

JOHN 16:7-12
THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE WORLD!

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to John chapter 16 as we continue our in-depth study of the Gospel of John.

As we have seen over the last several weeks, the earthly ministry of Jesus was coming to an end. We are only hours away before He will be arrested and crucified!

And with all that was on His mind, with all that was before Him and what He would have to encounter, His focus was not upon Himself, but it was upon His men. He is no longer teaching the multitudes but here in John chapters 13 through 17 He is teaching His disciples the things that they will need to carry on the work of the ministry when He is gone!

For 3½ years they were with Jesus day in and day out and now Jesus tells them that He is going away and where He is going they can't come, at least not yet. And He was speaking of His death, that He was going to be crucified.

We read these words and sometimes we don't think much about what they were going through when they heard those words. They placed their lives in the hand of Jesus and they are thinking that was just a waste of time now. He is going to be put to death and what are they going to do.

That is why Jesus kept encouraging them. He told them in John 14:1, "**Let not you heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.**"

But, as encouraging as those words might have been, they were going to be alone. Jesus was going to leave them. What would they do?

And Jesus tells them that He is not going to leave them alone. He is not going to leave them helpless like orphans.

But what will He do because He is going to die and return to the Father?

Jesus told them that He is going to send them another Helper or the Holy Spirit and He would abide with them forever. He would never leave them – *NEVER!*

Remember what Jesus said in John 14:15-18, **“If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever - the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.”**

Now the reason that the Holy Spirit is referred to as the Helper is because the Greek word, *PARAKLETOS*, means *“one who comes alongside to help.”*

Think about that for a minute.

Jesus was the original Helper.

What do I mean by that?

I mean that for 3½ years Jesus came alongside these men to help them in the work of the Kingdom.

But now Jesus, the Helper is going away and what were they going to do without Him.

Not to fear because the Holy Spirit will be with them and the Godhead works together so in a sense, Jesus is also with them.

And they were going to need the help of the Holy Spirit because, as we saw last time, things were not going to be easy for them.

Remember what we read in John 16:2, **“They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service.”**

As hard as this was to hear, they needed to hear the truth so they could be prepared for what was ahead. When all this persecution began to grow and grow against them, they would be ready because the Helper, the Holy Spirit will give them the power to stand against these attacks and to be a witness of Jesus to a world that is coming against Jesus and His disciples!

So this morning we are going to focus on the Holy Spirit. And we will be looking at –
THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE WORLD!

Remember what Jesus said to His disciples back in John 14:17, a verse we read this morning. He said regarding the Holy Spirit, **“... He dwells with you and will be in you.”**

You see, at this point Jesus had not died and rose from the grave and thus, the Holy Spirit was with them, drawing them to Jesus.

But, as we will see when we get to John chapter 20, after the death and resurrection of Jesus, that He appears to His men and says to them, **“... ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’”** John 20:22.

It is at this point that the disciples become New Testament believers as the Holy Spirit that was with them, is now in them!

This morning we are going to focus on the work of the Holy Spirit as He draws people to Jesus and that is important. This is some of the work that the Holy Spirit is doing in the world today!

Let me share this story with you. We are told,

A twelve-year-old boy was saved at a revival. Later, his friends questioned him about it.

One said, “Did you see a vision?”

Another said, “Did you hear God speak?”

The boy answered all of these questions with a simple no.

“Well, how did you know you were saved?” they asked.

The boy replied, “It’s like when you catch a fish, you can’t see the fish or hear the fish; you just feel him tugging on your line: I just felt God tugging on my heart.”

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That is what we will see this morning, the Holy Spirit working in this world, tugging on people’s hearts so that they may receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior, they may come to that saving faith!

I have broken down the verses we will be looking at this morning here in John chapter 16 into three main points. They are,

NEVERTHELESS – JOHN 16:7

SIN, RIGHTEOUSNESS, JUDGMENT – JOHN 16:8-11

MORE TO COME – JOHN 16:12

So with that as our introduction, let’s begin reading in John chapter 16, beginning in verse 7 and see what the Lord has for us as we study His Word and look at this topic regarding the Holy Spirit – ***THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE WORLD!***

JOHN 16**VERSE 7**

Now we did cover John 16:7 last time but we are going to look at it again because it will lead us to the focus of our study this morning – ***THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE WORLD!***

Remember what Jesus said in John 16:6, **“But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.”**

Jesus recognized that they were troubled by the fact He was going away, He was going to be crucified.

