

TWO WORKS:

- 1) RESTRAINING
- 2) CONVICTING.

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE WORLD
John 16:7-11

WE WILL TAKE ONLY THE SECOND TONIGHT.

Intro: One thing that is impressed upon any person who reads what the Scripture has to say about salvation - is that salvation is a work of God on behalf of man. It is all of God.

That has been very clear as we have looked at the doctrine of election.

Let us take a step ahead in this direction tonight as we think of the part that the Holy Spirit has in bringing us to recognize our need of Christ.

It is here that we begin to realize that salvation is indeed a work of God -- all three members of the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

In fact, our Lord leaves little doubt but that for the work of the Holy Spirit no one would ever realize his need of salvation.

Tonight let us examine these verses as closely as we can in the time that we have.

First . . .

I. THE MEANING OF THE TERMS THAT ARE USED.

A. "The world."

John uses this term many, many times to identify the people of the world who are not the people of God.

Cf. 1:9, 10, 29; 3:16, 17, 19; 17:18, 21, 23, 24, 25.

What is the Holy Spirit going to do with the people of the world?

B. "Convict." The KJV has "reprove." The word is used also in John 3:20; 8:9, 46.

It means to bring something to light, to prove something, to convince somebody of something and so to bring about conviction.

This becomes clearer when we note what the Holy Spirit is called here:

C. "The Comforter." Cf. John 14:16, 26; 15:26; here.

This word is used of our Lord in 1 John 2:1 where it is translated, Advocate. Our Lord indirectly applies it to Himself in John 14:16.

In all of these passages it is the word which we have in English: Paraclete -- one called to our side to help. He is definitely One who is on the side of the person for whom He acts as a Comforter.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE WORLD'S COMFORTER, TOO.

Thus, we need to understand that the Holy Spirit is not against the world in this sense, but on the world's side because He has some truth to convey to the world.

II. WHERE IS THIS "COMFORTER" AND WHY?

- A. He is "in" those who already know the Lord.

Cf. John 16:7; 14:16, 17.

Therefore, His work is going to be mainly through those who know the Lord.

- B. Why has He come? Why has He been sent?

Did you ever ask these questions?

Note: "If I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you.

Where did our Lord go? See v. 10: "Because I go to my Father and ye see me no more."

The coming of the Holy Spirit is proof of the resurrection, the ascension, and the glorification of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Cf. 1 Tim. 3:16, especially "justified in the Spirit."

III. WHAT DOES HE WANT THE WORLD TO KNOW?

Let me be general before we are specific.

- A. He wants the world to know about the Lord Jesus Christ.

He can do nothing more wonderful for any man than to tell them about Christ.

- B. He wants them to know about Satan -- not in the

spectacular way that Satan would like to be known, but the true facts.

Cf. v. 11; 12:31; 14:30. See also 2 Cor. 4:3, 4.

He is a mighty enemy; the Holy Spirit is a mightier Friend. And He wants us to know that our enemy has been defeated.

C. The details -- three of them.

It is interesting to see how the Lord has simplified the ministry of the Holy Spirit to the world.

1. "Of sin, because they believe not on Me."

Man's basic problem is not his sin, but that he is without Christ.

Believing is receiving. Cf. John 1:12, 13.

2. Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more."

Salvation has to be on God's terms -- not ours. The Spirit of God has the proof that Jesus Christ has satisfied the righteousness of God because He is with the Father. That is the reason we do not see Him on earth any longer. If His grave were occupied, or if He were alive on the earth, we would have every reason to doubt that salvation was available.

3. "Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged."

If the prince, the chief, the ruler, is judged, the kingdom is doomed.

This is not something that is future. The verdict has already been pronounced. Judgment is sure. You will not hear this in all of the Satanic literature that is being circulated today. But this is what the Holy Spirit wants the world to know.

How thankful we as believers should be for John's great statement in 1 John 4:4,

"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them (false spirits and false prophets), because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world."

Concl: Will you note that these words were spoken to the disciples who were with the Lord?

Why?

- Because, if they were to work with the Holy Spirit in the evangelization of the world, they needed to know the truths which the Holy Spirit wants the world to know.

If you are interested in evangelism, John 16:7-11 ought to be written on your heart. We are working with Him; He is not assisting us!

Secondly . . . if there are those who need the Lord here tonight, this is what the Holy Spirit, a Person, wants you to know so that you can be saved. Satan cannot keep you in bondage. Your sins are not too great for you to be saved. The One you need is Christ.

Will you trust Him as your Savior?