

SERMON NOTES

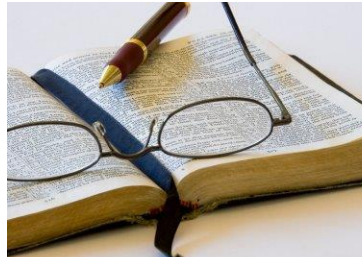
**Series: Building Upon the Firm
Foundation of God's Word**

**Title: By Understanding the Meaning
of a Passage**

Text: John 15:1-17

Topic: How to Do a Good Bible Study

Teacher: Pastor Barry Time: 7/31/22



"If anyone doesn't remain in me, he's like a branch that's thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned." John 15:6

John 15:6 is often misinterpreted to mean, "If you don't bring people to Christ, God is going to throw you away."

The first rule of interpretation ...

1. Consider the **historical context**.

You ask the question, **Who** is being spoken to and **why** are they being told this?

In John 13, 14, 15, and 16 we have one **extended conversation** that happens on the **same night**. So to understand chapter 15, and get the historical context you've got to look at the verses/chapters **before** and **after** that passage.

These chapters are Jesus' **farewell** instructions, the **most important** things he wants us to understand.

A common custom in that day was, after entering a home, servants would **wash the feet** of guests.

When Jesus washed the disciple's feet He is serving them like the **lowliest servant**.

"When he finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. 'Do you understand what I've done for you?' Jesus asked them. 'You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that's what I am. I am the Lord. I am your teacher. But now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, so also you should wash the feet of one another, one another's feet. I have set the example that you should do as I have done for you.'" (12-15)

In chapter 13, Jesus emphasizes the importance of **loving/serving** each other. In chapter 14, Jesus makes four promises.

1. I'm going to heaven to **prepare** a place for you;
2. You can **talk to me** anytime;
3. I'm going to put my **Holy Spirit** in you;
4. I'm going to give you the gift of **peace**.

In chapter 15, Jesus talks about bearing fruit by staying connected.

Then in verse 11 He says, *"I've told you this so that my **joy** may be in you and that **your joy** may be complete."*

That's the context vs 6. Who's he talking to? His **Disciples**. Why is he saying it? To give them **encouragement**, that their joy may be full.

Is it likely that in the middle of that Jesus would say, "If you guys don't bear fruit you're going to burn in hell? NO!

The **context** makes that interpretation **nonsense**.