They were troubled by the persecution that was coming and what were they going to do without Jesus to guide them, to protect them?

And it is out of that we see the word – ***NEVERTHELESS!***

In other words, Jesus is basically saying to His men, ***“Men, I know this is not easy, that tough times are coming, but in spite of all that, you are not going to be left alone. You are not going to be left without a Helper. You see, when I go the Holy Spirit will come and He will guide you in all truth. He will be there to empower you for the work you are to do. Men, there is a blessing that is coming that you can’t even imagine – THE HOLY SPIRIT! But I must go for Him to come! So hang in there. Yes, it will be tough – NEVERTHELESS!”***

Keep in mind that the earthly ministry of Jesus was limited to Him being at one place at a time. We might not think about this too often, but in the incarnation that was the reality. But now that has changed, and it is to our advantage!

But when He goes to be with the Father, both the Father and the Son will send the Holy Spirit to be with them. Yes, Jesus wanted them to know that it was *to* their *advantage*.

You see, after the death and resurrection of Jesus He sent to us the Holy Spirit who works in all believers at the same time throughout the world.

It is as Jesus said, **“However, I am telling you nothing but the truth when I say it is profitable (good, expedient, advantageous) for you that I go away. Because if I do not go away, the Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Advocate, Intercessor, Strengtheners, Standby) will not come to you [into close fellowship with you]; but if I go away, I will send Him to you [to be in close fellowship with you].”** John 16:7. (The Amplified Bible)

And we will deal more with this next time, ***THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR LIVES!***

But this morning we need to focus on – ***THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE WORLD!***

And folks, I am sad to say that the Holy Spirit seems to be edited out of the lives of many believers, they don't even believe in the Holy Spirit as we have seen.

That is tragic and the hope that Jesus gave to His men many have taken that hope away and put it into evangelistic programs and the like.

Let me show you what I mean from a report in 2021. We are told,

The latest report from the Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University shows that self-identified Christians in America tend to hold beliefs that are thoroughly unbiblical - even on basic issues of theology.

Determining how many Christians are in America depends on how we limit the term.

For example, the vast majority of American adults (69 percent) still self-identify as “Christian.”

If we consider only those who consider themselves to born-again Christians, the number drops to about 35 percent of the population.

Self-identified evangelicals constitute 28 percent.

The study breaks it down even further by classifying “theological born-again Christians” as those who say that “when they die they will go to heaven, but only because they have confessed their sins and accepted Jesus Christ as their savior.”

The smallest group in the study are labeled as “Integrated Disciples” since they hold such beliefs as that the Bible is the accurate and reliable Word of God, that God is the all-knowing, all-powerful, and just Creator of the universe who still rules the universe today, and that every moral choice either honors or dishonors God. *This group is a mere 6 percent of the population.*

Of self-identified Christians, 58 percent contend that the Holy Spirit is not a real, living being but is merely a symbol of God’s power, presence, or purity.

Surprisingly, those who identify as born-again Christians are even more likely to hold that view (62 percent), and half of “theological born-again Christians” also deny the Spirit is a being.

Even among those with the most biblical worldview - the “integrated disciples” - 40 percent hold an unbiblical view of the Holy Spirit.

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That is shocking to me and hopefully to you. How can that be? Because we are negating what the Word of God has said. We are ignoring the truths of God found in the Word of God.

And as you well know, I will not do that to the best of my ability. We cover all the verses in the Bible. The hard ones, the easy ones, the controversial ones and what God has said in His Word is truth, and we must trust it and apply it to our lives!

Maybe that is a reason that we don't see the church making an impact on this world like it should be doing. We have negated the work of the Holy Spirit not only in this world but in our own lives!

I think we are all in agreement here, the Holy Spirit is God, the third person of the Holy Trinity. And each member of the Godhead has work that it is to do.

And that is what we are going to look at next, this work that the Holy Spirit is doing in the world, showing them – ***SIN, RIGHTEOUSNESS AND JUDGMENT!***

VERSES 8-11

Keep in mind that what Jesus is speaking of here is – ***THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE WORLD!*** In other words, this is the work that the Holy Spirit is doing in the lives of unbelievers, He is with them drawing them to Jesus!

