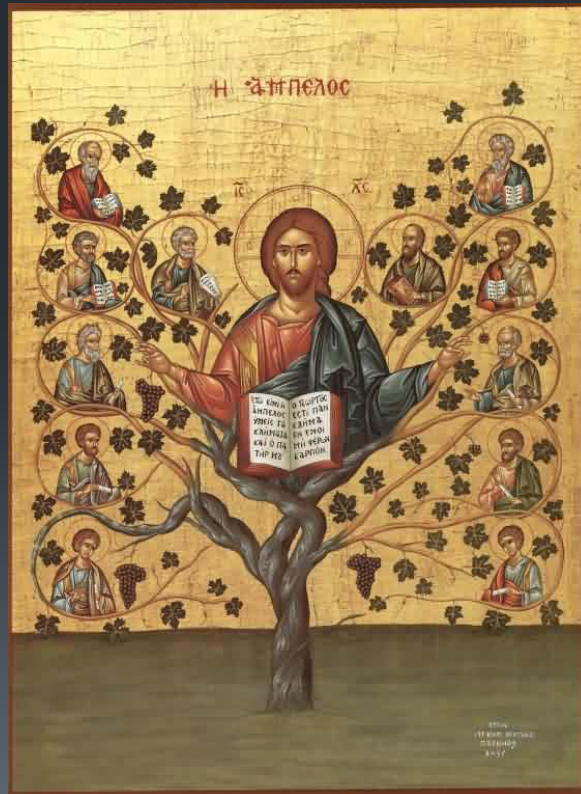


# Christ the Branch of Righteousness





I. The theological meanings

II. Spiritual applications



# The house of Israel was the Lord's vine <sup>(1)</sup>

- We see this clearly in [Isaiah 5: 1-7](#):
- “Now let me sing to my Well-beloved A song of my Beloved regarding His vineyard: My Well-beloved has a vineyard On a very fruitful hill. He dug it up and cleared out its stones, And planted it with the choicest vine. He built a tower in its midst, And also made a winepress in it; So He expected it to bring forth good grapes, But it brought forth wild grapes. And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, Judge, please, between Me and My vineyard. What more could have been done to My vineyard That I have not done in it? Why then, when I expected it to bring forth good grapes, Did it bring forth wild grapes?

# The house of Israel was the Lord's vine <sup>(1)</sup>

- “And now, please let Me tell you what I will do to My vineyard: I will take away its hedge, and it shall be burned; And break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will lay it waste; It shall not be pruned or dug, But there shall come up briers and thorns. I will also command the clouds That they rain no rain on it. ”For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, And the men of Judah are His pleasant plant. He looked for justice, but behold, oppression; For righteousness, but behold, a cry for help”

# The house of Israel was the Lord's vine <sup>(2)</sup>

- The same meaning is also conveyed in **Jeremiah 2:21**:  
“Yet I had planted you a noble vine, a seed of highest quality. How then have you turned before Me Into the degenerate plant of an alien vine”



# The house of Israel was the Lord's vine <sup>(3)</sup>

- The Lord mentions this in the parable of the wicked vinedressers:

“Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a **vineyard** and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country” **Matthew 21:33**



# The Branch (1)

- “In that day the Branch of the LORD shall be beautiful and glorious; And the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and appealing For those of Israel who have escaped” **Isaiah 4:2**
- “There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots” **Isaiah 11:1**



# The Branch <sup>(2)</sup>

- “In those days and at that time I will cause to grow up to David A Branch of righteousness; He shall execute judgment and righteousness in the earth” **Jeremiah 33:15**
- “Hear, O Joshua, the high priest, You and your companions who sit before you, For they are a wondrous sign; For behold, I am bringing forth My Servant the **BRANCH**” **Zechariah 3:8**



# The Branch <sup>(3)</sup>

- “Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH!

From His place He shall branch out,  
And He shall build the temple of the LORD;  
Yes, He shall build the temple of  
the LORD.

