

Since we've been away from this book for a week, let me remind you—our Savior is about to leave His disciples in just a few hours—He would be arrested, falsely tried, and crucified—thus, throughout this final discourse, He repeatedly refers to the gift of the Holy Spirit, who would be another helper, give them a fuller revelation, and would enable them to work the greater works He promised them...

Thus, there is a sense in which much of this discourse (chs.14-16) is made of promises—promises that have a unique fulfillment to the apostles, but also to the church as a whole—perhaps we could summarize these promises into a single promise—the gift of the Holy Spirit—the Holy Spirit would come, as it were, bearing many gifts...

I. Five Blessed Promises

A. They will see Him—v19a

1. V19—"A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me"—that is, spiritually see Me, by the Spirit, through the word...
2. He was physically leaving the world—thus in this sense, the world would see Him no more—but, simply because He was physically leaving, did not mean His people would no longer see Him...
3. For they would continue to see Him, even clearer, with the eyes of their heart, as the Spirit would reveal Him through Scripture...
4. Thus, the inability of the world to see Christ would be twofold—they would no longer see Him physically, and remain blind spiritually...
5. This of course is in contrast to the disciples, who would no longer see Him physically, but would continue to see Him Spiritually...
6. No Christian person today has ever physically seen Christ, but each of them sees Him with the eyes of the heart (v17)...
7. Thus, let me summarize the teaching of v19a—every Christian, sees Christ by faith, upon the pages of Scripture, by the Spirit's illumination...
8. [1] Every Christian sees Christ by faith, 1Pet.1:8—"Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory..."
9. Though these Christians never physically saw Christ, they loved Him because they saw Him with spiritual eyes...
10. [2] Every Christian sees Christ upon the pages of Scripture—that is, all of Scripture, but especially the NT Scripture...
11. This is WHERE Christians see Christ—they behold Him, throughout Scripture—as crucified, resurrected, and reigning...
12. [3] Every Christian sees Christ, by faith, within Scripture, by the Spirit's illumination—this is why our Savior said—"You will see Me..."
13. That is, when the Spirit is given at Pentecost—He will enable you, to behold Me, with greater clarity and fullness...
14. 2Cor.3:18—"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord..."

B. They will live because He lives—v19b

1. V19—"Because I live, you shall live also"—here our Savior is referring to His resurrection and the effects this would have upon His people...
2. The fact that our Savior would rise from the dead and ascend to heaven, would secure that His people would always live...
3. Now—this necessarily means—there exists an intimate connection between Christ (the Head), and us (His body)...

4. Thus, when our Savior says—"Because I live" He is largely referring to His resurrection—He would die, but He would live...
 5. Thus, the question becomes—in what way (or ways) does His resurrection ensure that His people will also live...
 6. [1] Spiritually—that is, every person joined to Him by faith, shall always live—they shall always have spiritual life...
 7. Because Christ rose from the dead, to secure our salvation, no Christian shall return to being spiritually dead...
 8. Christ lives—He sits at the right hand of the Father—and there He prays for His people that their faith fails not...
 9. [2] Physically—by this I mean, because He rose from the dead, every Christian will be raised from the dead...
 10. Because Christ bought both the body and soul, He will not leave our bodies in the ground, but they shall live...
 11. [3] Eternally—by this I mean, because Christ lives, every Christian will live body and soul in heaven, for eternity...
 12. [a] Christians live for Christ, Phil.1:21—"For to me, to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain"—Christ is my life...
 13. [b] Christians live from Christ, Gal.2:20—"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me..."
 14. [c] Christians will live with Christ, Col.3:4—"When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory..."
 15. The only way any Christian will cease living, spiritually, physically, eternally, is that Christ Himself ceases to live...
- C. They will have a fuller knowledge of Him—v20
1. V20—"At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you"—by "that day" is meant Pentecost...
 2. Now again, by "at that day" is meant, the Day of Pentecost, when the Spirit would be poured out on all flesh...
 3. It would be on that day, that the disciples would be given an increased knowledge of three important truths...
 4. [1] The Son is in the Father essentially—"I am in My Father"—that is, the Father and Son are essentially one...
 5. [2] We are in Christ savingly by faith—"you are in Me"—every Christian is in vital union with Christ by faith...
 6. [3] Christ is in us spiritually by the Spirit—"and I am in you"—Christ is in us, by the person of the Holy Spirit...
 7. Thus, we mustn't think that the disciples were totally ignorant of these things, for our Savior has repeatedly taught these very things...
 8. But—with the gift of the Holy Spirit would come a fuller revelation, and increased knowledge of these things...
 9. There is a sense in which the whole of the Christian religion can be reduced the concept of union—it explains God, Christ, and a Christian...
 10. Thus, Scripture speaks of three unions—there's the union of the three persons in one Godhead—the union of the two natures in one Person, and the union of Christ and His people...
 11. The first explains the nature of God, the second explains the Person of Christ, and the third explains a Christian and how they experience salvation...
 12. Brethren, who could every have thought of such truths apart from a divine revelation from God by the Spirit...
 13. There is a real sense in which, a person who rightly understands these three unions, has a good grasp on all theology...

