



## SERMON NOTES

# The Proven

Special Guest Speaker - Steve Smothermon

July 1-2, 2017

*John 15:1-2 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 continues to bear fruit, He [repeatedly] prunes, so that it will bear more fruit [even richer and finer fruit].*

*Prune (Purgeth NKJV) - to cleanse of filth or impurity. To free from impurities, purify, to remove by cleaning, to get rid of sin, guilt, defilement, and to empty.*

*There is truly no greater purpose in life than knowing God.*

*If they were really united to Christ then they would bear fruit. But being only tied to Him by an outward profession (praying a prayer) they seem to be branches, but they will soon fall away. They will see no change.*

*Exodus 33:13, "Now therefore, I pray you, if I have found favor in Your sight, let me know Your ways so that I may know You [becoming more deeply and intimately acquainted with You, recognizing and understanding Your ways more clearly] and that I may find grace and favor in Your sight. And consider also, that this nation is Your people."*

*He purgeth the fruitful branch so that they can bear greater fruit.*

*Hebrews 12:1-2 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of [a]witnesses [who by faith have testified to the truth of God's absolute faithfulness], stripping off every unnecessary weight and the sin which so easily and cleverly entangles us, let us run with endurance and active persistence the race that is set before us, 2 [looking away from all that will distract us and] focusing our eyes on Jesus, who is the Author and Perfecter of faith [the first incentive for our belief and the One who brings our faith to maturity], who for the joy [of accomplishing the goal] set before Him endured the cross, [b]disregarding the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God [revealing His deity, His authority, and the completion of His work].*

*You cannot grow with dead weight attached to you.*

*2 Timothy 2:19-21, Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God [which He has laid] stands [sure and unshaken despite attacks], bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord stand apart from wickedness and withdraw from wrongdoing." 20 Now in a large house there are not only [a]vessels and objects of gold and silver, but also vessels and objects of wood and of earthenware, and some are for honorable (noble, good) use and some for dishonorable (ignoble, common). 21 Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things [which are dishonorable—disobedient, sinful], he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified [set apart for a special purpose and], useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.*

*What are some weights?*

*Pride - Bad Attitude - Impure Thoughts & Actions - Disobedience - Selfishness*

*2 Things that happen to people:*

*1: Cut Off*

*2: Cut Back*

*God disciplines us to strengthen our character and our faith.*

*When attacked, a real believer will turn to God.*

*A non-believer will turn against Him.*

*You either get better, or bitter.*

*There is only one way to God: HIS WAY!*

