

*The great*  
**GIFT**  
*of getting to  
know Jesus*



*a series from the book of John*

Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, **the reason I was born** and came into the world **is to testify to the truth**. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."                      John 18:37



...“The Father and I are one.”

John 10:30



(Jesus) But if I do (my Father's) work, believe in the evidence of the miraculous works I have done, even if you don't believe me. Then you will know and understand that the Father is in me, and I am in the Father."

John 10:38



“For this cause, therefore, the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but was also calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.”

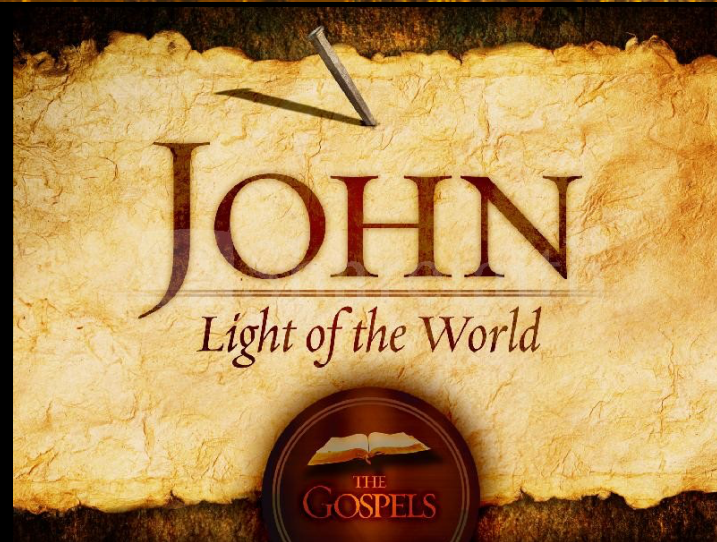
John 5:18



# I AM

## PORTRAITS OF JESUS

THE BREAD OF LIFE  
THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD  
THE DOOR  
THE GOOD SHEPHERD  
THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE  
THE WAY, THE TRUTH, THE LIFE  
THE TRUE VINE



"Before Abraham was born, I am." John 8:58



"My name is I Am That I Am." Exodus 3:14

**Exodus 3:14**

**I AM**



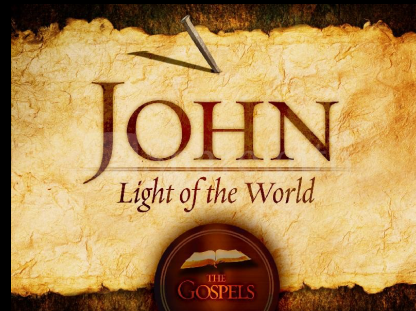
**John 8:58**



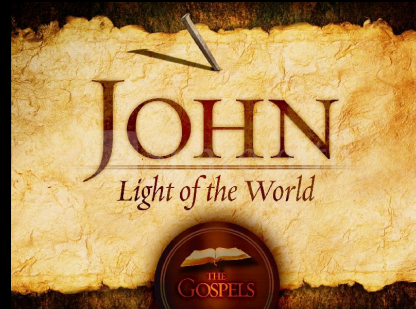
“Unless you believe that I am, you will die in your sins.”  
John 8:24



**1 "I am the true vine,** and my Father is the gardener.  
2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit,  
while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so  
that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean  
because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in  
me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by  
itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear  
fruit unless you remain in me. 5 I am the vine; you are  
the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him,...

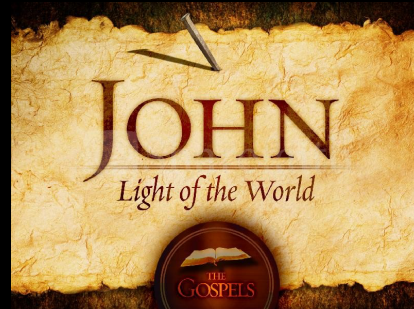


... he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. <sup>8</sup> This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.      John 15:1-8



“He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit,  
while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes ...”

