

## Lighthouse Bible Church

July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014

John 16: 8 – 11 *Scripture Reading: Romans 4: 1 - 8*

**‘The Convicting work of the Holy Spirit’**

### **Stand – Read – Pray**

Review: Last week in Verses 1 – 7 of John 16, Jesus told His disciples to expect to be hated by the world because you are no longer part of the world. As a born again believer, you have been called out of the world and will, by the Holy Spirit’s power, live and act and talk differently than the world and that will be a rebuke to a world controlled and influenced by Satan.

Jesus said ‘I am telling you these things so you will not stumble in your faith and that your faith may be increased because I have told you these things ahead of time’. He said ‘I waited till now to tell you because I have been the brunt of their hatred and persecution, but I am leaving soon and then they will attack you the same way’.

Jesus said they would ‘put you out of the synagogue’ and ‘whoever kills you (which they will do) will think that they are offering God service or worship’. That caused the disciples to be sorrowful in heart so He tells them ‘I cant stay with you, it is to your advantage that I go away because if I go away I will sent the Helper, the Holy Spirit to you and He, who is the exactly the same as Me, will dwell in you forever’. And that is where we want to pick it up this morning in Verses 8 – 11.

**Verses 8 – 11: and when He has come, He will convict the world of sin and of righteousness, and of judgment. Of sin, because they do not believe in Me, of righteousness, because I go to My father and you see Me no more, of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.**

Jesus says this is the work of the Holy Spirit when **He comes**. He will accomplish 3 things. He will **convict the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgment**. It is a ministry to both believers and unbelievers.

First of all we need to see that word **convict**. It is used other places as: *admonish*, *convince*, *rebuke* or *reprove*. It can be used in the positive sense or in the negative sense.

In the negative sense it means to convict, like in a court of law, towards judgment. (*example L.E.*). That is what the Holy Spirit does in the life of an unbeliever. He renders the sentence of judgment against those who reject Christ, and of course that judgment is death and hell.

Listen to what **Jude 15** says. **The Lord comes to execute judgment on all, to CONVICT, the same word as in John 16, all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed...**

On the positive side, convict means to convince someone. And in the case of the Holy Spirit, it is to convince someone of his own sin and his need for Christ as his Savior. It is a subjective realization of one's own guilt because he is aware of his sin. Like the Pharisee and the Tax collector in **Luke 18: 9 – 14**. The Holy Spirit wants to convince you about Christ so He doesn't have to convict you in judgment because of your rejection of Christ.

The Holy Spirit will **convict** people by awakening their conscience to 3 things that Jesus said here: Of sin, of righteousness, of judgment. **Of sin, because they do not believe in Me, of righteousness, because I go to My father and you see Me no more, of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.**

The work of the Holy Spirit will be to convict men of their sin that will damn them to judgment and hell and it will be for one reason, for one sin; **because they do not believe in Me.**

Listen, a person goes to heaven or hell based on if they believe in Jesus and what they believe about Him. They are convicted by ONE sin, Jesus says **of sin**, singular, and it is the sin of unbelief.

If you are here this morning and you have ever felt in your heart that you should believe in Jesus and trust Jesus, give your life to Jesus, that is the work of the Holy Spirit in your heart, because you, on your own, wouldn't ever seek Him. **Romans 3: 11** says **there are none who seek after God.** He is convincing you, not only about your daily sins, but about who Jesus really is and if you continue to reject that prompting, He will convict you some day of that rejection of Him.

Remember **John 3: 18** **He who believes in Him is not condemned but he who does not believe is condemned already because he has not believed on the Son of God.** And if they don't believe, **John 8: 24** says they will **die in their sins.**

Listen, your sins **will not** damn you to hell, you SIN of unbelief and of rejecting Christ will, that's the bottom line. It is not a superficial belief because James says **even the demons believe James 2: 19**. You need to stop rejecting Him and yield yourself to Him.

Remember we saw last time the convicting work of the Holy Spirit on the sin of the people. In **Acts 2: 37** they were **cut to the heart** by the work of the Holy Spirit and asked what they could do to come to Christ. In **Acts 7: 54** they were **cut to the heart** but rejected the revelation of the Holy Spirit about Christ and their sin. That is what Jesus is saying here.

The Holy Spirit not only convicts of the sin of not believing in Jesus but convicts **of righteousness, because I go to My father and you see Me no more**, Jesus says.

First the Holy Spirit shows us how bad we are and now, here, He shows us how good Christ is and He shows us the righteousness of Christ that the world does not know and does not have.

There is only one righteous and perfect man, the god-man Jesus. So the Holy Spirit compares your righteousness with the righteousness of Christ and convicts you of how unrighteous you really are. Like Isaiah said in **Isaiah 64: 6** **All our righteousness is like filthy rags**. Jesus said in **Matthew 5: 20** **that unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees you will not enter..**

Now Jesus says **of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more**. Jesus says I am going to My Father because I have been accepted by Him because I am perfectly righteous and My going to Him proves it. Can God accept anything unrighteous or allow any unrighteous thing into His presence in heaven? No! That is what **Revelation 21: 27** and **Habakkuk 1: 13** says.

In **Philippians 2: 9** it says, because Jesus is perfectly righteous **God highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father**. Of righteousness, because God the Father has declared Me righteous by accepting Me into His presence.