He shall bear the glory,  
And shall sit and rule on His throne;  
So He shall be a priest on His throne,  
And the counsel of peace shall be  
between them both.” **Zechariah 6:12 -13**



# He is the One brought back by the spies from the Promised Land

- “Then they came to the Valley of Eshcol, and there cut down a branch with one cluster of grapes; they carried it between two of them on a pole” **Numbers 13:23**



# Then the Branch became the True Vine

- “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser”

John 15:1

- “I am the vine, you are the branches” John 15:5



# Then branches were cut off and others were grafted in <sup>(1)</sup>

- “You will say then, ‘Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in.’ Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith”

Romans 11:19-20



# Pressing the True Vine will pour to us His Blood!

- “For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed” **John 6:55**
- “Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins’” **Matthew 26:27-28**

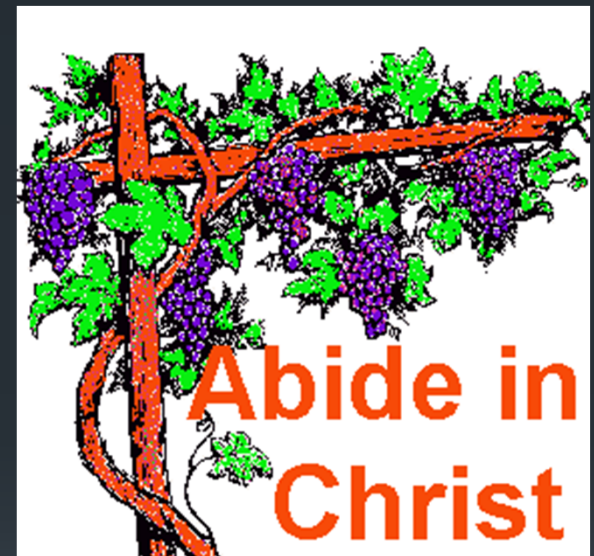


# 1. Being fruitful is to be in Him <sup>(1)</sup>

- “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

- The danger of falling in the deception  
of carrying leaves only or bearing  
faked fruits



# 1. Being fruitful is to be in Him <sup>(2)</sup>

- The leaves without fruits is the life of outward worship without the virtues expected.
- The fake fruits are the virtues that man can live by on his own, but do not have the aroma of the Lord Christ or have a taste when tested





# 1. Being fruitful is to be in Him <sup>(3)</sup>

1. True fruits glorify God; fake ones boost the ego
2. True virtues come together and compliment one another (e.g., Abraham, Joseph, etc.)
3. True virtues cannot be taken away from those who acquire them (e.g., joy and peace in the midst of tribulations)





# 1. Being fruitful is to be in Him <sup>(4)</sup>

- 4. True virtues are balanced and seasoned by wisdom  
(e.g., between meekness and firmness)
- 5. True virtues reach beyond any human standards  
(e.g., loving enemies, giving of one's necessities, etc.)
- 6. True fruits come from a branch connected to the roots
- 7. True fruits never cease to grow and multiply and  
nourish others

# 1. Being fruitful is to be in Him <sup>(5)</sup>

8. “Grape vines don’t groan while producing grapes -- giving fruit comes naturally from healthy vines rooted in good soil. If you don’t enjoy giving, move to a more natural vineyard” *Unknown*



## 2. To abide in Him means... (1)

1. To repent always: “Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance”  
**Matthew 3:8**  
- “Whoever abides in Him does not sin” **1 John 3:6**

2. To partake of Him: “He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him”  
**John 6:56**

**THE EUCHARIST**

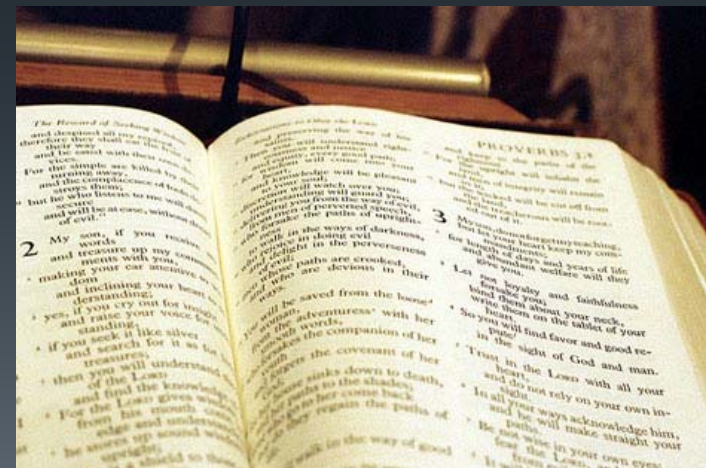


## 2. To abide in Him means... (2)

3. To live by His word: “Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him” 1 John 3:24

4. To live as He lived: “He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked”

1 John 2:6



## 2. To abide in Him means... (3)

5. To love one another: “If we love one another, God abides in us”  
1 John 4:12
6. To receive His Spirit: “By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit” 1 John 4:13



### 3. A branch that is not in Him will wither away <sup>(1)</sup>

- “If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned” **John 15:6**
- “For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either” **Romans 11:21**

