

SR./JR. HIGHLIGHTS

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. Colossians 2:6-7 (NIV)



I'm a Branch; Not the Vine!

Early in our Christian lives we have to come to the point of recognizing where our source of power is to live the Christian life. God's Word makes it clear that our source of power is not from us but from Christ.

John 15 talks about the vine and the branches. Christ is the vine, we are the branches. We as the branches are to abide in Christ; apart from Christ we can't do anything (v. 5).

Consider this quote from Evan H. Hopkins: *"There would be little harm in trying to imitate Christ if such an endeavor did not hide from us what our Lord really*

desires; and so keep us back from 'life more abundant.' Christ has come Himself into our hearts to dwell there, and what He wants is to live His life in us, as the Apostle Paul says, 'For to me to live is Christ.' Christ was the very source and mainspring of all he was and did. What a wonderful thing this is! We would be driven to despair if Christ had simply left us an example to follow or imitate, for we have no power within ourselves to do it. We must have a new source; a new spring of action, and Christ Himself wants to be just that for us."

As the branches we are not to look at the vine and try to be like Him. So often as Christians we are exhorted to do that which

is impossible for us to do in our own strength—be like Christ, imitate Christ. How quickly we become frustrated that we cannot live up to that call by trying as hard as we can.

Thankfully God didn't just provide eternal life for us; He also provided everything we need in our life on this earth right now. It is so important for us to understand who we are in Christ. Depend upon the power of God that He has provided for us in Christ through the Holy Spirit who indwells us.

Resting in Him,
Aaron



SEPTEMBER 2009 CALENDAR

2nd—Last Summer Wed.
Night; 6:45 p.m.

13th—Journey begins,
5:45-7:15 p.m.

16th—Awana begins,
6:30-8:00 pm

26th—Trek Activity,
4:00 –8:00 pm

THINKING AHEAD:

October 3rd—Sr. High
Activity, 5-9 p.m.

October 23rd—Worldview
Nights Resume,
6:30 p.m.

What's to Come?

We had a great summer! Our missions trip to MS and involvement in 5 Day Clubs in both MS and here in IL was very fruitful. We thank the Lord for what He accomplished through us.

I would ask you to pray about a change that will be taking place this year in our Journey program (high school Awana). Beginning Sunday evening, Sept. 13th we will begin a Journey program on Sunday night from 5:45-7:15 p.m. We will have game, council, and book time during this

time. Please be in prayer for this as we change things up for this year.

Our new Awana year begins on Wednesday, Sept. 16th at 6:30 p.m. From a youth perspective, we are looking to have another great year in Trek! Our first Trek activity will be on Friday, Sept. 25th at 5:30 p.m.

Please be in prayer for all our kids and youth as they begin a new school year. Pray that they will stand firm in their faith and honor God through their lives.

PRAYER NEEDS:

- ◆ School starting up!
- ◆ Awana ministry
- ◆ Journey Program Changes
- ◆ One another

