

## John 16:1-15

**Verses 1-4** Jesus had just spoken to His disciples about being hated by the world because of their friendship with Him because they hated Him first. He tells them that even though He is going to leave them physically, they are never alone as God the Holy Spirit, the Helper (Paraclete) will be sent to be with them. He had spoken those things to them to keep them from stumbling. He then adds more detail about some of the persecution and sufferings they will suffer including being outcasts from the synagogues. There is coming a time when people will think they are offering a service to God by killing them. The same was true with Christ as they thought they were doing a service to God by killing Jesus. However, those hating them, persecuting, and killing them did so, not because they were doing a service to God, but rather because they did not know or love Christ or the Father. He is telling them these ahead of time, so that when they do occur, they will remember that He told them these truths. This is similar to what He says in **John 13:18-19** when He predicts His betrayal and states that His omniscience reveals that He is Ego Eimi (Yahweh). His deity is a comfort to believers as we rest and trust Him and His will.

- **Matthew 10:16-22** Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so <sup>[d]</sup>be shrewd as serpents and innocent as doves. <sup>17</sup>But beware of men, for they will hand you over to *the* courts and scourge you in their synagogues; <sup>18</sup>and you will even be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. <sup>19</sup>But when they hand you over, do not worry about how or what you are to say; for it will be given you in that hour what you are to say. <sup>20</sup>For it is not you who speak, but *it is* the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you. <sup>21</sup>“Brother will betray brother to death, and a father *his* child; and children will rise up against parents and <sup>[s]</sup>cause them to be put to death. <sup>22</sup>You will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved.

**Verses 5-7** Jesus was going back to the Father, to the glory He had with the Father before the world was (**John 17:5**). If the disciple knew what it meant and all that would be accomplished by His returning to the Father they would have rejoiced. However, upon news of Him leaving in the near future they were not rejoicing, but rather filled with sorrow.

- **John 14:28** You heard that I said to you, ‘I go away, and I will come to you.’ If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.

Jesus tells them something that would have been almost unimaginable to them at that time. He tells them in the middle of their sorrow that He is going to leave them and return to the Father that it is to their advantage that He goes away. This would have been a hard truth to understand and that declarative truth by Jesus on that night may still not be understood by some Christians today.

How could Jesus say it was to their advantage for Him to leave them and return to the Father. Why was it better and to their advantage?

**The ascension** One of the events in the life of Christ that is so often undervalued and overlooked is the ascension. His incarnation, His perfect life of obedience, His death, and His resurrection are all vital to the redemptive plan ordained by God from eternity past. However, the ascension is vital as without the ascension God’s eternal redemptive plan is not complete.

### **What the ascension proves/means/accomplishes/brings about:**

- Proves He is the Son of Man (**Daniel 7:13-14**)(**John 3:13**)
- Proves He is righteous as He returns to the Father on His own merit and His perfect life and death were accepted by the Father (**Heb 1:3**).
- Proves He is enthroned in Heaven reigning (**Dan 7:13-14**)(**1 Peter 3:22**)(**Psalm 110:1**)
- He ascends to be our High Priest and intercede for the elect (**Romans 8:34**)(**Heb 8:1**)(**Hebrews 10:11-13**).
- Proves accomplished the work, He was sent to accomplish (**Heb 10:11-13**)(**John 17:4-5**)

**Without the ascension the life of Christ, the death of Christ, and the resurrection of Christ are of no benefit.**

## God is Triune and all He does is Triune.

- The eternal ordained and decreed plan of redemption is Triune in nature as God is Triune.
  - God the Father chooses the elect by His sovereign will, purpose, pleasure and then gives them to the Son
  - The Son lives a perfect life for the elect and then dies for them and is resurrected for them.

## How is the work and accomplishment of the Son applied to the elect? The applying of the accomplishments of Christ upon the elect is performed by God the Holy Spirit.

## The ascension is a necessary and vital to the redemptive plan of God as only upon His ascension is the Holy Spirit sent to apply the accomplishment of the works of Christ to the elect. It was to their advantage and us today. The Spirit regenerates, seals, sanctifies, and leads all the elect.

- *“The sending of the Spirit was the fruit of Christ’s purchase”- Matthew Henry.*

The sending of the Spirit also allows the Spirit of Christ to be with all His believers at all times. His ascension to the Father and the sending of the Spirit also allows greater works in regards to the quantity and scope of the spread of the Gospel to the ends of the world (**John 14:12**).

*God is Triune and His works are Triune in nature including our salvation. Without the ascension the life of Christ, the death of Christ, and the resurrection of Christ are of no benefit. It is in His ascension that He would take His seat of rule, reign, and power as King and as High Priest. It is through His going to the Father that He would send the Holy Spirit to apply the accomplishment of Christ to all the elect! Our hope, our salvation, and our redemption are dependent on the Son returning to the Father to bring about the ordained eternal plan of redemption of the Triune God! Let us understand the depth and beauty of the words Christ spoke to His disciples this evening which are applicable for believers today and are the words that our salvation is anchored: “I tell you the truth, it is for your advantage that I go away.”*

**Verses 8-11** The roles of the Holy Spirit: Convict the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment.

- The Greek word for convict is *elenxei/eléxō/elenxon* – properly, to *convince* with solid, compelling evidence, especially to expose (prove wrong, connect), to expose, convict, reprove

The Holy Spirit convicts the elect of sin, unrighteousness, and the judgment we deserve as a result of our sin and unrighteousness. He points us to Christ and His Word which ultimately leads to repentance, salvation, and sanctification. The Spirit through regeneration brings our souls alive and it is through hearing His word that faith comes (**Romans 10:17**) as the instrumental cause in justification. The Holy Spirit will continue to illumine and convict us of the sins in our lives to continue our sanctification to be conformed to the image of Christ.