14. Now, the last thing I want to address about v20 is—I want to remind you of its application to post-Pentecost Christians...
 15. What was given to the apostles at Pentecost, is given, in part, to every Christian when they receive the Spirit at conversion...
 16. This means, Christians are given the word and Spirit, for the express purposes to know and understand these truths...
 17. There is only one God who exists in three persons, Christ is one person in two natures, and all of our salvation comes from Christ, who is in us by His Spirit, and we are in Him by faith...
- D. They will be loved by the Father and the Son—v21
1. V21—"He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father and I will love him and manifest Myself to him..."
 2. It's here, beginning with v21, that we find two additional promises, but these promises are prefaced with a condition...
 3. V21—"He who has MY commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father and I will love him..."
 4. V23—"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him"—the condition is threefold...
 5. [a] V21—"He who loves Me" v23—"If anyone loves Me"—love to Christ's person is the first necessary condition...
 6. Remember what we said a few weeks ago—love is an affection of the heart, that results from the understanding, and regulates the will...
 7. Those who love Christ see Christ for who He is, and this causes them to desire Him, and results in them obeying Him...
 8. [b] V21—"He who has My commandments"—this means more than merely possessing a copy of Scripture...
 9. To "have His commandments" means to—"o have them in your heart—to hold them in high esteem and reverence...
 10. To "have His commandments" means—they are written upon the heart by the powerful finger of God's Spirit...
 11. [c] V21—"He who keeps My Commandments" v23—"he will keep My word"—in v23 our Savior widens His focus...
 12. By "commandments" He refers to the moral law as reiterated and clarified, throughout the pages of the NT...
 13. By "word" is meant all of Scripture especially the NT—it includes believing the gospel as well as obeying the law...
 14. If you remember from a few weeks ago—by "keeping" His commandments and word, is meant—cherishing and obeying...
 15. Those who love Christ, and keep His word, who believe in Him and obey Him, will be loved by His Father and Him...
 16. Now—this brings us to a rather serious dilemma—does our love and obedience, warrant or earn God's love...
 17. I mean, doesn't Scripture elsewhere teach that we love Him, because He first loved us—how then can our Savior here say, He loves those who love Him first...
 18. Well, the answer to this dilemma lies within an important historical distinction theologians make within God's love...
 19. [1] God's love of benevolence—by this is meant—God's general love of kindness or compassion which is undeserved...
 20. It's with this love that God elected a people from everlasting, and it's with this love, He sent Christ, and saved us...
 21. This benevolent love, precedes any love for Him, and is the cause of our love to Him—we love Him because He first loved us...

22. Rom.5:8—"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us..."
 23. This is a love of benevolence or compassion—it's fixed on fallen and rebellious sinners and it's the reason He gave His Son...
 24. [2] God's love of complacency—by "complacency" is meant God's love of delight or pleasure, in those who are saved and thus sanctified...
 25. God never takes delight in those who are unsaved and thus unholy, regardless if they are elect sinners or not...
 26. Simply put—God only loves those with delight, who are holy—that is, are converted and now obey His word...
 27. Thus, God loved His elect while unconverted with a love of benevolence, and loves them after conversion with a love of complacency...
 28. Zeph.3:17—"The LORD your God in your midst, the Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will rest in His love, He will rejoice over you with singing..."
 29. This passage foretells the salvation of sinners by the gospel—God describes three things He will do as a result...
 30. [a] He will rejoice over them with gladness—[b] He will rest in His love—[c] He will rejoice over them with singing...
 31. To "rejoice over them" means He will rejoice because of them—He will find joy and gladness in their persons...
 32. This means—He rejoices at His work in them—He rejoices over the gifts and graces His Spirits works in them...
 33. The phrase "He will rest in His love" means—He will find satisfaction and delight in the love He has for them...
 34. John Gill—"He will continue in His love, without any variation or change; nothing shall separate from it; it shall always remain the same; He will take up His contentment and satisfaction in it; He will solace himself with it; it will be a pleasing thing to Him to love His people, and to show it to them; He will take the utmost complacency and delight in expressing His love by words and deeds unto them..."
 35. Now—this is where things become difficult—while God's love of benevolence doesn't increase, His love of complacency does...
 36. Let me illustrate—think of a parent and child—in one sense, the parent loves the child regardless how he acts...
 37. In this sense, nothing the child does can cause the parent to love him any more or less—this love is unchanging...
 38. And yet, there is another sense in which—when the child obeys, it allows the parent to delight in that child...
 39. In this sense, the delight (love of complacency) of the parent increases as the child obeys the commands of the parent...
- E. They will have intimate fellowship with the Father and Son—vv22-24
1. Here I am thinking of two phrases—the first is found at the end of v21, and then the second is found in v23...
 2. V21—"And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him..."
 3. This Greek word literally means "to show or reveal"—it refers to a full and intimate disclosure of oneself to others...
 4. According to v22, Judas (not Iscariot), misunderstood our Savior to refer to a physical manifestation or revelation...
 5. In v23, our Savior makes clear what He meant in v21 by manifesting Himself, v23—"We will come to him and make Our home with him..."
 6. That is, the Father and Son will visit our souls, by way of intimate fellowship—they will make their home with us...

