

The Comforter

John 16:7-16



Rock Hill Baptist Church

605 Rock Hill Road
Lexington, Tennessee 38351

Brother David Buffaloe
731-845-6104

online at bibleteacher.org

FOCAL John 16:7-16^{KJV} Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. {8} And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: {9} Of sin, because they believe not on me; {10} Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; {11} Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. {12} I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. {13} Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come. {14} He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you. {15} All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall show it unto you. {16} A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go to the Father.

When our Lord began to tell His disciples of the coming trials and tribulations that they would have in the world (**John 16:1-6**) - they would be cast out of the local Jewish church and killed, and all the while unjustly branded as heretics - He knew that this teaching would disturb His little flock. They had been with Jesus through many trials. The Jews had constantly hounded them. If they ate corn on the Sabbath, the Jews accused them of harvesting food. If Jesus healed someone on the Sabbath, the unbelieving Jewry accused Him of healing

through the power of Satan. No matter what Jesus did, be it heal, eat, sleep, teach, or just breath - the unsaved but religious world would mock Him and His disciples.

Now Jesus tells His disciples that He is going away. Who will command the storms and call on them to cease once the Master goes? Who will cry out:

Mark 4:39 Peace, be still.....

so that the wind will stop and the waves will still? Jesus is going! What will we do once He is gone? Will we go back to our old way of life, making sacrifice after sacrifice in the Temple? We were changing the world while Jesus was here. What now? Is all hope lost?

No, for Jesus wanted His disciples to know that He has a great plan for His people. He will go away, but something better will come to be in His place. Let's look at the Master's words.

1. It Is Christ's Plan That God Indwell The Christian

FOCAL John 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; **It is expedient¹ for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter² will not**

1 Present Active Indicative of G4851, **συνφέρω**, *sumpherō*, *soom-fer'-o*, From G4862 and G5342 (including its alternate); to *bear together* (*contribute*), that is, (literally) to *collect*, or (figuratively) to *conduce*; especially (neuter participle as noun) *advantage*: - be better for, bring together, be expedient (for), be good, (be) profit (-able for)., Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries

2 G3875, **παράκλητος**, *paraklētōs*, *par-ak'-lay-tos*, An *intercessor*, *consoler*: -

come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

The word **expedient** in our above text literally means **better for you**. In fact, Jesus said **it is better for you, and keeps on being better for you if I go away.**

Can you imagine this? Better that Jesus go? If I were a disciple there with the Master at that time, I would have stood up and, like foolish Peter, perhaps have said "No Lord - nothing can be better than you being here". Yet I would I have been wrong. Jesus is *never* wrong. It was better that He go.

It was better that Jesus go because He had to go to the Cross for us. He had to die for your sins and mine. If He did not go, His Blood could not be the *propitiation*:

Romans 3:25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

that would pay for your salvation and for mine.

What does that word propitiation mean?

advocate, comforter., Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries

It is the Blood of Christ that became the coin that purchased our freedom from bondage to Satan. It was the Blood of Christ that covered our sinful shortcomings.

Jesus Christ **is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2).** For Whom did Christ die? **For the whole world, for any who will believe in Him.** God loved us. **Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins (1 John 4:10).** It was better for us that Jesus go away.

But Jesus also had to go away so that **the Comforter would come.**

The word **Comforter** is a Greek word that means **Consoler, Advocate, Comforter.** It means **Someone Who puts their arms around you and defends you.**

This is a fit definition for the Holy Spirit of God, Whom Christ would send to indwell every Christian. In His earthly ministry Jesus walked *with* the disciples, but once Jesus left the Holy Spirit would come and live inside of us who believe in Him.

The Comforter would come to make intercession for us, to console us, but also - as one who indwells us - *to impart the character of Christ to the believer.*

The Comforter would teach us to be *more Christlike*, to be better Ambassadors for Him, to represent Christ to a lost and dying world. Jesus tells us in our focal text:

John 16:14-15 [The Comforter] shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you. (15) All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall show it unto you.

