

February 5th Worship

Prayer and meditation ----- Presider

Thank you Father for adopting us and for loving us as Your children. Wherever we are, in our worship to You, help us to meet You today, and may this day be a holy day. Just as it is written in John 4:24, “God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth,” may we worship You, our living God, spirit-filled and genuinely from our hearts. In Jesus’ name we pray.

Hymn ----- **563** Jesus Loves Me, This I Know
28 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
288 Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!

Prayer ----- Parent

Scripture reading ----- John 15:5

**Whoever abides in me and I in him,
he it is that bears much fruit,
for apart from me you can do nothing.**

Sharing the Word of God ----- Parent

“Abide in Me”

The words from John 15 are very powerful. They are powerful because they are the very words of Christ. However, they are also very powerful because he speaks them before taking the path to his own death. Jesus speaks these words to his disciples before going to the cross.

Imagine what you would say knowing that you were going to your own death? It would be something extremely important! You wouldn’t just choose any words, but words that are meant to last and words that are meant to impact.

In John 15:5 Jesus speaks: *apart from me, you can do nothing.* WOW! In just one sentence, Jesus speaks the truth of the Gospel. *Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.* Literally NOTHING! We have been created by God to live a life in and with him. He is our God. We are his people. AMEN.

And so, he calls us to always abide in him. How amazing is that calling? God is inviting you and I to have life in him because apart from him, we can do nothing. This isn’t a call to make us afraid, this is a loving call for us to experience life and to experience it to the fullest.

We must then ask the question, “*What does it mean to abide in Jesus?*” We don’t have a box labelled “Jesus” that just physically step into. So what does this mean? From verses 1-11, Jesus gives us three key aspects of what it means to abide in him.

First, we read in verse 9 the following: *As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.* How do we abide in Jesus? **We abide in Jesus as we abide in His love for us.** The same love between the Father and the Son has been poured out upon us. This love is one that is everlasting and unconditional. We rest in this truth. But how do we do it? This is one of the most difficult things for many Christians to work out. We know this truth and have heard it many times. So how do we abide in His love? We abide in His love by simply accepting it. God's love is given as a gift. We never can earn it. We can never purchase it. It is given through His grace. This can be so difficult for us because we live in a consumeristic world where nothing is given for free. But this is the amazing Gospel message.

For those having a difficult time accepting this truth, we must look to infants and babies. For those of us that are parents, we know that our little children can literally do nothing without us. They will die. They also can't do much for us. They cannot pay the bills. They cannot cook. They cannot do many things! However, we love them so deeply. They are so precious to us. Why? They are created from us. Inherently, they have value because they are our children. If we love our children this much, how much more is God's love for you and me? He is our Heavenly Father. We need to abide in this everyday of our lives. This truth sets us free from the many stressors and fears we carry in our lives!

Second, in verse 7 we read: *If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.* **We abide in Jesus as we abide in his Word.** For us, this means that we abide in the very Word of God, the Bible. We cannot stress enough how much we must abide in his words every day of our lives. It is the very spiritual food that we need. But we are not simply focusing on the act or practice. We abide in the Word of God because we are listening to the very person of Jesus. His words are the very heart of our relationship with him. It is the heart of our communication. However, we must also realize that the Word has power. The Word is living and active. This Word is the very sword of truth that guides us in all of our discernment and wisdom. The Word is the voice that powerfully created the universe and everything in it.

Lastly, in verse 10 we read: *If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.* What is the most important commandment along with loving God? It is to love and serve others. **We abide in Jesus as we walk in obedience by serving and loving others.** Loving and serving others goes hand in hand with loving God. This does not require a lot of thinking or planning. We must "just do it." But, loving and serving others isn't simply for those that extend it back to us. This command is for those that are difficult to love and serve. That is where we experience the very heart and work of Christ.

Even though we may not be physically together on this snowy and cold day, I pray that you and your family would rediscover the power of the Gospel truth. The light of life has come and the darkness will never overcome it. And in light of John 15, may you and your family abide in Jesus every day of your lives. For apart from Jesus, we can do nothing.

Questions:

1. How is God calling you to abide in Jesus' love today and accept what he has freely given?
2. What can you do within your family to abide in Jesus' words on a daily basis?
3. Are there any particular ways you can love and serve others more in your community and even within your own family?

Prayer ----- Together

Offering ----- Together
Please hand in this week's offering together with next week's offering.

Praise & Worship ----- God Is So Good

The Lord's Prayer ----- Together

The passion of the LORD ALMIGHTY
will make this happen
[2Kings 19:31]

