

COLLINSVILLE-TROY CHURCH OF CHRIST

1400 Troy Road, Collinsville, Illinois 62234

Focus on God's Word Find the Truth Follow the Lord



Sunday Worship Assembly 9:30 AM
Sunday Bible Classes (All Ages) 11:00 AM
Wednesday Adult Bible Class 1:30 PM
Wednesday Bible Classes (All Ages) 7:00 PM



The Correspondent

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The Road into Love and Patience

Ronald Bartanen

The Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.” (2 Thessalonians 3:5)

Have you ever found yourself in unfamiliar territory, unsure of what road to turn on to get to your desired destination? If so, join the crowd. While it is disturbing to be in such a predicament, it is tragic to be spiritually confused, uncertain of what lies ahead. This can be the plight even of Christians who have begun the journey on the Christian Way, as indicated by Paul in writing to the believers in Thessalonica whom he has commended for their “faith and patience” while enduring persecution (1:4).

While Paul is obviously not denying their love for God, or their patient endurance, yet he saw the need to desire for them divine direction into both. Were they not already in the love of God and patience? Yes, and no. To illustrate, a man may take a plane from London to New York City, and may phone his family, informing them that he is now in the United States. However, as a Midwesterner I would say he needs to leave NYC, and go on into the United States because there’s a lot more to see than what NYC can offer. When we come in to the love of God, we do not stop our journey. It’s then just begun.

How extensive is the love of God? One of our songs expresses it in these words: “The love of God is greater far,/Than tongue or pen can ever tell:/It goes beyond the highest star,/And reaches to the lowest hell:.” In the storms of life, God would direct us into the sanctuary of His love.

Likewise, the “patient waiting for Christ” does not end when one rises from the waters of baptism. We do not sit down, gazing into the clouds as we await His return for us. Jesus warns His followers to not be found sleeping at His coming (Matt. 24:36), but faithful in watching and praying, even as tribulation in the world worsens, saying, “Watch ye, therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man” (Luke 21:36).

The road into the love of God and the patient waiting for Christ will not end until that day we stand in His presence. Are you letting Him lead you into His love and steadfast patience?

- Ronald Bartanen is a retired minister who for many years served the Lord's church in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan and Tennessee. - Article taken from bulletingold.com

**Congregational
Evangelism
Refresher**

With Keno Shrum
May 11 to 14
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Men's Breakfast

Bob Evans
Collinsville
May 9, 8:00 AM

Apron Brigade

April 28
9:00 AM

**Graduating Seniors
Potluck Luncheon**

May 17, 12:00 PM

I AM THE VINE

John 15:1-8

- I. We Must Bear Fruit- v. 2-3, Matthew 13:23, Galatians 5:22-23
 - A. If we do not, we will be removed- Matthew 25:18, 24-30
 - B. If we do, we will be pruned- Romans 5:3-5, 8:28, Hebrews 12:11
- II. We Must Abide- v. 4-5, 9-10, John 8:31-32, Ephesians 3:17
 - A. Without Him it is impossible- Colossians 2:20-23, Matthew 7:21-23
 - B. With Him it is inevitable- 1 Corinthians 3:6-9, 2 Peter 1:5-11
- III. We Will Receive- v. 7-8, Matthew 7:7-11, Psalm 37:4, 1 John 5:14-15
 - A. We should ask to be fruitful- Colossians 1:9-10, 4:2-4
 - B. We glorify God and prove ourselves- Matthew 5:13-16, Luke 6:46, 1 John 2:4

John 15:1-5

A T V P N N D O B D F F A T H E R I
 A E V T H P E I B R E Y N N O A D E
 D T I O F C U I U U T R U E L B A U
 H C N A R B R E S S E R D E N I V N
 R E E L U F A I T R C N D A R D M U
 H C E R I E U E S O D R T I N E S E
 D F E E T U O H T I W N T F N H F C
 S C P A O R R A I A D I R I F T T A
 I I R D E W A G A H T E I D N I W N
 G A U Y T E T A E H B D R C L E A N
 T U N T N I E U I Y U E S N O U R O
 O E E R O M E A I R R N W E A I F T
 N E S A H U T N T S N F U N C S R N
 U A R R W O R D E R E H T I W A G D
 R W R D E C R A E B D N D M E W H T
 B B E U R D G H I U C W A U D R W N
 V D G A A M C V E D E E E P R B N T
 O O R I D N E R I F R U H N I O E D
 D Y Y C H N N O T H I N G T T E H N
 H R F F T E M L L T O M O U D A T I

TRUE
 VINE
 FATHER
 VINEDRESSER
 BRANCH
 BEAR
 FRUIT
 PRUNES
 MORE
 ALREADY
 CLEAN
 WORD
 ABIDE
 CANNOT
 WITHOUT
 NOTHING
 WITHERED
 FIRE
 BURNED

Worship Service

Announcements

Song: 419 Lord, We Come Before Thee Now

Prayer

Song: 310 In Gethsemane Alone

Lord's Supper and Contribution

Song: 647 The Love of God

Song: 260 I Am the Vine

Scripture Reading: John 15:1-5

Sermon

Song: 768 While We Pray and While We Plead

Song: 676 There's within My Heart (Vs. 1)

Prayer

John 15:1-5 (NKJV)

- 1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.
- 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.
- 3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.
- 4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.
- 5 "I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.
- 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw *them* into the fire, and they are burned.

Why Worship?

But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. John 4:23