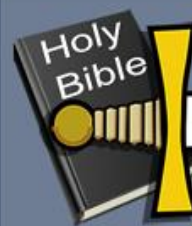


GREETINGS FROM GOD THE FATHER
AND OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

WELCOME

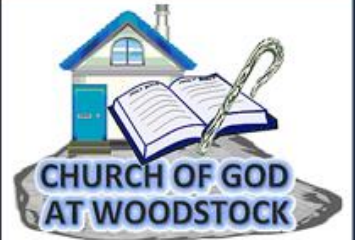
HAPPY
SABBATH!!



TRUTH ON THE
WEB MINISTRIES

WWW.TOTW.ORG

EPH 6:17 AND TAKE...THE SWORD OF THE
SPIRIT WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD
A CHURCH OF GOD IN WOODSTOCK, ILLINOIS



WWW.TOTW.ORG

Keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus Christ

The background of the slide is a photograph of a vineyard. In the foreground, there are several clusters of ripe, purple grapes hanging from the vines. The background shows more grapevines and leaves, slightly out of focus. Overlaid on the image are three pruning tools: a pair of bypass pruners with wooden handles in the lower left, a curved hand saw with a wooden handle in the upper right, and a long-handled lopper or similar tool in the lower right. A semi-transparent blue rectangular box is centered horizontally across the middle of the image, containing the title text.

PRUNING FOR PRODUCTION

THE GRAPE PRIMER



THE GRAPE PRIMER



**SOUR GRAPES / WILD GRAPES
AND
DESTROYED VINEYARDS**

DEPICT SIN & JUDGMENT

DI-VINE DRESSER & THE VINE

Isaiah 5:1-2 Now will I sing to my wellbeloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. My wellbeloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill:

And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and **planted it with the choicest vine**, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: and he looked that it should bring forth **grapes**, and it brought forth **wild grapes**.

WILD GRAPES VS GOOD GRAPES

- **WILD GRAPES** = Strong's Hebrew Dictionary 891. בְּאִשִּׁיִּם b@'ushiym *be-oo-sheem* 'plural of 889; poison-berries:—wild grapes. See Hebrew 889 Strong's Hebrew Dictionary 889. בָּאֵשׁ b@'osh *be-oshe* 'from 877; a stench:—stink. See Hebrew 877
- **GRAPES** = Strong's Hebrew Dictionary 6025. עֵנָב `enab *ay-nawb* 'from an unused root probably meaning to bear fruit; a grape:—(ripe) grape, wine.

PERFECT VINEDRESSER

Isaiah 5:3-4 And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, betwixt me and my vineyard. **What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it? wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes?**

VINEYARD OF WRATH

Isaiah 5:5-6 And now go to; I will tell you what I will do to **my** vineyard: I will **take away the hedge** thereof, and **it shall be eaten up; *and* break down the wall** thereof, and it shall be **trodden down**: And I will **lay it waste**: it shall **not be pruned, nor digged**; but there shall come up **briers and thorns**: I will also command the clouds that they rain **no rain** upon it.

PATIENCE OF THE HUSBANDMAN

Luke 13:5-9 I tell you, **Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.** He spake also this parable; **A certain *man* had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none.** Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, **Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: **cut it down**; why cumbereth it the ground?** And he answering said unto him, **Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung *it*: And if it bear fruit, *well*: and if not, *then* after that thou shalt cut it down.**

STINKY VINE

Isaiah 5:7 For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts *is* the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant: **and he looked for judgment, but behold oppression; for righteousness, but behold a cry.**

STINKY VINE

DECEPTION

CARELESSNESS

EXTORTION

REVELRY

CONCEIT

PRIDE

GREED

INJUSTICE

CORRUPTION

COVETEOUSNESS

PERVERSION

DRUNKENNESS

HARDHEARTEDNESS

MOCKERY

HEDONISM

NO FRUIT? GOODBYE!

Matthew 21:18-22 Now in the morning as he returned into the city, he hungered. And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away. And when the disciples saw *it*, they marvelled, saying, How soon is the fig tree withered away! Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this *which is done* to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done. And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

NO FRUIT? GOODBYE!

