

The Gospel of John 16:1-15

I The Son's Going for the Spirit's Coming To Convict the World

- A. The Son's sending of the Comforter (v.7) was His coming as the Comforter. His sending was His coming. In other words, He sent Himself in another form to come as the other Comforter. This is excellent, marvelous, and yet mysterious. (See Zechariah 2:8-11)
- B. Sin entered through Adam (Rom.5:12), righteousness is the resurrected Christ (v.10; 1Cor.1:30), and judgment is for Satan (v.11), who is the author and source of sin (8:44). In Adam we were born of sin. The only way to be freed from sin is to believe into Christ, the Son of God (v.9). If we believe into Him, He is righteousness to us, and we are justified in Him (Rom.3:24; 4:25). If we do not repent of the sin that is in Adam and believe into Christ, the Son of God, we will remain in sin and share the judgment of Satan for eternity (Matt.25:41). These are the main points of the gospel. The Spirit uses these points to convict the world.
- C. The three items of sin, righteousness, and judgment are a sketch of the gospel. The gospel is that we are sinners in Adam, but that we can be righteous and justified in Christ. If we are unwilling to be translated from Adam into Christ, we must be warned that we shall share the judgment with Satan. In other words, you were born in Adam, but God's intention is to take you out of Adam and translate you into Christ. If you disagree with God's intention, you must remain in Adam and share the judgment with Satan. Sin is of Adam, righteousness is of Christ, and judgment is for Satan. If you are willing to be translated from Adam into Christ, you will be saved, having nothing to do with the judgment. The work of the Holy Spirit involves these three items, and every time we preach the gospel we must tell people about them. This is the gospel whereby the Holy Spirit convinces sinners to repent and to believe in Christ, you will get into Him. You will be translated from the first person into the second.

II The Comforter, The Spirit of Reality Glorifies the Son and Transmits All That the Father and the Son Have

- A. The work of the Spirit is, first, to convict the world. Second, as the Spirit of reality He guides the believers into all the reality; that is, He makes all that the Son is and has real to the believers. All that the Father is and has is embodied in the Son (Col.2:9), and through the Spirit all that the Son is and has is declared as reality to the believers (vv.14-15). This declaring is the glorifying of the Son with the Father. Hence, it is a matter of the Triune God being wrought into and mingled with the believers. Third, the Spirit declares the things that are to come, which are revealed mainly in Revelation (Rev. 1:1, 19). The three aspects of the Spirit's work correspond to the three sections of John's writings: his Gospel, his Epistles, and his Revelation.
- B. In verses 14 and 15 the Lord said that the Spirit of reality "will receive of Mine and will declare it to you." All that the Son is and has is revealed as reality to the believers through the Spirit. This is to glorify the Son with the Father. The Spirit declares the Son with the Father to the believers. He makes all that Christ is and has real to us. The Bible says that God is light (1John 1:5). The Bible also says that Christ is light (John 8:12). This means that the very light, which is God Himself, is the Son. But how can this light be realized? How can it be real to us? It is realized through the Spirit. When the Spirit moves within us, the light is shining. The light is both the Father and the Son. The Father is the source and the essence of light, and the Son is the embodiment and expression of this light. We realize this light, in actuality, by the Spirit. When the Spirit moves within us, He is the reality of light.
- C. The same is true with the matter of life. God is life. The Son also is life. God the Father is the source and the essence of life, and the Son is the embodiment and expression of this life. How can this life be ours? By the Spirit. Romans 8:2 says that the Spirit is the Spirit of life. When the Spirit moves within us, He is not only the shining and enlightening light but also the very life which enlivens, nourishes, and strengthens us. The Spirit is the reality of all that the Father and the Son are. Without the Spirit, there is the essence of what the Father and Son are, but there is no realization. Take the example of electricity. Although we may have electricity, it still needs to be applied for a specific purpose. That application of electricity is the realization of the electricity. Likewise, the Spirit is the application of everything that is real in Christ. Without the Spirit nothing is available and applicable.

Concerning Sin

1. The Source of Sin is Satan (8:44)
2. All Born of the Devil, the Old Serpent (8:44, 1John3:10, Rev.12:9,20:2)
3. All Born with the Poison of the Serpent (Mtt.23:33, 3:7)
4. All Born in Sin in Adam (9:34)
5. All Born Condemned (3:18)
6. All Born to Die in Sin (8:21)
7. All Being Under the Slavery of Sin (8:34)
8. Believing in the Son Being the Unique Way to be Freed From Sin (8:24, 36, 3:15-17)
9. Not to Believe in the Son Being the Unique Sin for Perishing (16:9, 3:16)

Concerning Righteousness

1. The Son Having Come and Died to Fulfill God's Righteous Requirements (3:14)
2. The Son Having Resurrected and Gone to the Father as a Proof of the Father's Satisfaction (16:10, Rom.3:26, Rom.4:25, Rom.10:9)
3. The Son as Righteousness Given to the Believers (1Cor.1:30, Jer.23:6)
4. The Believers Being Justified in the Son
5. The Believers Being Freed from the Source of Sin, the Devil (Heb.2:14)

Concerning Judgment

1. The Judgment Being for the Devil, the author of Sin, the Origin of Death, the Father of all Sinners and the Ruler of the World (16:11, Mtt.25:41)
2. This Ruler Being Judged in the Flesh of Christ (12:31-33, 3:14, Heb.2:14)
3. Any Sinner Nor Believing in the Son Will Remain with the Devil and Share His Judgment (16:11, Mtt.25:41)