

In the Knowledge of HIM

Getting Reacquainted with Jesus (Ephesians 1:17)

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Jesus the Vine

John 15:1-5

Jesus teaches His disciples that He is the sole Source of all their life and power. Connected to Him, they will have energy, vitality, and spiritual strength. Disconnected from Him, they will be able to do nothing of substance or significance. Perhaps the most important aspect of our existence as branches “in Him” is the fact that our connection to the Vine puts us in the hands of the “_____”!

His work is PROACTIVE!

The good gardener’s first order of business is to get the ground ready for growth before anything is even planted. He p_____ with FORESIGHT (I Peter 1:20), p_____ the FURROWS (Matthew 1), and p_____ the FERTILIZER (John 1:23).

His work is PROTECTIVE!

The good gardener’s work involves shielding the fruit-bearing branches from all p_____ and p_____. II Corinthians 1:3-11 reminds us that our heavenly husbandman is diligent to guard those branches that abide in the Vine against every threat to their health and fruitfulness.

His work is PRODUCTIVE!

The good gardener “purges” or prunes the branches so that they can yield the greatest possible harvest. The process is not always p_____, but the result is always p_____ (Hebrews 12:11). The unfruitful branches will be “taken away” from the vine altogether. The root word is the same in the Greek as “purge.” This means that either you can be cut off completely and DIE or become a spiritual amputee and SURVIVE (Matthew 18:8-9).