

WHEN GOD PRUNES

JOHN 15:1-8

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

WE ARE CLEAN--PURIFIED AND PLACED IN CHRIST (John 15:1-3, fn 15:1ff, John 17:17, fn 17:17, Titus 3:3-7, fn 3:4-6, I John 1:8, 9, fn 1:9[2nd]) *How have you seen God working or pruning in your life? How has this changed you?*

WE MAY SUFFER. “Suppose you eliminated suffering. What a dreadful place the world would be. I would almost rather eliminate happiness. The world would be the most ghastly place because everything that corrects the tendency of this unspeakable little creature, man, to feel over-important and over-pleased with himself would disappear. He’s bad enough now, but he would be absolutely intolerable if he never suffered.” Malcolm Muggeridge, *Jesus Rediscovered* (John 15:2, 3, fn 15:2, 3, Hebrew 12:3-11, fn 12:3, fn 12:5-11, Rev 3:19, fn 3:19, Psalms 119:67-71) *How has suffering drawn you to Christ and allowed Him to work in and through you?*

WE PRODUCE FRUIT ONLY THROUGH REMAINING OR ABIDING IN CHRIST. “Remaining or abiding involves a growing sense of our weakness and a realization that we are to consciously, deliberately depend upon Christ.” Kent Hughes, *John*, p. 357. (John 15:4-8, fn 15:5, fn 15:5, 6, fn 15:5-8, fn 15:8, Philippians 4:13, fn 4:13, II Cor 12:7-10, fn 12:10, Galatians 5:22, fn 5:22, 23) *How do you personally abide or remain in Christ?*

Check up—Are you praying with your spouse and your family? Group—Pray for personal requests and bond together by fellowshiping together.