This is not speaking about Christians, even though we do apply this to our lives many times.

What do I mean by that?

The Holy Spirit will convict me of my sins!

The Holy Spirit will convict me of my lack of righteousness!

The Holy Spirit will convict me of the coming judgment for my sins!

But when you look at all that Jesus is saying here in these verses, this is not directed towards Christians but to unbelievers!

And this is powerful because Christians, as they witness, don't like to talk about sin. There are even churches who will not speak of sin because it makes people uncomfortable. When you think about it, it should make them feel uncomfortable, it should! Make no mistake about it, the Word of God should bring conviction to their lives!

And when the Holy Spirit comes, after the death and resurrection of Jesus, He will convict the world of three things. And that is what we will be looking at.

I like the way that one person summed these verses up. He wrote, "**Sin** is the truth about man, **righteousness** is the truth about God, **judgment** is the inevitable combination of these two truths." (David Guzik)

And the work of the Holy Spirit is interesting to me. It is not to act goofy but to convict the world of sin, to show righteousness and to bring about judgment.

You see, the word used for "**convict**" speaks of things that were used in a court to present the evidence and bring about a conviction.

Here Jesus is telling us that the Holy Spirit will convict us or present to our hearts these things and then what we do with them will determine our destiny.

One writer put it like this. He wrote, "*The world may think that it is judging Christians, but it is the Christians who are passing judgment on the world as they witness to Jesus Christ! Believers are the witnesses, the Holy Spirit is the 'prosecuting attorney,' and the unsaved are the guilty prisoners. However, the purpose of this indictment is not to condemn but to bring salvation.*"

Now you may be wondering why the Holy Spirit did not come to condemn the world and the answer is really simple. The world is already condemned, and the Holy Spirit has come to bring people to the Savior, the One who can save them from their sins.

That is what Jesus said in John 3:17, **“For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”**

Here’s the thing. The Holy Spirit will convict people of their sin and the reason for doing that is because conviction is God’s way of showing a person his or her sin.

Why is that important?

Because if they never see themselves as sinners, they will never see their need for a Savior and hence, they will never turn to Jesus to save them.

Let me share this with you as one writer tells of a letter that he received and when you hear this, please understand that this is becoming more and more common in the church today!

We are told,

A pretty common question is reflected in today’s email from a young woman from Sweden, a listener to the podcast. [She wrote,] . . . “Dear Pastor John, hello to you I’m a relatively new Christian in Sweden, and I have a problem with my church. I got baptized four years ago and became a member. As time passed, I noticed our sermons don’t touch on sin and never call for repentance. I’ve asked one of the pastors about this, who said they are not preaching contradictory to the Bible; they just decided to not talk directly about sin. They want to focus on the love of Jesus and his acceptance of sinners. It sounds well with me, as an effort to attract lots of people into the church. At the same time, they don’t celebrate repentance and obedience. What do you think of a church that doesn’t preach against particular sins?”

- Source Unknown

What is the Holy Spirit doing here?

Convicting the world of sin!

Why?

Because apart from knowing you are a sinner, why would you need a Savior? You wouldn't, as I have said!

And the wonderful thing is that God has given every person a conscience showing him what is right and what is wrong. And yes, people can sear their conscience to the point where they don't feel the conviction of God any longer and that is a dangerous place to be.

One writer put it like this, *“Each man’s conscience has some glimmering of light on each of these; some consciousness of guilt, some sense of right, some power of judgment of what is transitory and worthless; but all these are unreal and unpractical, till the convicting work of the Spirit has wrought in him.”* (Alford)

Exactly! In drawing people to Jesus, He is going to convict them of sin!

As one person wrote, *“The Spirit does not merely accuse men of sin, he brings to them an inescapable sense of guilt so that they realize their shame and helplessness before God.”* (Tenney)

Back during the great awakening of 1860-61 in Great Britain, a high-ranking army officer described the conviction of sin in his Scottish town: “Those of you who are ease have little conception of how terrifying a sight it is when the Holy Spirit is pleased to open a man’s eyes to see the real state of heart. Men who were thought to be, and who thought themselves to be good, religious people . . . have been led to search into the foundation upon which they were resting, and have found all rotten, that they were self-satisfied, resting on their own goodness, and not upon Christ. Many turned from open sin to lives of holiness, some weeping for joy for sins forgiven.” (J. Edwin Orr, *The Second Evangelical Awakening in Britain*)

And so, when the Holy Spirit comes, **“He will convict the world of sin . . .”**

When we read that I am sure all of us are thinking of murder, lying, stealing and the likes. But as we read on Jesus explains what He means by sin, we don’t have to guess.

