

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn your bibles with me to John 16

We are continuing our verse by verse study through the Gospel of John

And we find ourselves in the portion of scripture – this six hour window – where Jesus is pouring into His disciples' just hours before He is arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane.

And during this time, Jesus has been preparing them for the worst days of their lives – which are just up ahead.

For three years, He has been by their side, traveling with them, teaching them, loving them, eating with them – they have watched Him heal, they have watched them feed, they have watched Him serve –

And they are hours away from seeing Him betrayed, tortured and nailed to a Roman cross – and they will see His body placed in the tomb, where it will remain for three days.

Now -

Two thousand years later, we know the end result

We know what happened at the tomb that Sunday morning

We can look back and rejoice knowing that Jesus conquered death

We can look back and rejoice that we have an eternal hope – that we are saved and our sins are forgiven.

But we have to try to put ourselves in the place of Jesus' disciples -

What Jesus is telling them is already rocking their world – and it hasn't even happened yet.

They are anticipating extremely troublesome times ahead – and they can't conceive how the death of Jesus Christ, their best friend – could possibly be any good to them.

So Jesus prepares them -

Let not your heart be troubled (John 14)

These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble. (John 16:1)

In our text this morning – Jesus will continue to prepare them by reminding them why His departure will be a benefit - not only for them but for us as well.

Let's pray...

Read the text –

So we left off last week – with Jesus preparing His disciples by letting them know what type of opposition they were to expect from the world because of their association to Him –

He pretty much told them they should expect to be outcasts –

They are going to expel you from the gathering – “the synagogues”

They are going to come after you –

They are going to try to kill you – thinking that they are doing it on behalf of God.

And I am telling you this – so you will be prepared for it – so it doesn’t blind side you – so, it doesn’t scandalize you (1)

By the way –

What Jesus is doing here with his disciples is a great reminder of what He does to you and me.

God always prepares us for the things that are up ahead – just like He is doing to His disciples.

He is using what is in our lives today – preparing us for what is up ahead.

Doing a work in us today – but knowing that there is still more work up ahead.

And in the same way that Jesus prepared His disciples for His death and Resurrection – one of the ways that He is preparing the believer today is for His imminent return.

It could happen this morning, Maranatha!!!

it could happen tomorrow,

But it is the work of the Holy Spirit, who dwells in us, that prepares us by giving us a burden to tell others about Christ and also through conviction – so that we may draw closer to Him.

[Jhn 16:7-15 NKJV] 7 “Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

One of the blessings of the departing of Jesus, one of the blessings of His crucifixion, one of the blessings of the disciples losing their best friend, will be the sending of the Holy Spirit.

Remember, their hearts are troubled –

Jesus is not ignoring that their hearts are troubled –

In fact, when He says “nevertheless”, He is acknowledging that He knew how they feel and it could be that what He is about to tell them “the truth” – might make them even more troubled

Why would Jesus have to remind them that He's telling the truth?

Because it's a hard thing to swallow when somebody tries to tell you that the bad thing they're telling you is actually good for you.

Again, we must put ourselves in their sandals –

For three years, they have done nothing but hang out with Jesus

They have broken bread with Him

They have a relationship

They have even partaken in some of the miracles that Jesus did – in the feeding of the multitudes.

He is their rabbi

And He is telling them, “It is to your advantage that I go away”

What do you think the disciples were thinking when He said that???

Do you think they agreed with Jesus????

I think this is what they were thinking -

I don't see how it is to our advantage Jesus

Before you called us – most of us were just a bunch of redneck fishermen from Galilee.

These have been the best three years of our lives.

We totally disagree Jesus – we feel that it is to our advantage that you stay with us not that you go away.

Here is the thing church,

God allows things into our lives or God ordains things into our lives that are for our advantage – and our response is usually – “I don’t think so”, “I disagree”

We would rather have things done a different way

If it were up to me, I would rather have done it this way.