John 15:2



" ...If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. "

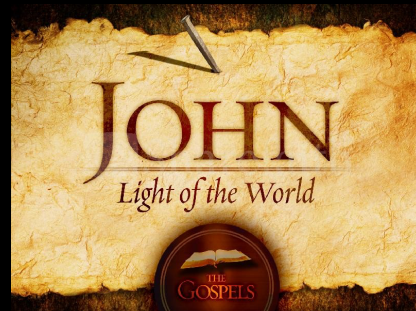
John 15:5





Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

John 15:4,5

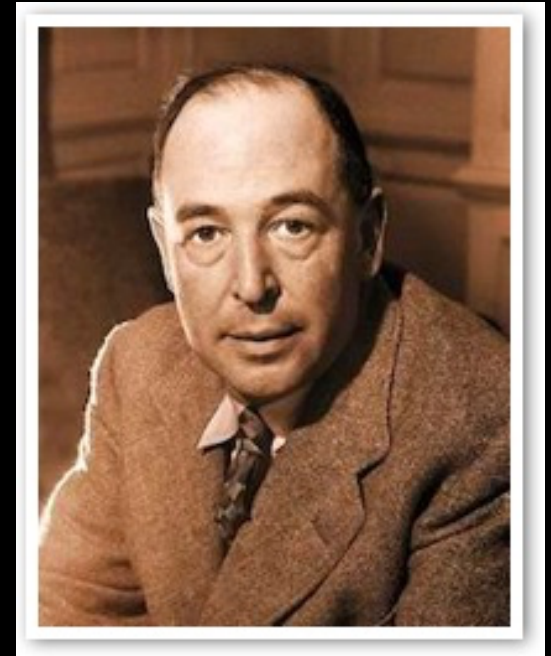






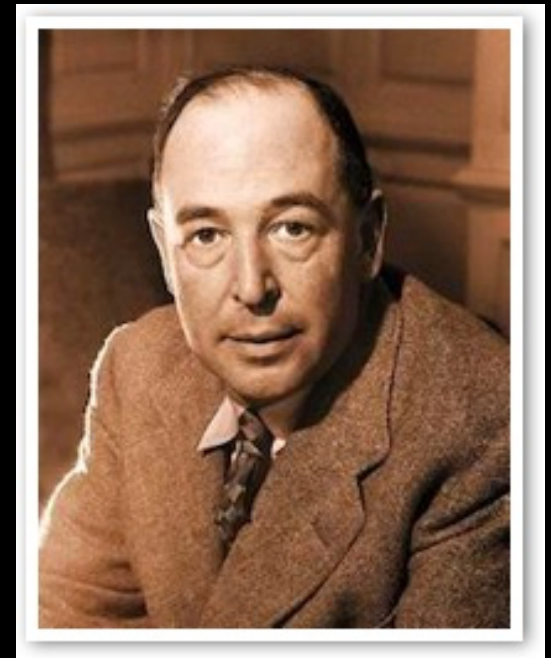
“The Christian way is different: harder and easier. Christ says, ‘Give me All. I don’t want so much of your time and so much of your money and so much of your work: I want you.’”

C.S. Lewis



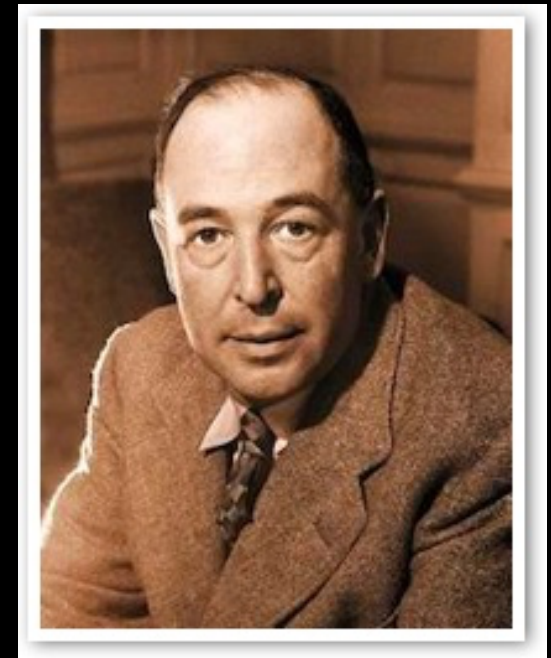
“I have not come to torment your ordinary self but to kill it. No half-measures are any good. [...] Hand over the whole natural self, all the desires which you think innocent as well as the ones you think wicked ... I will give you a new self instead.”

C.S. Lewis



“In fact, I will give you Myself:  
my own will shall become yours.’ ”

C.S. Lewis





**You won't grow without pruning.**

He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. Vs. 2

**You won't grow without pruning.**



A skilled gardener never cuts off anything, that wouldn't have been a loss to keep and a gain to lose.



"...my Father is the gardener."

John 15:1







## Romans 8:28,29

...we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. <sup>29</sup> For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, ...



# Pastor Tim Keller

God's knife came into both of their lives. In one person's life and she let God cut her back into fruitfulness. But God's pruning knife came into the other woman's life and actually cut her off from life, because she got more and more bitter.



# Pastor Tim Keller

The woman who couldn't forgive, couldn't forgive for this reason. She loved her son which is good but her son was her vine.