First of all, in John 16:9 Jesus said, **“of sin, because they do not believe in Me.”** John 16:9.

Let me ask you this question.

What sends a person to Hell?

That is a very important question and I have given you some of the answers that many come up with. And you can add homosexuality, adultery, fornication and the like to that list I have already given and that is just scratching the surface. We can go through all the commandments of God and see how far short we come, all 613 of them!

Now listen carefully to what I am going to say.

That is wrong, those things don’t send you to hell.

Now hang in there because I did not say that, Jesus did.

You see, there really is only one sin that sends you to Hell and that is your rejection of Jesus!

What I want you to notice is that it is not “*sins*” in the plural form but “sin” in the singular form.

All those other things just determine the degree of punishment you will have for eternity in the Lake of Fire. You see, Jesus is the only provision for sin and if you reject Him, you will die in your sins!

Yes, those that reject Jesus will receive the punishment for their sins in the Lake of Fire, but the sin that sends them there is their rejection of Jesus!

And here is the amazing news, the Good News you might say!

When Jesus died on the cross of Calvary, He paid in full the sins of the world. That means every single person has been *technically* pardoned!

What do I mean by that?

Their sins have been pardoned *technically* but the *actual* pardon depends on whether or not they receive that pardon that God has given to them through Jesus Christ! If they reject Jesus as their Lord and Savior, if they refuse to repent of their sins, they are lost, they are headed for Hell!

Let me share with you a true story from our own American history and it will shed some light to what I am trying to get across to you.

About 1830, a man named George Wilson killed a government employee who caught him in the act of robbing the mails.

Wilson was tried and sentenced to be hanged.

The President of the United States, Andrew Jackson, sent Wilson a pardon. But Wilson did a strange thing: he refused to accept the pardon.

No one seemed to know what to do because of this, so Wilson's case was sent to the U. S. Supreme Court.

Chief Justice Marshall wrote the opinion: "*A pardon is a slip of paper, the value of which is determined by the acceptance of the person to be pardoned. If it is refused, it is no pardon. George Wilson must be hanged.*"

And he was.

The cross of Christ is a revelation of God's love for all people. We may do cowardly and disappointing things and bring deep pain to the Father's heart, but in the cross we see that He never gives up on us. Something happened that day on Calvary that forever makes a difference in the relationship between people and God. Even when the love of Jesus was thrown in His face with spitting, mocking and cursing, it remained unbroken.

The death of Christ on the cross is the pardon God sent. But before it becomes a pardon, we must accept it in faith and obedience. It is through the cross, and only through the cross that we can be saved from sin and its consequence of eternal separation from God in hell.

[And here is the question.]

Have you accepted God's pardon in Christ Jesus?

If not, will you?

I hope that is clear. The pardon has been given to all, but, for whatever reason, some reject it and thus, by rejecting the pardon they will die in their sins or by rejecting Jesus they will die in their sins!

And here's the thing. What Christ has done for us goes way beyond a pardon!

We are declared innocent, declared justified by grace through faith in Jesus, and like this story, we must receive Him into our lives!

Once we come to Christ there is no longer any record of our sin. I know, hard to believe but you have to remember that our sins have been atoned for, they have been paid for by Jesus, and thus, the record was wiped clean! (Colossians 2:13-14)

That free gift is out there for all to receive, Jesus died for us all.

The thing is not all will receive that free gift and thus, as Paul said in Romans 6:23, **“For the wages of sin is death, but the [free] gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”**

How much does it cost us to purchase this free gift of salvation?

Nothing, it is a free gift!

How many good works do we have to do so that we might obtain this free gift of salvation?

Good works don't save us; it is a free gift that God has given to us.

It did not cost us, but it truly did cost Him as He died for our sins! All we must do is receive that gift by faith!

And if you want to try to work your way into heaven, God will allow it but the wages, what you get in return is death, eternal separation from God!

I think we have lost the concept of sin and how bad it truly is. Sin is a terrible thing, and it is an insult to God's holiness.

Keep in mind that the word “sin” in the Greek literally means “*to miss the mark.*”

And it was used in archery for hitting the target or the bull’s eye. Dead center!

