

“Who is Jesus?": Giver of the Spirit John 16:4b-15

Introduction:

- Up to this point...
- Whatever your belief about the continuation or cessation of tongues, healing, prophecy – the sign gifts – this text must impact your view and application of your beliefs.

The Coming of the Spirit (vv.4b-7)

- A) Timing (vv.4b-5)
 - a. Sufficiency of His presence
 - b. Insufficiency of human understanding (13:36;14:5)
 - i. They did, but they didn't
 - ii. Lack of interest in Christ (lack of trust)
- B) Circumstances (v.6)
 - a. Christ's statement of leaving
 - b. Disciple's feeling of despair
 - c. Christ's determination of what is "good"
- C) Advantage (v.7)
 - a. Truth = trust
 - b. Promise of the Spirit

The Work of the Spirit (vv.8-11)

- A) Conviction of Sin (vv.8-9)
 - a. The World
 - i. God's created order of mankind
 - ii. **Calvin**, "Under the term *world* are, I think, included not only those who would be truly converted to Christ, but hypocrites and reprobates. For there are two ways in which the Spirit convinces men by the preaching of the Gospel. Some are moved in good earnest, so as to bow down

willingly, and to assent willingly to the *judgment* by which they are condemned. Others, though they are convinced of guilt and cannot escape, yet do not sincerely yield, or submit themselves to the authority and jurisdiction of the Holy Spirit, but, on the contrary, being subdued they groan inwardly, and, being overwhelmed with confusion, still do not cease to cherish obstinacy within their hearts."

- b. The world's belief system is wrong
 - i. Relativism
 - ii. Worldly sorrow (**2 Cor.7:10-12**)
 - c. Disbelief ("sin" because of "do not believe in me" – pisteu – belief to the extent of complete trust – it is a trust issue – must be related to righteousness)
- B) Conviction of Righteousness (v.10)
- a. The World
 - b. The world's view of righteousness is wrong (legalist or libertine) – **Isa.64:5-7**
 - c. Atoning Work ("righteousness" because "I go to the Father and you will see me no longer" – this cannot be just because of the departure, rather what was accomplished in death, resurrection and ascension – basically all that was part of his way) – **Rom.4:20-25**
 - d. **Romans 5:18-21**, ¹⁸ Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. ¹⁹ For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. ²⁰ Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, ²¹ so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."
- C) Conviction of Judgment (v.11)
- a. The World
 - b. The world's judgment is wrong (authority and assessment)
 - c. Victory over Satan ("judgment" because "the ruler of this world is judged" – this is perfect, passive, indicative – to make a legal judgment and assess guilt (c.f. – **John 12:31; 14:30; 2 Cor.4:4**)

- d. **Jonathan Edwards** (*The Distinguishing Marks of a Word of the Spirit of God*), "He will plainly convince them of Christ and lead them to Him. He will confirm their minds in their belief of the history of Christ as He appeared in the flesh, the Son of God who was sent by God to save sinners. He will confirm that Christ is the only Savior and that they stand in great need of him. The Spirit begets in people higher and more honorable thoughts of Christ than they used to have and to incline their emotions more to Him."

Conclusion

- A) Is there evidence of the Spirit of God at work in your life? The Gospel and its ongoing work?
- B) Are you resisting the work of the Spirit in your life? Do you seek to glorify the Son in the gospel...the proclaiming of WHO Christ is and WHAT He's done?

The Authority of the Spirit (vv.12-15)

- A) Faithful Administration of Truth (v.12-13a)
- a. Progressive Revelation
 - i. Compassion of Christ
 - ii. Gift of essential doctrines
 - b. Closed Revelation
- B) Purpose of Authority: Guide into all Truth for the Glorification of the Son (v.14)
- a. Ultimate purpose in all the Spirit does
 - b. It is glorifying to Christ to show us who we are (through conviction of sin, righteousness and judgment) that He may be all-satisfying in our eyes
 - c. **Charles Spurgeon**, "It is a great marvel that there should be any glory given to Christ by showing him to such poor creatures as we are. What! To make us see Christ, does that glorify him? For our weak eyes to behold him, for our trembling hearts to know him, and to love him, does this glorify him? It is even so, for the Holy Ghost chooses this as his principal way of glorifying the Lord Jesus. He takes of the things of Christ, not to show them to angels, not to write them in letters of fire across the brow of night, but to show them unto us."
- C) Basis of Authority (v.15)
- a. From the Son
 - b. From the Father
 - c. Unity within the Trinity
 - d. What glorifies Christ the most is what comes from Himself and the Father (paraphrase **Spurgeon**)