

## Abide In Me

Joh 21:19-25

March 21, 2013

Joh 21:19 This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, **Follow me.**

Joh 21:20 Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee?

Joh 21:21 Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what *shall* this man *do*?

Joh 21:22 Jesus saith unto him, **If I will that he tarry till I come, what *is that* to thee? follow thou me.**

Joh 21:23 Then went this saying abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should not die: yet Jesus said not unto him, He shall not die; but, If I will that he tarry till I come, what *is that* to thee?

Joh 21:24 This is the disciple which testifieth of these things, and wrote these things: and we know that his testimony is true.

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Joh 21:19 This spake he, signifying **G4591** by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, **Follow me.**

The most important question that we can consider is how do we glorify God? We cannot glorify God unless we follow Christ who is the way, the life and the truth that glorifies God (Joh 16:14-15, Joh 14:6). When we follow men and not God (within or without), we are not glorifying God (1Co 11:1). Mind you, no one can follow Christ unless the Father drags us to Him, and therefore we go from glory to glory in this process, as Christ in us, the hope of glory (Col 1:27) increases and we decrease (2Co 3:18, Joh 3:30, Joh 6:44).

So looking back at the previous verses we understand that what Christ means by saying "**this spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God.**" refers to all the signified words of Christ which will be used to feed my sheep (Mat 4:4), and put to death the first Adam, within all those who are given to receive these words in this age. The Greek word for signifying in this verse is the same as the word signified found in (Rev 1:1).

This event signified Peter's physical death which was better than the day of his birth (Ecc 7:1), but the deeper and more hidden truth is how Peter was going to die daily (1Co 15:31), by not having that sword depart from within him, as his first Adam keeps getting dragged to where he does not want to go as mentioned in verse 18 **"and carry thee whither thou wouldest not."** (2Sa 12:10, Rom 1:19, Col 1:27, Joh 6:44).

We all first misappropriate that word until Christ turns us into fishers of men who know how to rightly divide the word with the word (1Co 2:13) so that we can **"Feed my sheep."**, which is what will happen if we are given to respond to Christ words **"Follow me."** and abide in the truth which will in time set us free (Joh 8:31-32).

**Joh 21:20 Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee?**

The disciple whom Jesus loved was the disciple who signifies who we are as we follow Christ. When we follow Christ we are keeping his commandments and demonstrating love as a result (1Jn 5:2). However if we say we love God and don't do the things he commands, even though we are physically following Christ and calling him Lord, Lord, it is all in vain (Luk 6:46 , Mar 7:7).

It's easy to read right over "**which also leaned on his breast at supper**" and miss the tremendous importance of this statement. When we lean unto our own understanding we are yet carnal (Pro 3:5-7), and Christ demonstrated that he did not do this with this statement in (Joh 5:30). John as a type of God's elect who is following Christ is said to have "**leaned on his breast at supper**". Being nourished by Christ by not leaning unto his own understanding but on his breast, which is where we will find our spiritual strength (Php 4:13). Leaning on the breast at supper is also a shadow of the Levitical sacrifice (Exo 29:26 , Lev 7:31) as well as the church which is His body that leans on Him (Isa 28:16 , 2Ti 2:19). As Christ is formed in us we lean on each other by bearing each other's burden and so fulfilling the law of Christ (Gal 6:2).

**Joh 21:21 Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what *shall* this man *do*?**

**Joh 21:22 Jesus saith unto him, *If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me.***

Right after verse 19, right after Christ tells Peter "follow me", we see an example through Peter of what we will do when God allows us to lean unto our own understanding and not yet trust Him. "**Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what *shall* this man *do*?**"

"Peter seeing" is the clue for us as to why Peter asks this question of Christ (Joh 7:24 , Joh 8:15 , Joh 9:41). This lesson for Peter is such a great one for all of us, at all times because the devil always wants us to take our eyes off of what God wants us to do, and who we are in His service by getting us to look at others and even bring us to a point of comparing which is not wise (Gal 6:4 , Ecc 5:19 , 1Co 3:8 , Mat 4:3 , Luk 22:70 , 1Co 12:12 , 1Jn 4:17 , 2Co 10:12).

God willing, we will receive the admonition which tells us to "buy of me gold tried in the fire" so that we may be rich in good works (1Ti 6:18), which Christ is doing within us both to will and to do (Rev 3:18 , Heb 13:21 , Php 2:13).

With a singleness of mind toward God's purpose for us, and not looking to others as Peter was doing at this stage in his walk, we will, by God's grace and faith, be able to fulfill these verses in Philippians (Php 3:14-17).

**Joh 21:23 Then went this saying abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should not die: yet Jesus said not unto him, He shall not die; but, If I will that he tarry G3306 till I come, what *is that* to thee?**

Here we see a shadow of what is, was, and will be going on in the carnal hearts of men who don't yet have Christ abiding in them. Our fleshly interpretation of the events leads us to believe "**that that disciple should not die**" whereas the truth of the matter is "**yet Jesus said not unto him, He shall not die; but, If I will that he tarry G3306 till I come, what *is that* to thee?**"

Who is it that is going to **"tarry"** G3306(abide) till Christ comes? What is this to us as God's elect is the question that Christ is asking in this verse. To find our answer we need to look very closely at the word **"tarry"** G3306(abide), and then we will see why the question needs to be asked and answered for us today.