The problem for mankind is that we all have missed that mark as Paul tells us in Romans 3:23, “**for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.**”

Now here is the question. What is the “glory of God” speaking of?

It is speaking of missing the mark, and as we will see as we look at the next point, righteousness, the mark is perfection or keeping the Law of God perfectly.

If you still don’t get it, James makes it very clear as he tells us, “**For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.**”

Keep in mind that the Old Testament had 613 Commandments, not just the Ten Commandments!

But even if we just used the Ten Commandments, we have broken them many, many times! So we have missed the mark, that is the problem and Jesus is the answer to that problem!

Now, in saying that, I am sure that there are many who feel that they are good enough to get into heaven. They obey God, they follow His Words, they do the best that they can.

And that leads us to the next thing that the Holy Spirit does, *convict us of righteousness!*

What does that mean?

Again, we don’t have to guess.

When Jesus speaks of righteousness, listen to what He is talking about in verse 10, “**of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more.**” John 16:10.

Okay, but still, that does not help much. What does Jesus mean by that?

He is saying that He is the standard for righteousness and thus, if you are not as righteous as Jesus, you will not enter in. The Father accepted Jesus because He was without sin, He was perfect in the incarnation. And thus, we must be perfect, without sin for God the Father to accept us into heaven!

The Scribes and the Pharisees thought that they were righteous, but they were not. In fact, there is not one righteous, not even one person except for Jesus Christ! (Romans 3:10)

These Scribes and Pharisees spent their whole lives trying to keep every aspect of the law down to the tiniest detail. It was ridiculous.

Jesus even called them on it in Matthew 23:23-24, **“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!”**

These little garden herbs were weighed out by these religious leaders and a tenth was given to the Lord according to what the Law said.

And they took this to the extreme and yet, when it came to justice, mercy and faith, they did not balance out.

This was nothing more than an empty ritual because on a practical level, they were cheating the people, they were unmerciful, their faith was built upon the keeping of the Law and because of that they burdened the people with its weight!

And you have to laugh at this picture that Jesus is painting of them. He tells the people that these religious leaders would strain their drinks through a fine cloth just in case a gnat was in the drink.

You see, a gnat was the smallest of the unclean animals, and thus, to protect themselves from swallowing these tiny creatures, they would strain their drinks, (Leviticus 11:23).

They were so meticulous with the small things and yet, when it came to the bigger issues, they swallowed them down, took them in, digested them.

And the picture here is great. The camel was the largest of the unclean animals, (Leviticus 11:4).

Thus, as these guys strained out the gnat, the cloth didn't catch the camel, and they swallowed it down, but the gnat was strained.

You see, they were majoring on the minors and neglecting the weightier issues, and God says they will be judged!

And yet, they believed that they were righteous and because of all this outward behavior, the Jews had a saying back then, ***"If only two people made it into heaven, one would be a scribe and the other would be a Pharisee."***

Now let's take a look at this for a minute.

Paul was a Pharisee at one time, and he did his best to keep the Law. And prior to Paul meeting Jesus and getting saved, he said regarding himself that he was, **"circumcised the eighth day of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless."** Philippians 3:5-6.

But after he came to saving faith, he saw himself as he really was, a ***SINNER!***

Listen to what he said in Philippians 3:7-9 after Paul spoke of being blameless. He said, **“But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith.”**

Paul understood what Jesus is teaching here about the kind of righteousness that God will receive into heaven. It is only the righteousness of Christ that was imputed into his life and our life by faith!

Again, dealing with the Scribes and the Pharisees, listen to what Jesus said in Matthew 5:20, **“For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.”**

Like I have said, they were the keepers of the Law and yet Jesus says they fell far short of keeping it, of being perfect. They missed the mark, and they missed it by a million miles!

You see, as good as they were or thought they were, they were not perfect. And Jesus even said we are not any better because we would have to exceed their righteousness, which is not going to happen.

And the reality is, it is not the righteousness of man but of Christ that gets us into heaven!

Think about it. Isaiah 64:6 tells us **“But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away.”**

That is our problem. All our good is seen as filthy rags before God! So, what can we do? It seems hopeless and it is outside of Christ.

But there is good news. You see, Paul tells us about this good news in II Corinthians 5:21, “**For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**”

It is not our righteousness but His righteousness that has been imputed to us and thus, we have met the standard not because of what we have done, but what He has done and given to us!

