

11.04.18 ~ John 16:1-15, The Holy Spirit Convicts and Comforts

Read John 16:1-4... "These things" refer to what Jesus said in **John 15:18-25** - The world hated Jesus, it will also hate His followers. The world persecuted Jesus, it will also persecute His followers. The world is guilty of sin because it rejects the witness of Jesus Christ.

Jesus "spoke these things, so that they (along with all true followers of Christ) may be kept from stumbling." The number one enemy of God is Satan, who controls the world system that opposes God, entices the flesh and captivates the minds of unbelievers.

Satan, the world, and the flesh all seek to destroy the witness of God's people and to disable the effectiveness of the Church, so that we cannot carry out the Great Commission of sharing the Gospel of Christ with those who will be saved and changed forever.

The devil deceives the people of the world, turning them against God and God's people, Paul says (**2 Timothy 3:12-13**), "all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But evil men and impostors will proceed *from bad* to worse, deceiving and being deceived."

In this context (**John 16:2**) it is clearly the religious leaders of Israel [the Jews] who will be coming against the disciples and all believers and followers of Christ.

Before his conversion, Paul was a Pharisee, a religious zealot who hated the followers of Jesus (**Acts 26:9-11**), "I thought to myself that I had to do many things hostile to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. And this is just what I did in Jerusalem; not only did I lock up many of the saints in prisons, having received authority from the chief priests, but also when they were being put to death I cast my vote against them [Acts 7-8, the martyr of Stephen]. And as I punished them often in all the synagogues, I tried to force them to blaspheme; and being furiously enraged at them, I kept pursuing them even to foreign cities."

Paul thought he was serving God by persecuting those who believed in Jesus as Lord and Savior; but the truth is (**John 16:3**), those who come against God's children do so because they do not know God the Father or God the Son.

Jesus (**John 16:4**) speaks of persecution that will come to those who serve God, for God's enemy, Satan, will come against them. Jesus is telling His disciples now, because they didn't need to know this while Jesus was with them, but now He is getting ready to leave them.

Read John 16:5-6... Jesus will soon take the eleven to the Garden; He will be taken from them and put to death; 40 days later He will go back to the Father in heaven.

Jesus has repeatedly told them He is going to be taken from them, but also, that He will be going back to the Father in heaven; however, before He ascends back

into heaven, He will suffer rejection, beatings, and crucifixion [hours on the cross, while the Father pours out His wrath for sin upon His own Son, at which time the Father turns away from Him (**Matthew 27:46**), "My God, My God, why have You forsaken [abandoned] Me?"

I mention Christ's crucifixion (the barbaric method of execution used by Rome), because in the narrative of **John 16:5-6**, the disciples only think about themselves, giving no thought to how all this affects Jesus, i.e., they are so self-centered about their own sorrow over Jesus' imminent departure that they give no thought to the unimaginable pain, suffering, and sense of abandonment that Jesus is about to experience.

Read John 16:7-11... Jesus speaks of the *Supernatural Comforter* [Isaiah 9:6, *Wonderful Counselor*] the Holy Spirit, who will come to them, but only after Christ ascends back into heaven to be at the right hand of the Father (**see John 14:16-17; 25-26; 15:26-27**).

The Holy Spirit seeks to bring conviction to the heart of those who do not believe in Jesus Christ; while the devil holds them captive (**see 2Corinthians 4:3-4**).

Rejecting Jesus as the Son of God is the unpardonable sin that condemns a person to an eternal hell (**see John 3:14-16, 36; 6:28-29; 8:24-25; 10:30; 14:6**).

In **John 12:31-32** Jesus says, "Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself." In **John 14:30** Jesus says, "the ruler of the world is coming," and now (**John 16:11**) Jesus says, "the ruler of this world has been judged."

Satan is defeated, judged and condemned by Jesus Christ, who is the Truth. Satan is the father of lies (**John 8:44**), "He [Satan] was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies."

Read John 16:12-15... Jesus will tell them many more things after His death and resurrection, but they are incapable of really hearing what He has to say, as they are so consumed with their own sorrow that they do not understand the marvelous message of the cross.

Not until after Jesus' death and resurrection will the disciples understand the deep meaning of what He has been telling them; the Helper [*Comforter*, Spirit of Truth] will come to them on the Day of Pentecost at which time, the Holy Spirit will give them what the Lord wants them to have and tell them what the Lord wants them to know, so that they will be able to understand and accomplish all that He wants them to do.

Everything the Holy Spirit will tell them comes directly from God for the purpose of glorifying the Father and the Son. Jesus is speaking of the supernatural, sovereign, and divine truth, that will equip and enable the disciples to proclaim the message of forgiveness and eternal life through Christ (**see John 14:26; 15:26-27**)

2Peter 1:20-21, "Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. 21 For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." (NIV 1984)

2Timothy 3:16-17, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." (NIV 1984)

The Holy Spirit convicts us in our heart of sin, so that we will repent and trust in Jesus for salvation, at which time we experience the Holy Spirit's comfort and confirmation that we have received eternal life.

Do you have the assurance that you belong to Christ, that you have eternal life? if not, ask God to forgive and save you, right now, He turns no one away.

Admit you're a sinner, we all are (Romans 3:10, 23)...

Believe that Jesus can save you; He is the only means of salvation (Romans 6:23): the only Way to God, the only Truth of God, the only Life with God...

Confess your sinfulness to Him and He will forgive all your sins: past, present, future (Romans 5:8; 8:1)...

Demonstrate the new life you have received in Christ (2Corinthians 5:17; Hebrews 10:24-25)...

Read the Bible daily, try to obey what you understand.

Pray to God throughout your day, ask Him to guide and strengthen you, to give you opportunities to serve Him...

Participate and serve in a local God-honoring church where the Bible is taught, lived out, and honored...

1John 5:11-13, "And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life."

Pastor Mike

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