7. Now, let me simply say, though our Savior speaks of the Father and Son, this necessarily includes the Spirit...
8. Really, what our Savior is promising is this—that the entire Godhead, each person, will make Himself known...
9. The imagery that our Savior uses is that of a visitation—He and His Father—will make their home with us...
10. Now remember, this is NOT talking about God initially taking up residence within our souls, at conversion...
11. But instead, this is talking about something that happens after conversion—this is a promise for Christians...
12. To the degree that Christians love Christ and keep His commandments, He and His Father, will make their home with them...
13. I suggest this entails at least these three things—an increased knowledge of their persons, a heightened awareness of their presence, and a deepened assurance of their acceptance...
14. [1] An increased knowledge of their persons—that is, we will better understand who the Father and Christ are...
15. When someone visits your home you get to know them—you learn about them and become better acquainted with them...
16. [2] A heightened awareness of their presence—that is, we will experience their gracious presence more personally...
17. J.C. Ryle—"Those who follow Christ most closely and obediently will always follow Him most comfortably, and feel most of His inward presence..."
18. [3] A deepened assurance of their acceptance—that is, we will be assured that we are theirs and they are ours...
19. A.W. Pink—"Now we hear Him saying (through the Scriptures) 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you.' And now I can respond, My beloved is mine, and I am His'..."
20. Thus, before we leave these verses, let me, in closing, suggest three very wonderful and important lessons...
21. [a] The importance of our obedience in relation to God—I doubt most Christians give this point much thought...
22. Scripture everywhere teaches us, that God delights and takes pleasure in the obedience of His beloved children...
23. And thus, a powerful motive for us to obey His commandments is that it brings delight and joy to our Father...
24. How often have you thought of this—of all the many motives for us to keep His commandments, how often does this come to mind...
25. Our loving Christ and keeping His commandments, results in the Father loving and delighting in us, His children...
26. Prov.23:24-25—"The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, and he who begets a wise *child* will delight in him. Let your father and your mother be glad, and let her who bore you rejoice..."
27. Here we find that a father and mother delight and greatly rejoice in, a wise child who walks in righteousness...
28. Simply put—a parent finds great delight in that child who loves them and evidences that love by humble obedience...
29. So too—the Father loves and delights in His children who love Him and obey Him—He rejoices over them with singing...
30. [b] The importance of our obedience in relation to ourselves—the more we love and obey Christ, the more we will know His intimate, comforting, encouraging, and strengthening presence...
31. These things are experienced in direct proportion to our love and obedience to Christ—we cannot live disobedient and enjoy Christ's special and intimate presence...
32. Yes, God always loves His children with a love of benevolence and compassion, and in this sense, can never love them more...
33. But, with regards to a love of complacency and delight, this increases as He rejoices in His own image formed in us...

34. As thus, as we learn from this passage, one direct result of this love of delight, is that He makes His home in our hearts...
35. That is, He allows us to experience, greater degrees of knowledge of His person, a heightened sense of His presence, and deepened assurance of His acceptance...
36. Back in the 17th century there was a fierce Antinomian debate—the Antinomians did not believe, Christians should obey the TC (anti-nomian = against the law)...
37. But this debate went behind the questions whether or not Christians should obey the law, but included other related questions...
38. One of these related questions was whether or not God saw any sin in the believer—the antinomians said NO, He did not...
39. Now there is a sense in which we all agree that God sees no sin in us, that is, with regards to our justification...
40. But regards to our sanctification, the orthodox maintained that Christians sin, and that God disciplines us for it...
41. And one form of discipline was, that God would allow clouds to hid His comforting presence from His people...
42. It's for this reason, David in Psalm 51:11 prays—"Do not cast me away from Your presence"—that is, your comforting presence...
43. This is the very presence that our Savior promises to those who love Him and keep His word—"We ill come to him and make our home with him..."
44. Brethren, it is so important to have these concepts clear in our mind—be sure not to misunderstand what I am saying...
45. I am not saying—Christians somehow merit or earn God's love by their obedience—but what I am saying is this...
46. Christians will enjoy the sensible awareness and comfort of God's love to the degree they lovingly obey His word...
47. [c] The importance of our privileges in relation to our obedience—the more we love and obey Christ, the more we know His love for us, which in turn, enables us to love and obey Him more...
48. My wife often says—the only thing a person needs to do to become hungry is start eating—and so too, what enables us to love Him and obey Him is the knowledge of His love and the communion of His sensible presence...