One writer put it like this. He wrote, “*The righteousness here is that which belongs to Jesus Christ by nature as the holy Son of God. This is the flip side of the previous point; not only does the Spirit convict unbelievers of their sin, but also of the necessity of having the perfect righteousness of Christ (cf. Matt. 5:20, 48). When their wickedness is compared to His sinless holiness, their sin is seen more truly for the detestable evil that it is. And the sinner is face-to-face with the impossibility of salvation by any effort, work, or achievement he may do.*”

You see, when God the Father looks at us, He sees us as perfect. But understand that it is not our righteousness that He is seeing, but the righteousness of Christ that has been imputed into our lives by faith in Jesus!

And lastly, Jesus speaks of judgment, and he says in John 16:11, “**of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.**”

When was Satan, called the “**ruler of this world**” judged?

In Colossians 2:15 we are told, “**Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them [the cross] in it.**”

Jesus judged Satan and His demons as well as the entire world system that Satan was in control of at the cross and one day Jesus will come back and take back this world which He already has paid for!

And just think about Satan and what he has done throughout history, and this is just a brief Biblical look.

Satan thought he won when Cain slew Able, but not so!

Satan thought he won when he thought Haman would wipe out all the Jews, but he lost!

Satan thought he had the world against Jesus, so much so that they put Him to death and at that point there must have been celebrations in the world of darkness.

But what Jesus endured was not defeat, but victory! You see, Jesus conquered death and by paying the penalty for our sins, He gave us new life in Him, and the victory of the Devil was over, he did not win!

Thus, Jesus stripped them of their power over us; the sting of death is gone because Christ has given to us the victory!

But here is the problem. People don't see that this world is condemned, judged by God and there is coming a sentencing day.

Many feel that when they stand before God, because they are basically good, they will get their day in court and present their case before God. And God will hear their evidence and based on all the good deeds that they have done, God will let them into heaven!

But what do we read in John 3:16-20, **“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.”**

Who will not perish?

Those who believe in Him or receive Jesus as Lord and Savior of their lives. Those that have come to Christ will experience everlasting life!

But if you reject Jesus, you are already condemned! And the tragedy is that you don't have to spend an eternity in the Lake of Fire, but you choose to go there because you reject the gift of life that is found in Jesus!

It is as simple as that. Good works will never get you into heaven because good works can't take away the sin that is already in your life!

Make no mistake about it, we know that there is a day of judgment that is coming.

In Hebrews 9:27 we are told, **“And it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.”**

And specifically, here in John it is speaking of the judgment of Satan, and he has already been judged, like I have said. But also keep in mind, as he was judged so will unbelievers!

We have to remember that his power over our lives has been broken by Jesus and His atoning work on the cross of Calvary!

In Hebrews 2:14-15 we are told, **“Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”**

Thus, he has no power over our lives unless we let him!

The solution to that life of defeat is not this program or that program, but it is as James 4:7, **“Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”**

If that is true, and it is, then what about what I said earlier, **“Sin** is the truth about man, **righteousness** is the truth about God, **judgment** is the inevitable combination of these two truths.”? (David Guzik)

I think the idea here is this. Who are you going to side with? Is it going to be Jesus who had our sin judged on the cross of Calvary or is it Satan who was judged and if we follow him, we too will be judged!

Again, this is not speaking to the believer, to the Christian here in John, but to the unbeliever. And thus, just as Satan was judged you too will be judged and like Satan you will spend eternity in the Lake of Fire!

One writer put it like this. He wrote,

Think of it this way. Sin put you in prison. Sin locked you behind the bars of guilt and shame and deception and fear.

Sin did nothing but shackle you to the wall of misery.

Then Jesus came and paid your bail. He served your time; he satisfied the penalty and set you free. Christ died, and when you cast your lot with him, your old self died too.

The only way to be set free from the prison of sin is to serve its penalty. In this case the penalty is death. Someone has to die, either you or a heaven-sent substitute. You cannot leave prison unless there is a death. But that death has occurred at Calvary. And when Jesus died, you died to sin's claim on your life. You are free.

Near the city of Sao José dos Campos, Brazil, is a remarkable facility.

Twenty years ago the Brazilian government turned a prison over to two Christians. The institution was renamed Humaita, and the plan was to run it on Christian principles.