We begin to wrestle with God’s will

And the Lord is telling us – it is to our advantage –

He is going to work all things together for the good – for those that love Him, for those that are called according to His purposes and His will.

And that is where the disciples find themselves –

It was to their advantage that Jesus go away because the Holy Spirit was going to take His place.

Remember, when Jesus was on the earth physically, He was limited by that physical body to one place at a time (Galilee, Jerusalem, Jericho etc.)

He also took on some of the limitations of that physical body – Jesus got tired and got hungry.

But after the resurrection and after He ascended back to His place at the right hand of God, the Holy Spirit was sent back in His place – (Pentecost – Acts 2)

the Holy Spirit,

He inhabited every believer in Christ and together they make up one Body—

the “Body of Christ.”

Once the Holy Spirit took up residence in every believer in Jesus—

the Body of Christ would be in many places at once and work more works than He could during His earthly ministry when He was limited to one locality at a time by His physical body.

This is exactly what Jesus meant when He told His disciples—

[Jhn 14:12 NKJV] 12 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater [works] than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

So, Jesus is telling His disciples -

“As good as these last three years of ministry have been with Me, personally and physically – it is going to be much better when I leave.”

8 "And when He has come, He will **convict the world of sin**, and of **righteousness**, and of **judgment**: 9 "of sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 "of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; 11 "of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

I want to draw your attention here beginning in verse 8 – at every time Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as “He” (nine times)

The Spirit of God is eternal and He is a person

He is not a force or an “it” or a thing

This is important biblical truth to grasp.

Now, one of the cults that comes knocking on your door on Saturday -

In their false teaching, in their doctrine – they believe that the Holy Spirit is a force.

But Jesus clearly refers to the Holy Spirit as a person – and He would know right – because He is part of the Godhead/ the Trinity

So it is very important that we understand this and grasp this.

The Spirit of God dwell in us, we have a relationship with Him

Now, over the last couple of weeks, we have been going over some of the work the responsibilities of the ministry of the Holy Spirit

So far, I have pointed out that they include

1. To Teach
2. To bear witness / testify of Jesus
3. To bring to remembrance

Here is number 4

4. To convict

The word convict – in the Greek it is actually a legal term.

It means to bring to light, to expose, to be found guilty.

Now – I had you make a note of - He will convict the world of sin

Did you notice that the word sin is singular????

Jesus is not saying that Holy Spirit will convict the world because they lied or because they stole something from the store or because they were mean to someone.

Jesus is referring to one sin– (vs 9)

And that is the sin of unbelief.

There is a conviction upon a person's life because of unbelief.

The bible says -

[Heb 9:27 NKJV] 27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

When we die – we are either going to be in the presence of the Lord or we are going to be in Hades awaiting final judgment.

There are no second chances

And if we have rejected God's grace – the Holy Spirit convicts us of that truth.

[Jhn 3:17 NKJV] 17 "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

The ONLY sin that will damn a person to hell for all eternity is the sin of rejecting Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Most people don't understand—that it isn't how good they are or how bad they are that determines whether they make it into heaven or spend eternity in hell—their sins are not the determining factor.

What determines whether a person makes it into heaven or is sent to hell—is whether they accept or reject Jesus as their Savior.

Jesus also says that the Holy Spirit will convict the world of righteousness

Now, this is what I believe that Jesus is trying to tell us

[Rom 3:23 NKJV] 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

“What is the glory of God?”

It's perfection.

We break 1 commandment – we break them all.

We fall short of perfection

That is what righteousness is

So the work of conviction of the Holy Spirit is to point out our own unrighteousness and the righteousness of Jesus.

And here is what I mean –

Jesus death on the cross and resurrection proves that He was all that He said and claimed to be.

