

Sunday March 3rd sermon: "The Comforter Glorifies Christ -- The God of All Comforts (Pt 47)"

Preached at the Lord's Table at Grace Bible Church in Greenwood, MS,
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John 16:1-15; 1 Peter 1

Jesus tells us that the Comforter reproves the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. Every man is a sinner, but righteousness is required. Therefore, every man will be judged.

Note well, that the Comforter does not reprove the Lord's people in these ways! Not for sin, because we have believed on Jesus, by the power of the Holy Ghost in us! The Comforter preaches pardon and peace to us!

The Comforter doesn't rebuke us for righteousness, because we have the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and His ascension to glory ensures us that we are accepted in Our Beloved, there with Him!

The Comforter doesn't reprove us of judgment, because the devil is defeated, and Jesus was already judged for us, in our place, for our crimes, and now we are set free!

Christ then described how He has many things to say to His people, but they were not able to bear them at that time.

His disciples couldn't accept the death of Christ! They wanted a physical kingdom instead of a justifying sacrifice.

They were prejudiced against the non-Jewish people, thinking that Israel was God's only chosen people, and not understanding the Gospel is for all mankind!

They didn't believe the resurrection of Christ! They didn't realize that a heavenly country is far better than an earthly country. They didn't

understand that Christ's kingdom, at this time, is pursued by spiritual means, rather than by physical strife.

They didn't grasp the adoption of believers as the sons of God! They didn't understand how our bodies would be changed when Christ raises us from the dead.

Christ had surely broached many of these matters to them, but they were not able to bear them then.

Christ's answer to this is to send the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, to guide His people into all these truths, and many more!

God is Truth indeed, and the Christian faith is founded upon truth – not fables or the myths of false gods. No wonder the Holy Ghost can and will convey absolute truth to the Lord's people!

Our society, on the other hand, is built upon an edifice of lies. Recall that the devil is the father of lies, and the wicked follow after him into deceit and falsehood. The introduction of sin into this world was based upon the lie that the serpent told Eve in the garden.

That is why we are told to "try the spirits" whether or not they come from God. They are to be tried by comparing what they say to the truth found in God's word.

The Holy Ghost will guide us into all truth, because He will not speak of Himself, but He will speak what He hears about God the Father and His Son.

Here Christ emphasizes the complete unity of the persons of the Godhead. There are no different stories told, or falsehoods conveyed, by the Holy Ghost. He is to be trusted explicitly and absolutely, as Christ's representative to His people.

Christ lets us know that the Holy Ghost will show us things to come.

How will the dead in Christ rise? How will our bodies be changed? How will the end of this world be? What will glory be for us?

Many of these things were never disclosed by Christ in detail, but the Holy Ghost disclosed them to the apostles and writers of Scripture!

In fact, any truth found in the New Testament was revealed by Christ Himself during His ministry, or by God's revelation in the Old Testament (which was revealed by the Holy Ghost), or by the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, to the apostles.

It is all "God breathed" by the Spirit unto the men used by God to record these things.

An example of this truth is seen in Peter's description of the Old Testament prophets who wrote down information about Christ's suffering and death. It was the Spirit of Christ that revealed those things back then, but the prophets could not understand them at that time.

But when Christ came, He explained many of those glorious truths, and when the Comforter came, the Spirit of Truth, He guided us into an even fuller grasp of those truths.

The Holy Ghost is sent to us, to convey these truths to us, and to bring them to mind as our Comforter!

Christ then makes it clear: the Comforter, by doing this work, will glorify the Lord Jesus!

It may seem strange that all the truth would glorify Christ, since often the truth is a stain upon the character of mortal men.

But not so with Christ! Everything true about Christ glorifies Him! The truth about Jesus is His glory! There is nothing true about Him that blemishes or stains His honor and majesty!

And the further we study the Scriptures, the more glorious Christ appears to us!

His glory is not principally a bright light, though such was seen at the transfiguration and in the Revelation.

Rather, Christ's glory is the truth about Who He is, and what He did to redeem us, and what He has promised to do for us forever!

Christ cannot be gainsaid at all! He loves us, and gave His life for us! He died on the cross to save us! He was punished for our sins laid upon Him by the Father. Then He rose in vindication, victory, and honor!

The Comforter conveys Christ's beauty and glory to us through the word, and in our hearts.

We love those precious words:

Majestic sweetness sits enthroned
upon the Savior's brow;
His head with radiant glories crowned,
His lips with grace o'erflow.

No mortal can with Him compare,
among the sons of men;
fairer is He than all the fair
who fill the heav'nly train.

He saw me plunged in deep distress,
and flew to my relief;
for me He bore the shameful cross,
and carried all my grief.

To Him I owe my life and breath,
and all the joys I have;
He makes me triumph over death,
and saves me from the grave.

How urgently Christ places His stamp of approval upon the Comforter, and to stress to us our utter reliance upon Him.

Christ has not left us comfortless! There is intimate communion with Christ through the Holy Ghost.