With the exception of two full-time staff, all the work is done by inmates. Families outside the prison adopt an inmate to work with during and after his term.

Chuck Colson visited the prison and made this report:

When I visited Humaita I found the inmates smiling - particularly the murderer who held the keys, opened the gates and let me in. Wherever I walked I saw men at peace. I saw clean living areas, people working industriously. The walls were decorated with Biblical sayings from Psalms and Proverbs. . . .

My guide escorted me to the notorious prison cell once used for torture. Today, he told me, that block houses only a single inmate.

As we reached the end of a long concrete corridor and he put the key in the lock, he paused and asked, "Are you sure you want to go in?" "Of course," I replied impatiently, "I've been in isolation cells all over the world." Slowly he swung open the massive door, and I saw the prisoner in that punishment cell - a crucifix, beautifully carved by the Humaita inmates - the prisoner Jesus, hanging on a Cross.

"He's doing time for the rest of us, my guide said softly.

- Max Lucado

It is not that judgment might come, it will come and the only solution to that problem is to come to Jesus!

Three powerful works that the Holy Spirit is doing in this world for the purpose of drawing people to Jesus.

Look at what we have seen.

If you reject the fact that you are a sinner by rejecting the pardon that Jesus has given to you.

If you reject the fact that the only righteousness the Father will accept is the righteousness of Christ, perfection.

Then you will be judged!

Thus, "**And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.**" John 16:8.

As we finish up this morning, we are going to look at this – ***MORE TO COME!***

VERSE 12

That is interesting to me. Jesus is saying that He has a lot more to teach His men and yet, they are not ready, they are not able to bear what He has to say, not yet.

In other words, Jesus is saying that His teaching is not complete and it won't be complete until the Holy Spirit comes. It is then that they will be ready to bear these things.

Keep in mind that the Holy Spirit is going to speak truth, that is all that He can speak! And we will look at that more next time. Just keep in mind what Jesus said in John 16:13,

“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth . . .”

Think about all that these men have taken in and yet, His men could not take much more information, they were not ready for all that Jesus had for them.

There truly is a progression for learning.

Think about mathematics. Before you can learn multiplication and division you have to learn to add and subtract. Once you get the basics down you can move on to more complex things.

And that is what Jesus is saying here. That when the Holy Spirit comes, He will teach them all truth. He will give them the things that they will need. And the Holy Spirit continues to do that today!

The Holy Spirit gave Paul some mysteries that were unknown or not revealed to us in the Old Testament.

We see the church; we see the Rapture and-so-on.

Also, we see how God has given to us the New Testament through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit! And not only the New Testament, but we also see that the Old Testament was given through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Let me give you a few examples.

In Acts 1:16 we see Peter tell us that the Old Testament was inspired by the Holy Spirit. He said, **“Men and brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus.”**

I think that is very clear. The Holy Spirit inspired David to write down those words in Psalm 41:9 to speak of what Judas would do to Jesus! Only God can do that some 1,000 years before the events took place!

Also, in II Peter 1:20-21 Peter wrote, **“knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”**

That phrase, **“as they were moved”** in the Greek speaks of being *“continually carried”* and Luke uses this word to describe how the wind blows a sailing ship across the waters, (Acts 27:15, 17).

Thus, as these men of God raised their sails you might say, as they submitted their lives to God, the Holy Spirit carried them along in the direction He wanted.

God was the writer and man was the instrument He wrote with. He didn't change the character or styles of the individuals but just spoke through them.

So the ***MORE TO COME*** is what we see here in the Scriptures and the Holy Spirit continues to guide us and teach us how we are to live out our lives.

Yes, things look very dark in this world but or – ***NEVERTHELESS*** the Holy Spirit has been given to help us.

Not only that but the Holy Spirit continues to work in the midst of this darkness bringing people to Jesus.

And, as we have seen, the Holy Spirit is convicting unbelievers of – *SIN*,

RIGHTEOUSNESS AND JUDGMENT!

And never forget, there is – ***MORE TO COME!*** And we will see that as we continue our study in John next time.

Let me close with this. The Spirit's role in revealing the truth about Jesus is like the lights on billboards along our interstate highway system.

The function of the lights is to make the message on the billboard clear to those who pass without obscuring the message.

The Holy Spirit's ministry is unobtrusive and meant to bring glory to Jesus!