It proves

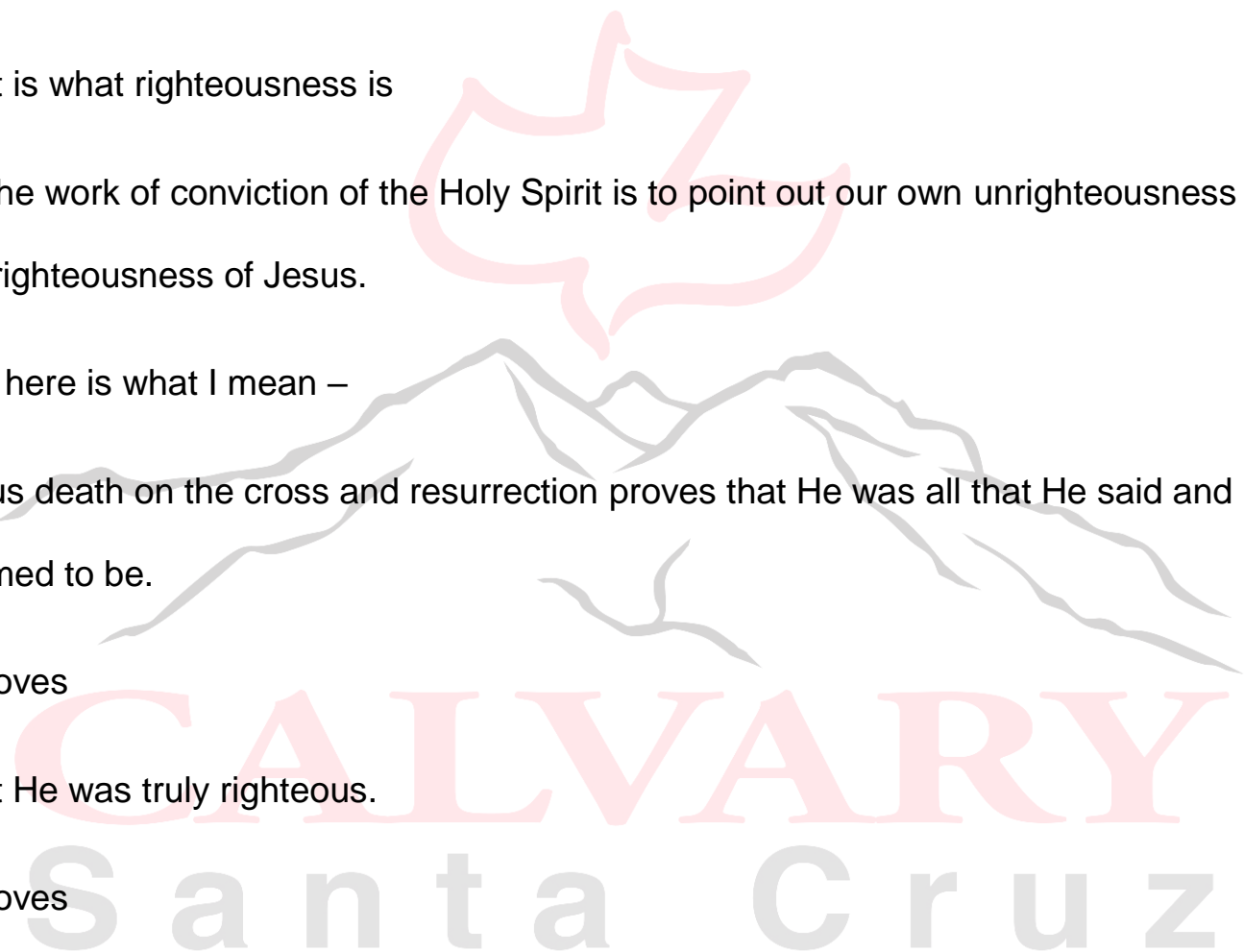
That He was truly righteous.

It proves

That He was truly perfect.

His righteousness was worthy of God's standards.

