

Lesson VII.

JESUS THE TRUE VINE

May 13, 1917

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—Jesus and his disciples had risen from the supper table (John 14 : 31 ; see last lesson, ch. 13. 3-15). It is not certain where the rest of the conversation took place,—whether in the upper room, the courtyard of the house, a court of the temple or on the way to Gethsemane.

GOLDEN TEXT—I am the vine, ye are the branches.—John 15 : 5.

*Memorize John 1 : 12, 13. **THE LESSON PASSAGE**—John 15 : 1-13. Study John 15 : 1-16.

1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away : and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine ; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

5 I am the vine, ye are the branches : He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit : for without me ye can do nothing.

6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered ; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

Revised Version—1 it ; 2 cleanseth ; 3 bear more ; 4 Already ye ; 5 because of the ; 6 so neither can ; 7 beareth much ; 8 apart from me ; 9 they ; 10 ask whatsoever ye will ; 11 and so ; 12 Even as ; 13 I also have ; 14 abide ye ; 15 may be in ; 16 may be fulfilled ; 17 even as.

7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit ; so shall ye be my disciples.

9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you : continue ye in my love.

10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love ; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS

M.—Jesus the true vine, John 15 : 1-8.

T.—Jesus the true vine, John 15 : 9-16.

W.—The vine out of Egypt, Ps. 80 : 8-17.

Th.—The unprofitable vine, Isa. 5 : 1-7.

F.—"From me is thy fruit found," Hos. 14 : 1-8.

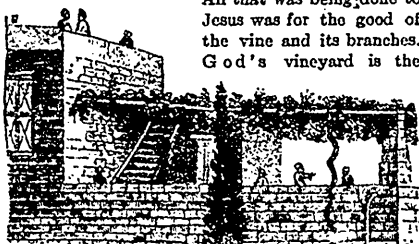
S.—Life in Christ, Gal. 2 : 14-21.

S.—Abiding in Christ, Phil. 1 : 19-30.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. UNION WITH CHRIST.—1. I am the true vine. The Jewish people are often, in the Old Testament likened to a vine (see Ps. 80 : 8 ; Isa. 5 : 7 ; Jer. 2 : 21). But they were not the "true" vine. They did not bring forth the fruit which was expected of them by doing the will of God. But in Christ there was the fruit of perfect obedience to God's will ; hence he is the true vine. **My Father is the husbandman.**

All that was being done to Jesus was for the good of the vine and its branches. God's vineyard is the



A VINE CLAD TERRACE

church. All his wisdom and love and power are pledged to protect and nourish it.

2, 3. There are two kinds of branches. The one beareth not fruit. It receives support and strength from the vine, and produces in return only leaves. These branches the husbandman taketh away ; be-

cause they are useless—just wood, and the wood of the vine is worthless. The other beareth fruit, rich clusters of luscious grapes. Every branch of this kind the husbandman purgeth, that is, prunes—takes away everything that prevents its bearing as much fruit as possible. **Now ye are clean ;** "in a condition to bear fruit." Through the word. The teaching of Jesus cleansed his disciples' hearts, for example, Peter's from self-confidence, and James' and John's from ambition.

4-6. **Abide in me.** The disciples must see that they cleave to their Lord in faith and by prayer. **I in you.** They must, too, allow Christ to dwell in them, filling them with life and strength. **Except ye abide in me.** Apart from Christ we can do nothing that will glorify God. **Ye are the branches.** It is the business of a branch to bear fruit, otherwise it is useless. **He that abideth, etc. ;** in close, living union. **Bringeth forth much fruit.** Keep close to Christ—let Christ dwell in you, and the result is certain, a life that yields abundant glory to God. **If a man abide not in me, etc.** Six words describe the fate of the fruitless branch, "taketh away" (v. 2), cast forth, is withered, gather, and cast . . . into the fire, burned, v. 6. Together they express certain and complete destruction, as of something altogether worthless. The wood of the vine is so useless that, as Tristram says, it will not even make a tent peg.

II. OBEDIENCE TO CHRIST.—7-10. **If . . . my words abide in you ;** pondered over and obeyed.

* For the recitation of the Scripture Memory Passages in either Part of List IV., a Red Seal is added to the Diploma in Colors given for List III., and a Gold Seal for the verses of the other Part. For Form of Application, apply to Rev. J. C. Robertson, our General Secretary for Sabbath Schools, Confederation Life Building, Toronto.

† Courtesy of I. B. R. Association, Mr. J. S. C. Bailey, Hon. Secretary, 56 Old Bailey, London, England.