

Abide in Me (John 15:4-5)

Introduction: “*Mr. Willpower*”

- I. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS **NOT** A MATTER OF OUR WILLPOWER
 - A. Jesus told us that our willpower cannot work (v.5)
 - B. There is no such thing as *Avis Christianity* (“***We try harder***”)
 1. So says Proverbs 14:12
 2. Note – “*The 10 metre & the 10,000 metre long jump*”
 3. Yet – how many Christians (yes, Lutherans!) don’t believe Ephesians 2:8-9
 - C. The reality of our sin dashes all such hopes (Romans 3:23)

- II. THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IS **NOT** ABOUT OUR TRYING TO BE GOOD, BUT ABOUT OUR PERFECT SAVIOUR
 - A. On the cross, Jesus reveals the source of God’s power & life for us
 - B. This power & life comes to us as branches abiding in Jesus the vine (vv. 4-5)

- III. JESUS OUR PERFECT SAVIOUR PROVIDES THE MEANS BY WHICH WE CAN ABIDE IN HIM
 - A. He comes to us in His 3-fold Word: written Word, spoken Word, visible Word
 - B. Written Word: The Holy Scriptures
 - C. Spoken Word: The Sermon
 - D. Visible Word: Baptism and Holy Communion
 - E. There is no room for *Mr. Willpower* or *Avis Christianity*

Conclusion: A lesson learned in 1977 St. Louis: “*Don’t unplug the power!*”