Matthew 21:23-24 And when he was come into the temple, **the chief priests and the elders of the people** came unto him as he was teaching, and said, **By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?** And Jesus answered and said unto them, I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in like wise will tell you by what authority I do these things.

NO FRUIT? GOODBYE!

Matthew 21:25-27 The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him? But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet.

And they answered Jesus, and said, We cannot tell. And he said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.

NO LIP SERVICE – DO IT!

Matthew 21:28-30 But what think ye? *A certain* man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, **go work to day in my vineyard**. He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went. And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I *go*, sir: and went not.

NO LIP SERVICE – DO IT!

Matthew 21:31-32 Whether of them twain did the will of *his* father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen *it*, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him.

NO LIP SERVICE – DO IT!

Matthew 21:33-34 Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country: And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it.

NO LIP SERVICE – DO IT!

Matthew 21:35-39 And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another. Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise. But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son. But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance. And they caught him, and cast *him* out of the vineyard, and slew *him*.

NO LIP SERVICE – DO IT!

Matthew 21:40-42 When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen? They say unto him, **He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out *his* vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons.** Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, **The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?**

NO FRUIT? GOODBYE!

Matthew 21:43-46 Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder. And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them. But when they sought to lay hands on him, they feared the multitude, because they took him for a prophet.

DI-VINE DRESSER AND THE TRUE VINE

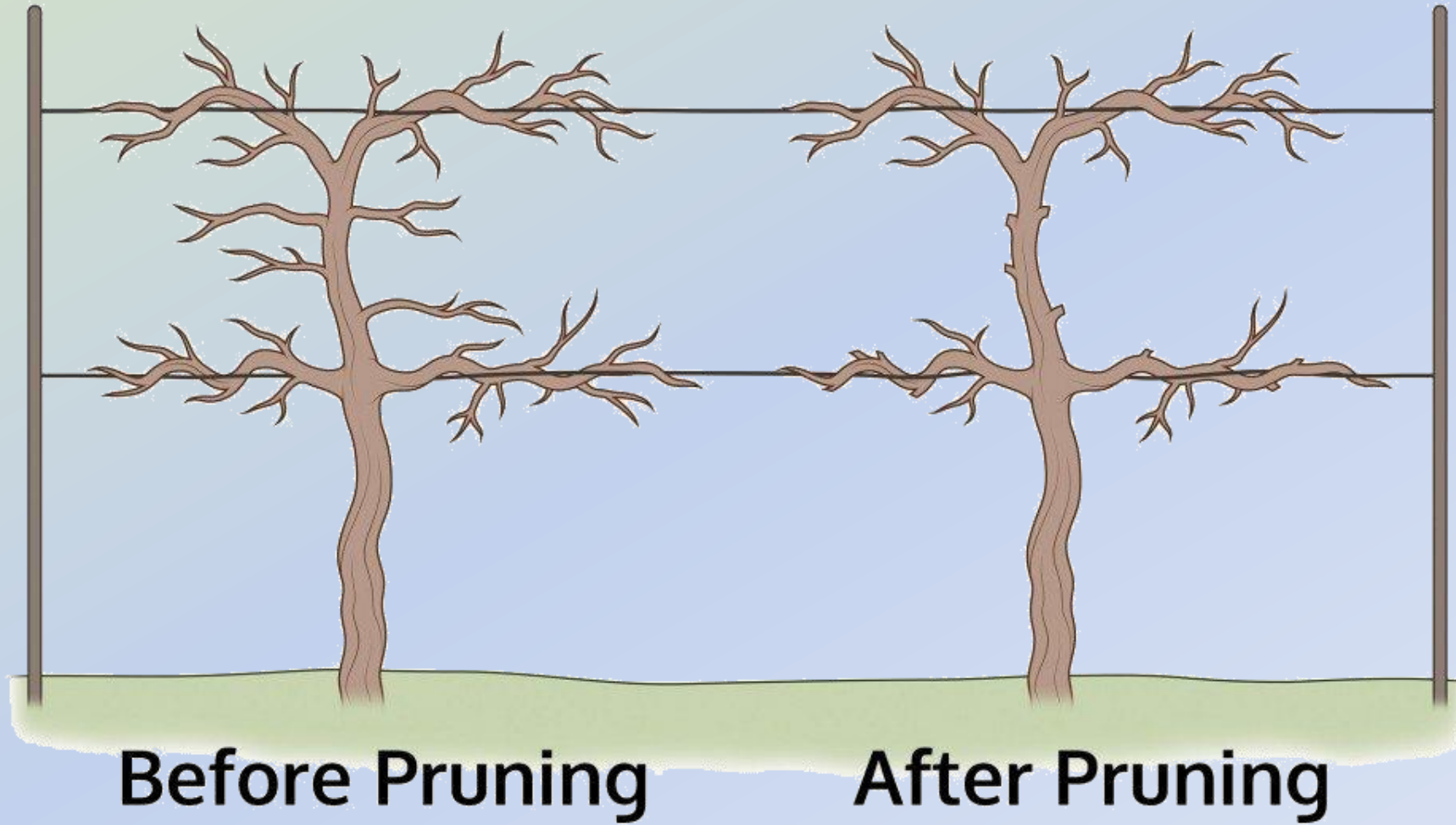
John 15:1-2 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every *branch* that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