And this reminds us of our own unrighteousness



Paul – however, he gives us good news

[2Co 5:21 NKJV] 21 For He made Him who knew no sin [to be] sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

When we put our faith and trust in Jesus, God took all of our sins and heaped them up on Jesus.

And in exchange for that, God took the righteousness of Jesus and gave that to us.

Jesus also tells us that the Holy Spirit will bring a conviction of judgment

Turn with me to Ecc 3 (after Proverbs)

[Ecc 3:11 NKJV] 11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.

When God created us – because He made us in His own image – He put eternity in our hearts – meaning, that He created us as eternal beings and therefore we recognize that there is something after this life.

Some people in the world may not admit it – but they do recognize it.

And when conviction of judgment comes – Jesus ties it to the ruler of the world

[Col 2:14-15 NKJV] 14 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. 15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

Satan was judged by Jesus on the cross.

It was demonstrated by the resurrection, by the ascension, and then by the coming of the Holy Spirit.

If he was judged like that, isn't it evident that all the rest of the world will be judged as well?

Satan didn't conquer Jesus in death, Jesus conquered Satan through the resurrection.

This was proof that He will judge the world as well.

One of the things that I have observed is -

It's difficult for people to understand that we live in a judged world—that we live in a condemned world.

I have heard many people over the years say that they don't need to accept Jesus as their Savior—they believe that, although they're not perfect, they feel they're still good enough to make into heaven.

They feel that when they stand before God, they'll get their 'day in court' and present their case and God will hear their evidence, all their good deeds, and let them into heaven.

12 "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear [them] now.

The disciples were too full of sorrow and selfishness for Jesus to say anymore to them in the way of spiritual truth.

Also, the disciples at this point were still spiritual babies—

Jesus knew that they were too immature spiritually to handle any more spiritual truth than what He had already given to them.

He was only able to give them spiritual milk – He was only able to provide for them basic doctrine

The deeper things of God (the meat) would have to wait till they were mature enough, spiritually to handle it—

How long do they have to wait?

Jesus tells them -

13 "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own [authority], but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

This is where the ministry of the Holy Spirit comes in—to continue the work Jesus began (thru the lives of Jesus' disciples), to give them the balance of New Testament revelation along with the grace to understand and apply all of God's truth into their lives—so that they (we) might finish the work Jesus began on the earth when He was here physically:

The Holy Spirit – He will guide us.

He will take us by the hand and lead us through all the mazes and obstacles and into the truth.

I had you make a note: He will not speak on His own [authority

This is Jesus' way of saying that everything the Holy Spirit says and does will be consistent with what Jesus has already said and done.

The idea that Jesus is communicating here to His men is that the ministry of the Holy Spirit would be a continuance of His own ministry—NOT something brand new and different.

Let me say it again, the Holy Spirit would never contradict anything Jesus said during His earthly ministry—or any of God's truth for that matter already revealed in the pages of Scripture.

And this is very important to understand church – because....

The Holy Spirit has been blamed for a lot of things that clearly contradict what God has already revealed in His Word.

- The Holy Spirit is not going to tell you to divorce your spouse and marry someone else because they are more spiritual
- The Holy Spirit is not going to tell you that it is ok to be unequally yoked
- Or it is ok to live an extravagant lifestyle – like some preachers on TV claim.
- Or that He told me to bark like a dog during church services

He will expound and expand the teachings of Jesus—

14 "He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare [it] to you. 15

"All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare [it] to you.

Again, the Holy Spirit never draws attention to Himself—He always and only draws attention to Jesus—that is His ministry!

I made the point a few weeks ago – what is the test whether a church is being led by the Holy Spirit – whether or not they are talking about Jesus.

By this we can test all teaching and preaching—if it has the effect of magnifying the Savior, then it is of the Holy Spirit.

The main ministry of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers is to draw us closer and closer to Jesus every day so that we become more and more like Him

This is accomplished primarily through the reading and studying of the Word of God—

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NKJV)

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'