Throughout the Bible the world has had evidence to expose them and find them guilty of their sin before God. Throughout redemptive history prophets and ministers of God have preached on sin, righteousness, and judgment. The prophets were the prosecutors who preached the truths of God as they proclaimed the Old Testament scriptures and the revelation of God. John the Baptist preached to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment as He pointed to the scriptures and to Christ. Jesus also preached a message of conviction to the world as He also preached on sin, righteousness, and judgment. The people of God have always been the ones in the world to declare the word and truth of God to convict and prosecute people of their sin, unrighteousness, and judgment. Now as Christ is soon to return to the Father, the job of this prosecution, preaching, and convicting the world would fall on the shoulders of the disciples and apostles. It would be this calling and stance against the sins of the world that they would preach that would elicit hatred and persecution.

The disciples and apostles would preach this message of conviction from the source of truth: Christ and His word. They will use the Old Testament, the words and the teaching of Christ which He has spoken to them while He was with them which will be brought back to remembrance by the Spirit, and further revelation given by the Holy Spirit about was to come. *The disciple’s eyewitness accounts, the further instruction and guidance from the Holy Spirit as they were carried along* (**2 Peter 1:21**) (**2 Timothy 3:16**) *in conjunction would make up the canon scripture.*

**\*Vs 9**- Concerning sin, because they don't believe in Me. Dying with the sin of unbelief in Christ is unforgivable.

**\*Vs 10**-Concerning righteousness because I go to the Father-Christ is the only One who can enter into Heaven by His own merit as He righteous and perfect. There is no righteousness outside of Christ and belief in Him.

**\*Vs 11**-Concerning judgment because the ruler of this world has been judged- As Christ has judged satan on the cross, resurrected from the grave, and ascended, He hold all judgment (**Acts 17:31**)

- No one is righteous (**Romans 3:10**) which is the standard to enter Heaven. The only way anyone has righteousness is by faith and belief in Christ which elicits His imputed righteous to cover the believer. It is only by faith in Jesus and being covered in His righteousness can one escape the wrath of God as He took the wrath and judgment from the Father on behalf of the elect.
- This is the Gospel message, and this is to be preached to the world. Those who do not believe have no righteousness and will be judged by God based on their righteousness which results in eternal damnation.

**Convicting by The Word of God** By what standard has all those who preach, witness, and declare the truths of God stand upon? The standard is the Word of God. It is the Word of God, the sacred scriptures where the truth of God is revealed including the truth regarding sin, righteousness, and judgment. The Word of God, inspired by the Spirit, points to the Son (Triune in roles) who in return points to the Father. The Spirit points us to the Word and to Christ to which we look in regards to the sin, righteousness, and judgment. The Holy Spirit inspired word is the convictor of the world as preached to the world.

- The Greek word for convict is *elenxei/elégxō/elenxon* – properly, to *convince* with solid, compelling *evidence*, especially to expose (prove wrong, connect), to expose, convict, reprove
  - **2 Timothy 4:2** preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove (*elenxon*), rebuke, exhort, with <sup>[a]</sup>great patience and instruction.
  - **Titus 1:9** holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute (*elenchein*) those who contradict.
  - **2 Timothy 3:16** All Scripture is <sup>[a]</sup>inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof(*elegmon*) , for correction, for <sup>[b]</sup>training in righteousness; <sup>17</sup> so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.
- If the message of the Church is only “how can we make people feel better and tell them how good they are”, the true message of the Gospel is not being preached or read.

**Verses 12-15** There is more that He has to say to them, but these teachings will come later via the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will teach them and lead them into all truth as He is the Spirit of Truth. He will disclose the things from the Father and Son and will point to Christ and His words. The Holy Spirit continues to do that today as He, the One who authored the Bible, is the One who illuminates and reveals the Word of God to believers.

*The disciples were going to begin to spread the Gospel to the world. They were declaring the words of God with the help of the Holy Spirit to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. All the world is found guilty against the evidence of who we are in comparison to who God is as revealed in His word. Only through the power and the supernatural work of the God the Holy Spirit can the unregenerate fallen creature be convicted of sin, righteousness, and judgment. It is after this regeneration that our faith comes alive by the hearing of the word that points to Christ. It is the Word of God that we are to declare to the world that bring about conviction to the world. The disciples have just been told by Christ they will be hated by the world as a result of their union with Him and the message of Christ that brings conviction to the world. As we declare, convict, and prosecute the world by the preaching and teaching of Christ in His word, persecution and hated from the world is anticipated and expected. However, the Holy Spirit inspired scriptures are clear and let us be bold in our declaration of the truth and of the gospel. Faith and belief in Christ brings about imputed righteousness and the escape from the wrath of God. That is the message of the Word and that is the message we must spread to the world. Let us never undervalue and underestimate the power of Christ's words "It is to your advantage that I go away!"*

