

Vine of Heaven ~ Midweek Reflection # 37, Ash Wed. 2009

“Vine of Heaven

The seasons dictate the growth of the vine.

In our lives we must learn that we cannot always live

in the springtime of the rising new sap,

or the summer of growth and formation;

we cannot always live in the autumn of rich fruit-bearing,

or in the winter of rest and seeming deadness.

Each of these seasons has its place,

and all are independent and necessary.

Lord Jesus, Vine of Heaven: I long to abide in you,

a living and fruit-bearing branch of the true vine.

Grant that I may learn from the pruning experiences of my life,

and discern the value of the changing seasons,

so that when the renewing sap flows through the branches of the vine,

I may rejoice and bear fruit for the joy of the world. Amen”

~ Brother Ramon, The Way of Love (London: Marshall Pickering, 1994) pp. 148, 150

“Seasons Change, Tastes don’t”

~advertising billboard, TD Bank North Garden, Boston 2008, 2009

I enjoy the changing of the seasons. Right now I look forward to the coming of Spring and warmer weather. And I believe, as the billboard says, that seasons change, but my longings and needs don't. No matter the season, I still want and need to be abiding in Christ, the Vine of Heaven. Whether in a time of rest, growth and formation, or rich fruit-bearing, my deepest need is to remain, abide, in the Son of God who sustains me with His own life and daily renews my hope and restores my soul.

"I wait for the Lord. My soul waits, and in God's Word I hope;

My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning,

more than those who watch for [the Spring] Psalm 130, adapted

May God grant us the grace to abide in Christ as we wait.

Under God's Mercy,

Howie