## G3306

μένω

menō

men'-o

A primary verb; to *stay* (in a given place, state, relation or expectancy): - abide, continue, dwell, endure, be present, remain, stand, tarry (for), X thine own.

In this verse below from Luke, we see that Mary a type of the elect church who has the elect head Jesus Christ within her, abides three months with Elizabeth who was bearing John the Baptist who is a type of God's elect body. We know that "9" represents judgement and is the period of gestation for a child to be borne. This 3 month visitation of Christ in the womb of Mary to go see the infant in Elizabeth is a symbol of the process of judgement that must come upon God's elect as this is our day of visitation (Luk 19:44).

Luk 1:56 And Mary abode G3306 with her about three months, and returned to her own house.

These two verses below from 2John show how us that in order to be one of God's elect, God's truth has to abide or dwell within you (Rom 8:9).

2Jn 1:1 The elder unto the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they that have known the truth;

2Jn 1:2 For the truth's sake, which dwelleth G3306 in us, and shall be with us for ever.

God's spirit within us enables us to keep God's commandments and over time His love is perfected in us (1Jn 4:12) as we grow in obedience (Heb 5:8 , 1Jn 4:17) and in the grace and knowledge of our Lord (2Pe 3:18). We pray he will continue to increase within each of us as we decrease (Joh 3:30).

1Jn 4:12 No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth G3306 in us, and his love is perfected in us.

1Jn 4:13 Hereby know we that we dwell G3306 in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

1Jn 3:23 And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.

1Jn 3:24 And he that keepeth G5083 his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth G3306 in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

Rev 1:3 Blessed *is* he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep G5083 those things which are written therein: for the time *is* at hand.

These next verses below which mention the word abide G3306, remind us who it is that has been chosen from the foundation of the world to go through a process from glory to glory (2Co 3:18), as we overcome and gain dominion over the beast of the field little by little (Exo 23:30).

1Jn 3:6 Whosoever abideth **G3306** in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.

We are born of God as stated in (1Jn 3:9) but we have the promise in earnest today and are awaiting with an heart of earnest, for the manifestation of the sons of God to be resurrected in fullness (Eph 1:14 , Rom 8:19). In (1Jn 3:9) God can say with absolute certainty that we will not sin as He speaks of things that are not as thou they were (Rom 4:17), full well knowing that we will sin, but also full well knowing that we will drink the cup (Mat 20:23) that will cause us to cease from sinning in His ordained time for each man.

1Jn 3:9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth **G3306** in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

"Abiding" **G3306** is a gift which God gives to a few at first, and those few are rewarded for their faithfulness which is in fact Christ who is working that faithfulness within them (Php 2:13).

The world will learn that God will save all men and that He starts with the weak of the world, not to humiliate us the unnatural weak branch, but so that no flesh will glory in His sight and so that all men will come to learn of His mercy and our tremendous ongoing need for it!

There are many other verses we could look at to confirm why Christ asks this question of Peter and us **"If I will that he tarry **G3306** till I come, what *is that* to thee?"**

The main point being made is that God's will is only recognized and accomplished by those who are given to have dominion in this age over the world that is passing away as we die daily and recognize in that death the will of God so that we may abideth **G3306** for ever **G1519 G165**.

1Jn 2:17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth **G3306** for ever **G1519 G165**.

Conversely no one can be blamed for not abiding or continuing in God's will if it has not been written in their book to do so as stated in (1Jn 2:19). This leads us back to Josephs' comment to his brothers as a very succinct reminder for us of what God is doing with all of His creation and His elect throughout the ages (Gen 45:5).

1Jn 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued **G3306** with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

Joh 21:24 **This is the disciple which testifieth of these things, and wrote these things: and we know that his testimony is true.**

Joh 21:25 **And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.**

John is a type of the elect, and his testimony is true because it is Christ testimony he is bringing (Rev 19:10). The testimony of Christ is the spirit of prophecy (1Co 14:3 , 2Ti 4:2).

I find the last verse in the book of John to be very curious. Why make mention of the many other things which Jesus did and then say "**I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written**"? We need not guess. Verse 24 is a clue to the fact that all of Christ days were numbered and written in His book (this 'testimony').

We are given what we need to understand of Christ's life by way of the inspiration of the holy spirit, and He came to reveal the Father and how to have (how we are promised that we will have) a right relationship with Him, to worship Him in spirit and truth, so that we would not have to know Christ after the flesh any longer ([2Co 5:16](#)).

The spiritual message is that part of Christ's life which "the world itself could not contain the books that should be written", because those actions and words of Christ were living words ([Joh 6:63](#)), and living parables which are timeless examples for all men of all ages to come to understand. As Paul wrote, "how unsearchable are his judgements", and what depth of riches are both of the wisdom and knowledge of God ([Rom 11:33](#)) once we are given the only sure foundation for which there is no other that man can lay ([1Co 3:11](#)).

Christ prayed that this bread of life would continue to multiply through his disciples and those to whom he would bring them to minister unto, and so the promise was made that the kingdom of God would be established over time and that it would be by the church ([Eph 3:9-10](#)) that Christ would see the fulfillment of this inspired request he made of our Father.

**Joh 17:20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;**