# Pastor Tim Keller

So if her son went bad, if her son didn't respect her, if her son didn't love her, her life was essentially over, and bitterness ensued. Because he had become the vine, there was absolutely no way she could possibly forgive herself or anybody else. Her son was her meaning. Her son was the way she knew her life had meaning.



# Pastor Tim Keller

Whereas the other woman, she began to realize, “My son is not doing what he ought to do. My husband is not doing what he ought to do. But wait a minute. Where do I get my approval? Where do I get my joy? Who is the only family I really have to have?” What did she begin doing? She began drawing deeply upon Jesus. She was pruned.







A news broadcast scene featuring two women seated at a table. The woman on the left has shoulder-length brown hair and is wearing a light pink short-sleeved top. The woman on the right has long blonde hair and is wearing a dark blue long-sleeved top. They are both looking towards the right. The background consists of a large window with a grid pattern, through which trees and buildings are visible. To the right of the window, there is a shelf with a 'TODAY' logo, a small Christmas tree, and a reindeer figurine. The table in front of them is decorated with white flowers, silver and gold ornaments, and greenery. A blue banner with white text is overlaid at the bottom of the frame.

**NBC NEWS TERMINATES MATT LAUER**  
LET GO FOR INAPPROPRIATE WORKPLACE BEHAVIOR





## Matthew 27:45,46, 50,51

For three hours, beginning at noon, darkness came over the earth. <sup>46</sup> And at three o'clock Jesus shouted with a mighty voice in Aramaic, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?"—that is, "My God, My God, why have you deserted me? ....Jesus passionately cried out, *took his last breath*, and gave up his spirit.<sup>51</sup> At that moment the veil in the Holy of Holies was torn in two from the top to the bottom.

# Isaiah 53:8

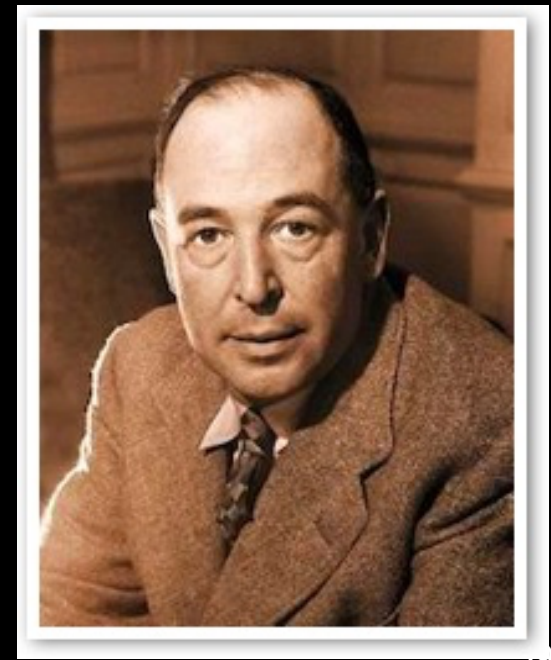
"He was cut off from the land of the living "

The background of the slide is a dark blue, slightly blurred image of an open book. The pages of the book are visible, showing columns of text, though the text is not legible due to the blur and low light. The book is positioned diagonally across the frame, with the spine on the right side.



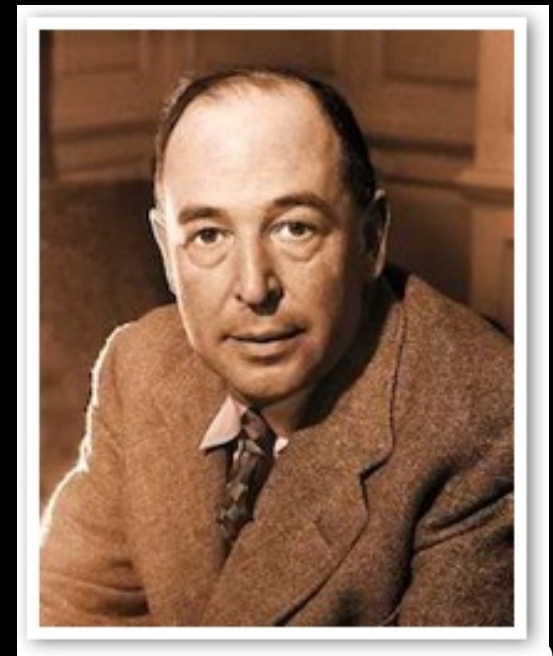
“... we must not be surprised if we’re in for a rough time. When a man turns to Christ and seems to be getting on pretty well ... he often feels that it would now be natural if things went fairly smoothly. When troubles come along—illnesses, money troubles, new kinds of temptations—you begin to get disappointed.