PRUNED NOT RUINED

John 15:2



THE PRUNING PRIMER



TRIMMED & PRUNED

THE PRUNING PRIMER

(LAW) TRAINING GUIDEWIRE ↗

Proverbs 22:6 Train up
(dedicate) a child in the way
he should go: and when he is
old, he will not depart from it.

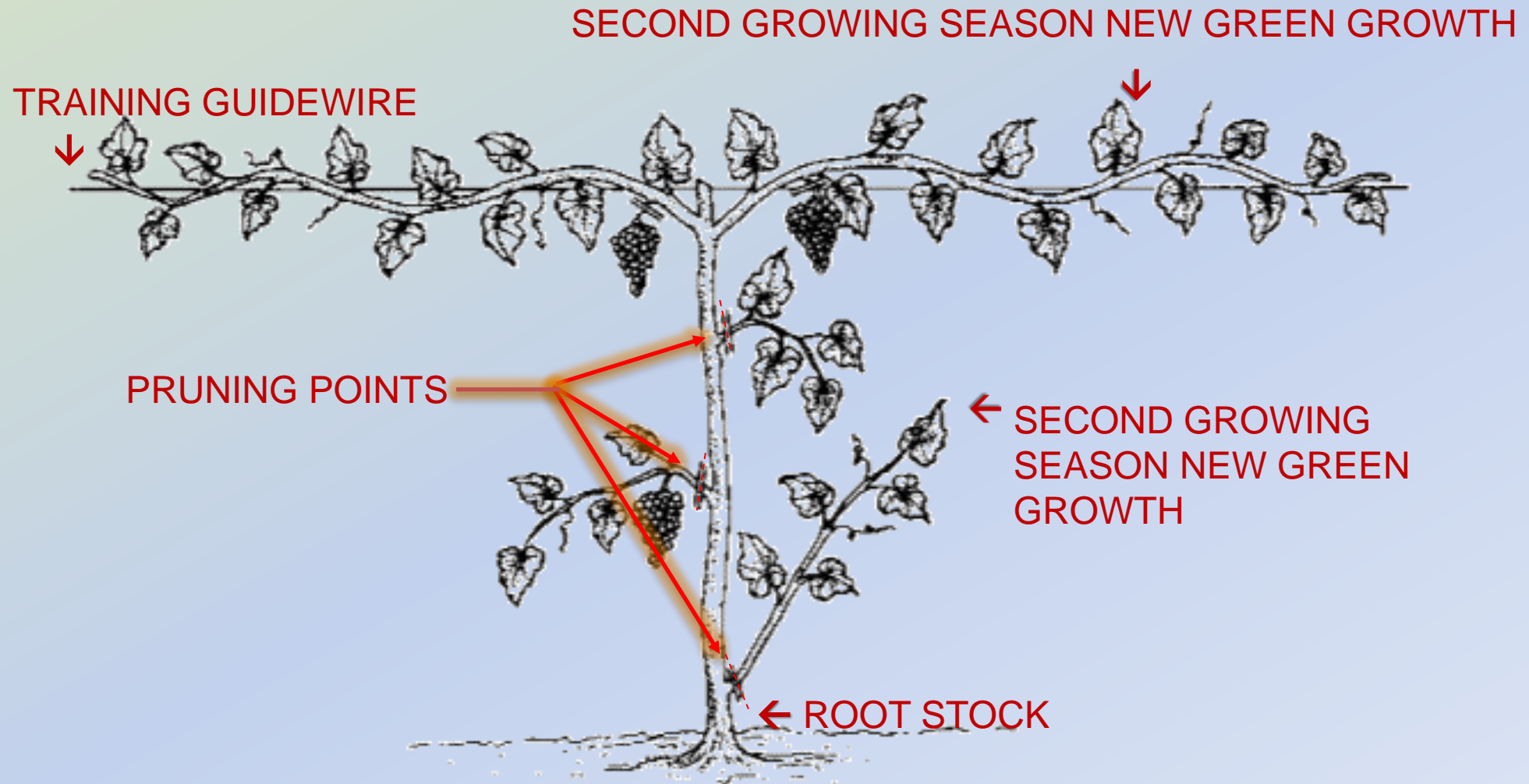
Galatians 3:24 Wherefore
the law was our
schoolmaster (TRAINER) to
bring us unto Christ, that we
might be justified by faith.

