

# "SECRETS OF THE ABUNDANT LIFE" (3)

S. R. 1Jhn 2:1-11

## The Secret Of Abiding Is Obeying

### INTRODUCTION

- A. In our examination of the "Secrets Of The Abundant Life," (Jhn 10:10) we have seen thus far; the secret to living is bearing fruit, for in the very act of bearing fruit we experience the joy, happiness, assurance and peace which constitutes the "abundant life". The secret to bearing fruit is abiding, for as we "abide in Christ" (Jhn 15:5) He provides the strength which enables us to bear fruit Phil 4:13
- B. But what is the secret to abiding in Christ? How can we be sure to have access to the strength that Jesus provides?
- C. Again we turn to Jesus' discourse on the vine and the branches as recorded in John 15

### DISCUSSION:

#### I. THE SECRET OF ABIDING

- A. The secret of abiding is obeying - obeying commands of Jesus
  1. By keeping His commands we abide in His love Jhn 15:10
  2. By keeping His commands we will be His friends Jhn 15:14
  3. Restated by His beloved disciple, John 1Jhn 3:24
- B. The principle of abiding through obeying.
  1. Governed Jesus' relationship with His Father while on earth
    - a. Kept His Father's commandments, and so continued to abide in His love Jhn 15:10
    - b. Passages which illustrate Jesus' desire to keep His Father's will Jhn 4:34; 5:30; 6:38
  2. These should govern our conduct as Christians as well
    - a. We abide in Christ by keeping His commandments 1Jhn 2:3-6
    - b. Otherwise we prove ourselves to be liars if we profess to know Him and do not keep His word!
- C. So, the secret to abiding is obeying. This may surprise some, but importance of "obedience" is stressed throughout Word of God.

#### II. THE IMPORTANCE OF OBEDIENCE

- A. Obedience is stressed in the Old Testament
  1. With the nation of Israel

- a. At their beginning as a nation Deut 10:12,13
  - b. Later, as the prophets tried to turn them from their apostasy Isa 1:18-20
2. With the example of King Saul 1Sam 15:22-23
3. Learned by Solomon in his search for meaning Eccl 12:13
- B. Also stressed in the New Testament.
  1. By Jesus, on several occasions
    - a. During sermon on mount Matt 7:21-23, 24-27; Lk 6:46
    - b. In describing His true family Mk 3:31-35
    - c. In giving "Great Commission" Matt 28:18-20
  2. By the apostles in their preaching and teaching
    - a. The apostle Peter Acts 10:34,35,48
    - b. The apostle Paul Acts 17:30; Rom 6:17-18

#### III. THE ABSOLUTE NECESSITY OF OBEDIENCE

- A. One cannot read much of God's Word without realizing that obedience to God's "commands" are essential if we are going to enjoy God's "blessings!"
- B. One verse that expresses this well is Heb 5:9
- C. Have you obeyed the commands of Christ and His apostles?
- D. Consider just a few commands that you must obey if you are going to abide in Christ, and He in you
  1. Believe on the name of Jesus Christ 1Jhn 3:23
  2. Repent of our sins Acts 17:30
  3. Confess your faith Matt 10:32,33
  4. Be baptized Matt 28:18-19
  5. Grow in the knowledge of Christ 2Pet 3:18
  6. Don't forsake assembling of ourselves together Heb 10:24-25
  7. Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly Col 3:16
  8. Devote yourself to prayer Col 4:2

#### CONCLUSION

- A. To those who faithfully obey Jesus, to them are given the comforting words of Rev 22:14
- B. The secret to living is bearing fruit; The secret to bearing fruit is abiding; The secret to abiding is obeying
- C. In our next study we will talk about the secret of obeying.
- D. Have you obeyed and are you obeying Jesus?

(adapted from an outline by Mark Copeland, to which he appended the following)  
NOTE: The general idea for this series of lessons was taken from "Five Secrets Of Living", a small booklet written by Warren W. Wiersbe