

The Holy Spirit: God's Prosecutor

John 16:4-15

1. Dealing with Disappointment (4b-7)

Context: Jesus warned the disciples that He was about to leave them, opening them up to severe persecution (Jn 15:9; 16:2).

(16:4) "While I was still with you" indicates that the persecution intended for Jesus would transfer now to the disciples.

(16:5) Jesus' disciples could not think of Christ's suffering because of their own. **(16:6)** They were FILLED with their own sorrow.

Christ gently rebukes them for their lack of sympathy.

Christlikeness is to comfort others in the midst of our own pain.

2 Cor 1:3-4 We comfort others while God is comforting us.

(16:7) Jesus comforts the burdened disciples: Jesus' departure is to their advantage—it leads to the sending of the Holy Spirit.

Q: What is this sending of the Spirit?

Genesis 1:2 The Spirit was always present on earth.

Exodus 31:3 The Spirit filled people in the Old Testament.

Psalms 104:30 The Spirit was sent in the Old Testament.

A: This sending was to perform a new work among the disciples.

"**Advantage**" means that despite the coming pain (persecution), God is doing something through that pain:

God brings pain into our lives (**Isa 45:7**)

The pain God sends has a purpose (**2 Cor 12:7-9**)

Pain is not a moral evil. It's a condition of the body God uses to make us more like Him.

2. Depending on the Holy Spirit (8-11)

(16:8) The Spirit will be sent to convict the world.

Convict = Convincing a witness through cross-examination.

Illus: A Few Good Men "You can't handle the truth!"

The Spirit will convict men of sin, righteousness and Judgment:

A. **(16:9)** **Sin** (*hamartia*) "to miss the mark," an archery term.

Man attempts to hit God's target (holiness) and misses.

The best man can do still misses God's mark (holiness).

Judges 21:25 "Everyone did what was right in his own eyes."

Proverbs 3:5-6 Do not lean on your own understanding

Proverbs 14:12 The way that seems right can lead to death.

Illus: Uzzah (2 Sam 6:7) is killed for steadying the ark of God.

Unbelief is disobeying God's Word because it doesn't make sense to me. Yet we are judged by God, not ourselves.

Depravity is that men are hopelessly guilty and sinful.

The extent of sin: That sin has even corrupted the way we think.

The estate of man: Man is dead, unable to do good (**Eph. 2:1**).

The effect of sin: Man is an enemy of God (**Rom. 8:7**).

(16:9) Man is condemned because he refuses to believe in Christ.

B. (16:10) Righteousness (A right standing with God)

Righteousness is perfect conformity to God's law (impossible).

Romans 3:23 "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Righteousness must be **IMPUTED** to our account:

Romans 4:2-5 Abraham was counted righteous.

Counted (*logizomai*) refers to a ledger (Credits and debits).

Sin is considered a debt before God:

Matthew 6:12 "forgive us our debts"

John 19:30 "it is finished" (*tetelestai*: The debt is paid)

Illus: College student receiving money from parents.

(16:10) "because you will see me no longer."

Jesus' resurrection proved His righteous standing before God.

Romans 1:4 Jesus declared the Son of God by the resurrection.

C. (16:11) Judgment

Christ will judge Satan "the ruler of this world."

Col 2:13-15 Through the cross, Jesus triumphed over evil.

Hebrews 9:27 God appoints that man dies once, and then is judged.

There are no second chances for man to be saved.

Q: Has God ever convinced you of these things?

Of sin: That you are a sinner, a lawbreaker?

Of Righteousness: That your deeds are insufficient to save?

Of Judgment: That God will judge your sin?

Romans 6:23 The wages (what we earn) for sin is death.

Revelation 20:14 Hell is the second death.