FIRST YEAR
YOUNG GREEN GROWTH →

← **ROOT STOCK**

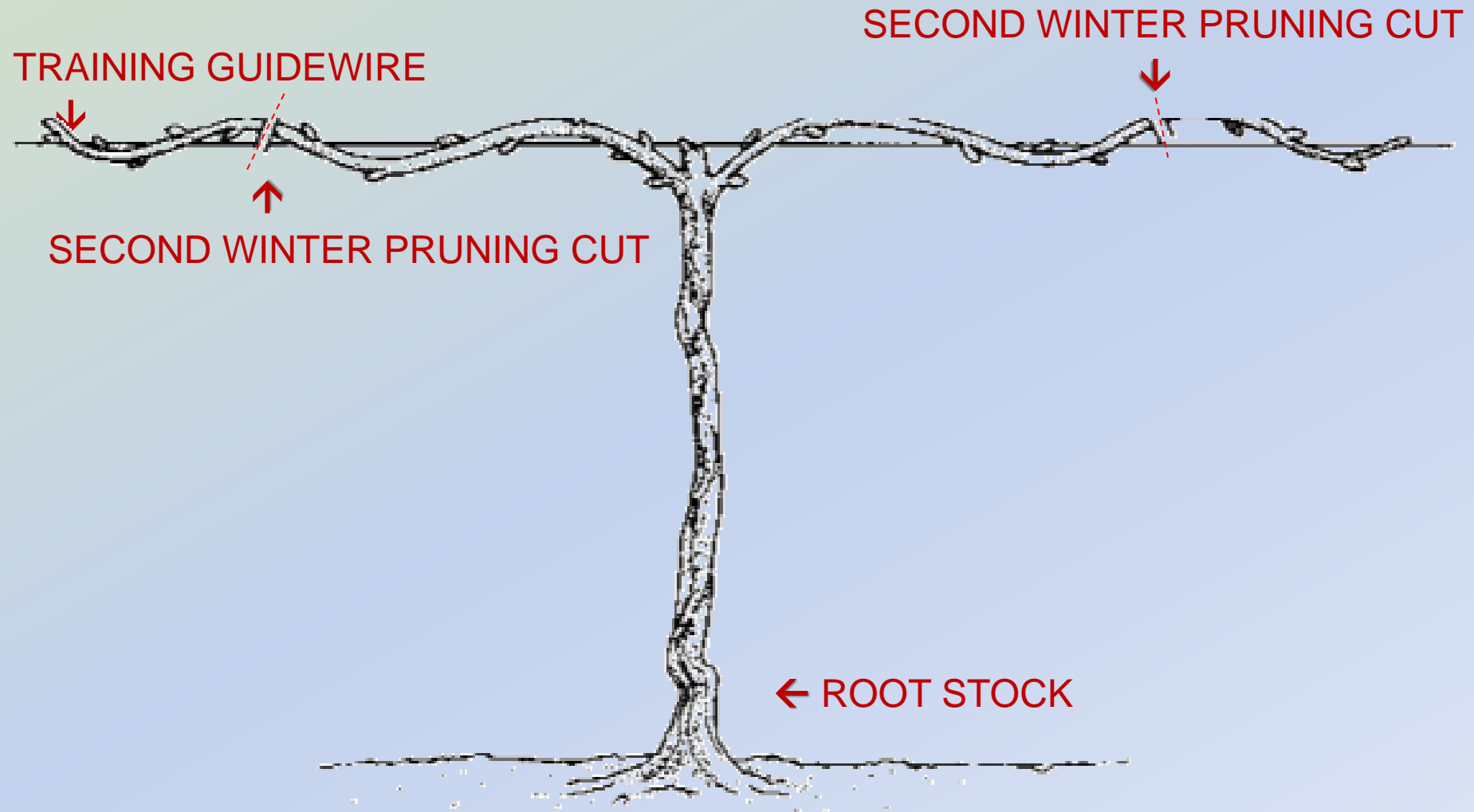
TRIMMED & PRUNED

THE PRUNING PRIMER



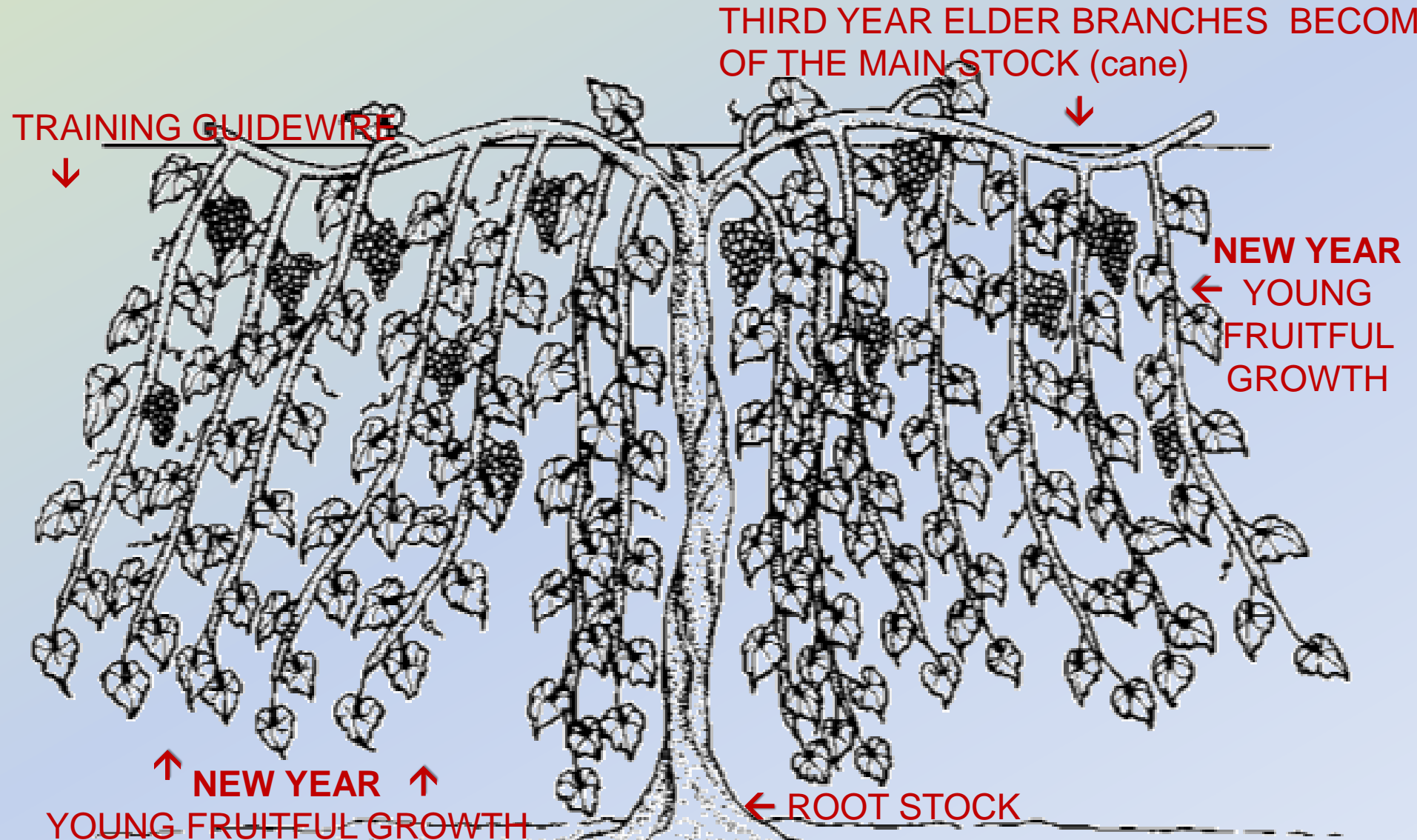
TRIMMED & PRUNED

THE PRUNING PRIMER



TRIMMED & PRUNED

THE PRUNING PRIMER



TRIMMED & PRUNED

ABIDING PRODUCES FRUIT

John 15:3-4 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

ABIDING PRODUCES FRUIT

John 15:5-6 I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: **He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit:** for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned.

ABIDING PRODUCES FRUIT

John 15:7-8 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. **Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.**

PRUNED NOT RUINED

Philippians 1:9-11 And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and *in* all judgment; That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; **Being filled with the fruits of righteousness**, which are **by Jesus Christ**, unto the glory and praise of God.

