are cleaned

- Jn 15:2, I Jn 1:9
- Productive branches are instructed to “ABIDE” in the Vine
 - 121x in NT, 40x in John’s gospel, 15x in Jn 15
- KJV translated 58x “abide”
- Same Greek word translated with other words = “continue” 11x, “remain” 16x, “dwell” 15x

The Process of Making Righteous Activity More Consistent

Meaning of the word “ABIDE”

- To feel at ease; to feel at home
 - Where to abide? “In Christ”, “In Him”
 - How to “abide”:
 - Count true (reckon) what God counts true
 - Dead to sin, alive unto God - Rom 6:11
 - Seek those things above – Col 3:1
 - Frame your mind on those things – Col 3:2

CONCLUSION

◆ James 1:22 –

◆ “...but be DOERS of the Word and not hearers only, deceiving (misreckoning) your own selves”