Paul asked the question in **2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 6: 14** **...what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness**. In **1<sup>st</sup> John 3: 10** it says **whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God...** In other words, you can't enter the presence of God without being perfectly righteous.

But the One who went to the Father, that you no longer see, is perfectly righteous and holy, and for you to go to the Father in heaven you must have that same righteousness.

And the only way you can have Christ's righteousness is when you receive Him as your Lord and Savior. When you put your faith and trust in Him as your sin bearer, as the One punished for your sins, who died, was buried, rose again and went back to the Father.

When you, by faith, trust Jesus then 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5: 21 says **He who knew no sin became sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.** We can only enter heaven with His righteous given to us, but He had to die for our sins to make that possible.

That is why Romans 4: 1 – 8 that was read earlier, says **that by faith our sins are covered and in believing in Christ God gives us His righteousness and not by any works that we could do.**

You are made righteous only when you've put your faith in Jesus Christ, you accept His death in your behalf, you repent of your sin and His righteousness becomes yours.

It's not to him that works but to him that believes in Jesus Christ. So you see, it is not a question of sin but of belief. It's not how good you are or how bad you are, it is about what you believe about Jesus, and only the work of the Holy Spirit can do that convicting and convincing work in a person's heart.

The Holy Spirit of God took a religious follower of God like the Apostle Paul, who was self-righteous, and brought him face to face with his own sin.

Convicting him of his sin of self-righteousness, and convinced him of the righteousness of Christ and he became a believer and immediately received Christ's righteousness and then he would say in **Philippians 3: 6 - 7** concerning **righteousness which is in the law, blameless, but what things were gain to me these I have counted loss for Christ ... and to be found in Him not having my own righteousness...but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith...** Then, lastly, Jesus say in Verse 11

**Verse 11: of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged**

Who is the **ruler of this world**? Satan is! We saw that in **John 14: 30** , **John 12: 31**, and other places, and **1<sup>st</sup> John 5: 19** says **the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one**. And Jesus says that **Satan is judged**. When was Satan judged? At the cross, right? **Genesis 3: 15** first predicted the crushing blow of judgment by Jesus against Satan as Satan bruised Christ's heel at the cross.

What looked like Satan's greatest victory was really his death blow because Jesus died on the cross, went to the grave and then came out the other side alive. He is the resurrection and the life, because He lives we can live also, right?

Satan's greatest power was his power over (what) 'death', that is what **Hebrews 2: 14** says and Jesus came along and **through His death destroyed him who had the power of death**. The ruler of this world was judged and will be ultimately judged in **Revelation 20: 10** by being **cast into the lake of fire** that **Matthew 25: 41** says was **prepared for him and his angels**.

Jesus says the Holy Spirit will convict you of judgment because the ruler of this world is judged. In other words, if Jesus can convict the worst sinner ever, His enemy the devil, then don't you think that He will judge you as well. You won't get away with it. When Satan was judged, every demon and every person who aligns himself with him, is judged as well and as **Matthew 25: 46** says, will be going to the same place, the lake of fire.

You see, the Holy Spirit's work is one of showing you the enormous sin of rejecting Christ, He shows you how righteous Christ really is in comparison to how unrighteous you are, in spite of what you think about yourself, and He shows you how God can never accept you without the righteousness of Christ imputed to you, given to you, and He shows you the judgment that awaits you if you die in your sin without Christ's righteousness.

The Holy Spirit of God wants you to wake up to your sin and come to Christ for salvation. There are only two responses to the convicting work of the Holy Spirit; **repentance** or **rejection**.

In Acts 2 Peter preached about sin, righteousness and judgment to come and 3000 souls were convicted and convinced by the Holy Spirit of God and were saved. In **Acts 24: 25** Paul stood before governor Felix and preached to him about sin, righteousness and judgment to come and it says **Felix was afraid**. He was convicted by the Holy Spirit of God, but his response was **go away, when I have a convenient time I will call for you**.

Scripture never records that he had a convenient time. He was convinced of His sin and the need for a Savior and knew about God's judgment for rejecting Jesus and the gospel message of His death, burial and resurrection, and he turned away from it. What about you?

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Introduction and Review

Verses 8 – 11:

He will **Convict** the world of their **sin** of **unbelief**:

Jude 15, Romans 3: 11, John 3: 18, John 8: 24  
James 2: 19, Acts 2: 37, Acts 7: 54, Lk.18: 9-14

He will **Convict** the world of His **righteousness**:

Isaiah 64: 6, Matthew 5: 20, Revelation 21: 27  
Habakkuk 1: 13, Philippians 2: 9, 1<sup>st</sup> John 3: 10  
2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 6: 14, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5: 21  
Romans 4: 1 – 8, Philippians 3: 6 – 7

He will **Convict** the world of **Judgment** against Satan:

*John 14: 30, John 12: 31, 1<sup>st</sup> John 5: 19*  
Genesis 3: 15, Hebrews 2: 14, Revelation 20:10  
Matthew 25: 41, Matthew 25: 46

The only two responses to the Spirit’s convicting work:

Acts 2: 1 – 37, Acts 24: 25

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Habakkuk 1: 13, Philippians 2: 9, 1<sup>st</sup> John 3: 10  
2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 6: 14, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5: 21  
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