C.S. Lewis



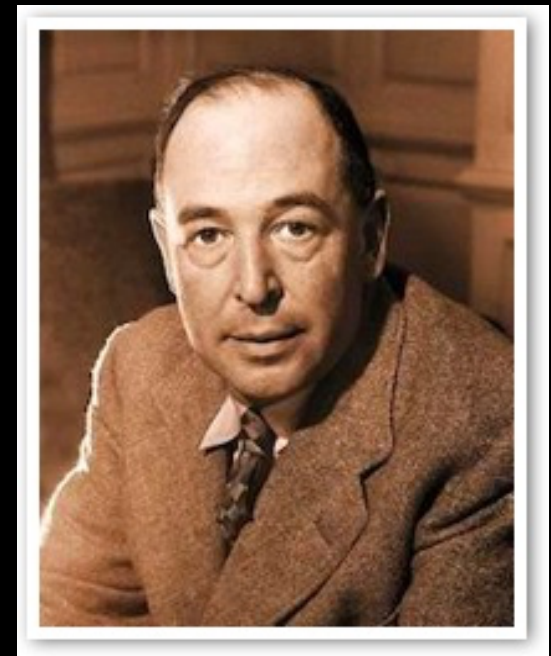
“Because God is forcing him on, or up, to a higher level: putting him into situations where he will have to be very much braver, or more patient, or more loving, than he ever dreamed of being before.”

C.S. Lewis



“It seems to us all unnecessary: but that is because we have not yet had the slightest notion of the tremendous thing He means to make of us. [...] Imagine yourself as a living house. God comes in to rebuild that house.”

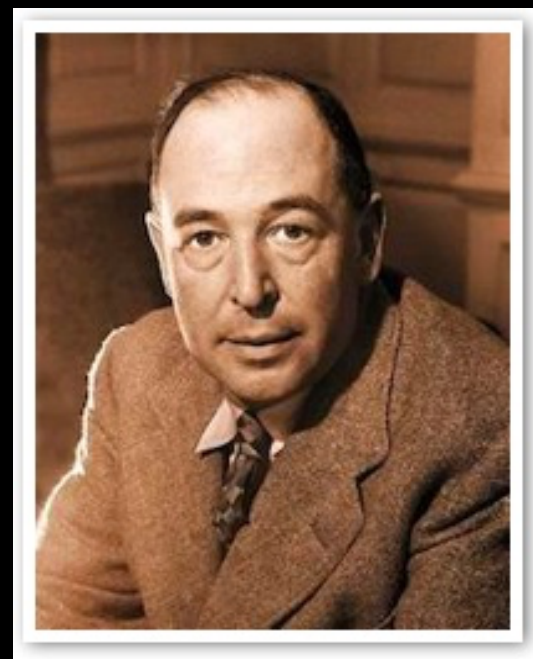
C.S. Lewis





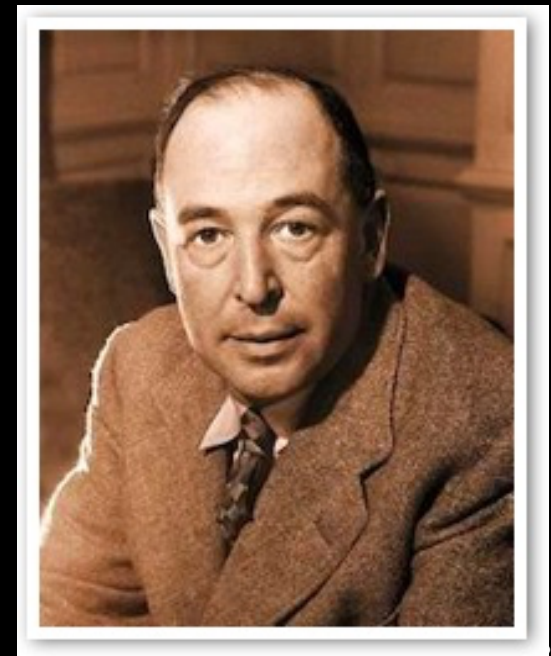
“At first, perhaps, you can understand what He is doing. He is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks in the roof and so on: you knew that those jobs needed doing and so you are not surprised.”

C.S. Lewis



“But presently he starts knocking the house about in a way that hurts abominably and does not seem to make sense. What on earth is He up to? The explanation is that He is building quite a different house from the one you thought of—throwing out a new wing here, putting on an extra floor there, running up towers, making courtyards.”

C.S. Lewis



“You thought you were going to be made into a decent little cottage: but He is building a palace. He intends to come and live in it Himself.”

C.S. Lewis