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

PRUNED NOT RUINED

Isaiah 42:16 And I will bring the blind by a way *that* they knew not; I will lead them in paths *that* they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them.

PRUNED NOT RUINED

1 Corinthians 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, **but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.**

PRUNED NOT RUINED

John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

REASONS FOR PRUNING

- To improve growth quality (Gal. 5:22-23)
- To train the plant (Rom. 8:29; 2 Cor. 3:18; Gal. 4:19)
- To remove decay and maintain health (Col. 3:5ff)
- To control direction (2 Pet. 1:5ff; 3:18; 2 Cor. 5:1)
- To propagate His Kingdom (aka Make Disciples/Bringing In The Sheaves – Mt 28:19-20; Lk 10:2; Mk 16:15; Rom 10:15, etc)

HOW DOES GOD PRUNE US?

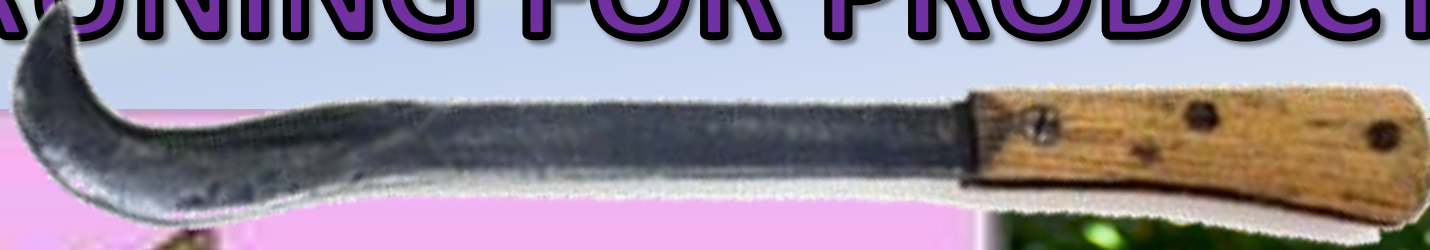
- He uses challenging tests (Gen. 12:1ff; 22:1ff)
- He uses personal loss (Job 1-2; 2 Cor. 4:16ff; 12:7-10)
- He uses church discipline (1 Cor. 5:5-7)
- He uses inward division (1 Cor. 11:19; 1 Jn. 2:19)
- He uses outside persecution (Heb. 12:3-13)

TRUST THE (DI) VINEDRESSER

- God, the divine vinedresser, knows what he is doing (Psa. 80:8-14)
- God prunes you because he loves you (Heb. 12:6)
- God is waiting for the precious fruit in you (Jas. 5:7)
- What are you made of (1 Cor. 3:10-15)? Will you allow God to prune you today?
- Better to be pruned to grow, than cut off to burn!



PRUNING FOR PRODUCTION



**THANKS
A
BUNCH!**

(WE SHOULD ALWAYS BE GRAPE-FUL!)





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WEB MINISTRIES**
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LEPH 6:17 AND TAKE...THE SWORD OF THE
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