It was Christ's Plan from the very beginning that the Christian be *indwelt by God the Holy Spirit*. It is Christ's Plan that the Christian - indwelt by the Holy Spirit - emulate Jesus in all he says and does. When the Apostle Paul was instructing young Timothy on what God expected of him, he said:

2 Timothy 2:22-26 Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart. (23) But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do engender strifes. (24) And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, (25) In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God

peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; (26) And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

What does it mean to me that the Comforter lives inside me?

If you are a servant of Christ it is to this you are called. To serve Him - to allow the Comforter to work through you. To be gentle, not argumentative. To love one another as Christ has loved you. To comfort one another, to defend one another, to stand alongside of one another. In short, to *allow the Comforter to work through you*.

Judas Iscariot - one of Christ's disciples - never understood this principle. Judas sold Jesus to the Cross for *thirty pieces of silver*. , this amount of money had *great* significance. According to the Mosaic Law a *gored slave* was to be redeemed for thirty pieces of silver³. Why thirty pieces of silver? **Pastor John MacArthur** comments:

"[though Jesus] came and healed the sick, raised the dead, taught the truth, and offered eternal life, the religious leaders valued Him at a mere thirty pieces of silver. Rather than ignore Him and give Him no price, the leaders mocked Him by offering the

³ Exodus 21:32 HCSB If the ox gores a male or female slave, he must give 30 shekels of silver to the slave's master, and the ox must be stoned.

compensation paid for a slave that had been gored by an ox (Exodus 21:32). Their thinking Jesus' ministry was worth a slave's price heightens the severity of their rejection. Their contemptible evaluation was worthy of severe judgment because He was their King--the God of Israel in human flesh."⁴

The shocking thing is not that the unbelieving Jews mocked Christ with their bribe. What shocks me is that one who walked with Jesus for three years could sell the Master for that amount. Judas followed Christ out of his own motivation, and not as a servant of God. Because of that Judas not only missed the indwelling Comforter, he himself could not be comforted - and ended up taking his own life in a most gruesome manner (**Acts 1:18**).

Pastor **Charles Stanley** writes⁵:

"The faces of depravity are many, and Judas provides prime examples. We can see how, as he spiraled toward destruction, Judas grew colder by the sin ... How dangerous it is to seek to use Christ for our own purposes or to attempt to render Him something we want Him to be. "

Jesus offered His disciples a wonderful life. Not only would His departure bring eternal life through His shed Blood, but His departure would cause God to live inside them. Oh how necessary this is for the Christian in this present evil age!

⁴ from **The Return and Reign of Jesus Christ -The Rejection of the True Shepherd** by John MacArthur. All Rights Reserved.

⁵ see http://www.intouch.org/myintouch/mighty/judas_78012.html, *The Ultimate Treachery* by Rev. Charles Stanley

2. It Is Christ's Plan That The Holy Spirit "Reprove" The World Through The Believer

Once the Holy Spirit came it was Christ's plan that He **reprove** - confute or admonish - the world *through us who are saved*.

God would work through His new creation to make *other new creations*.

FOCAL John 16:8 And when [the Spirit] is come, he will reprove⁶ the world of **sin**, and of **righteousness**, and of **judgment**:

It is important that we understand that the Spirit working through us was not causing us to be *arrogant jerks*. Some ministers believe that is their calling, to be *morally superior* to all else. Beloved, this is not what the Holy Spirit came to do. Others mistakenly believe that the function of the Church is to modify itself so as to suit society. Again, you'll not see this in the words of our Beloved Master. When the Comforter came to indwell us, He came with three ministries to the lost world. Jesus said:

FOCAL John 16:8-9 "he will reprove⁷ the world of

6 G1651, ἐλέγγω, elegchō, *el-eng'-kho*, Of uncertain affinity; to *confute*, *admonish*: - convict, convince, tell a fault, rebuke, reprove., Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries

7 G1651, ἐλέγγω, elegchō, *el-eng'-kho*, Of uncertain affinity; to *confute*, *admonish*: - convict, convince, tell a fault, rebuke, reprove., Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries

sin ... (9) Of sin, because they believe not on me;

The Comforter - and the Christian indwelt with the Comforter - would preach

Acts 10:43 To [Jesus] give all the prophets witness, **that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.**

No Christian should ever preach or teach that there are many ways unto God. The first and foremost ministry of the Holy Spirit is to convict the world that it is *lost in sin, and faith in Jesus Christ is the only remedy*. There is remission of sin - that is, the punishment due each person is removed by the Blood of Christ shed on Calvary. If you do not believe on Jesus Christ for salvation, you are cursed even where you sit. Why? Because, as Jesus said, **they believe not on Me**. The early Church preached:

Acts 4:11-13 [Jesus Christ] is the stone which was set at naught of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. (12) **Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.** (13) Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

Only Jesus Christ shed the Blood that mattered. Only Jesus Christ is set forth by God the Father as perfect payment for our sin.

If any come to God apart from faith in this Precious Savior, they come before a Holy and Wrathful God Who will reject them.

The Comforter came also to

FOCAL John 16:8, 10 ... reprove⁸ the world ... of righteousness ... (10) ... because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more ...

When Jesus Christ ascended to the Father the *very embodiment of the Righteousness of God* would depart from this earth. The world believes that it does good, that it has righteousness in its acts of charity.

I am reminded of the ridiculous photograph I saw of actor Sean Penn taking a flat bottom dingy into the wake of Hurricane Katrina. The boat was so full of photographers and journalists that Penn had to constantly bail out water from the bottom of the sinking boat. How foolish are our silly righteousnesses! God says **there is none good but God (Luke 18:19).**

8 G1651, ἐλέγχω, elegchō, *el-eng'-kho*, Of uncertain affinity; to *confute*, *admonish*: - convict, convince, tell a fault, rebuke, reprove., Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries

We could not be righteous, for all that we do in our humanity is tainted with sin. Righteousness *has to be imputed or given to us (James 2:23)*. Jesus Christ is the *very righteousness of God*. He is God in the flesh, pure and Holy, undefiled, without sin. He came to this earth to be **made sin for us ...**

2 Corinthians 5:21 For **he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.**

so that we could be **made the righteousness of God in Him**. The righteousness that saves only comes to us when we call on the name of Jesus, when we believe on Him for salvation. We have *nothing* to boast or brag about. The Scripture says:

1 Corinthians 1:30-31 **But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: (31) That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.**

Finally, we see that the Comforter came to:

FOCAL John 16:8, 11 ... reprove⁹ the world ... of

9 G1651, ἐλέγχω, elegchō, *el-eng'-kho*, Of uncertain affinity; to *confute*, *admonish*: - convict, convince, tell a fault, rebuke, reprove., Strong's Hebrew

judgment: (11)... because the prince of this world is judged.

There is a terrible Judgment Day coming for all who do not believe in Jesus Christ for salvation. The **prince of this world, Satan, is already judged.** We read in Scripture:

Revelation 20:10 .. the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever

What an awful day this will be, that Day of Judgment. Those who have accepted Jesus Christ as Savior have the righteousness of God *imputed* to their account. Those who have accepted Jesus as Savior will not see this day. Yet for those who refuse Christ we read:

Revelation 20:11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

What a terrible day this will be! This is not the face of the Heavenly Father, but a terrifying Face of Judgment. On this great day unsaved people shall run and hide. A better preacher than I said:

"... when they wakeup at the blast of the trump, and see the great white throne, which, like a mirror, shall reflect their conduct upon them, what a change will be in their minds! Where now your quibs and your jests, where now your malicious speeches and your persecuting words? What! Is there not one among you who can play the man, and insult the Man of Nazareth to his face? No, not one! Like cowardly dogs, they slink away! The infidel's bragging tongue is silent! The proud spirit of the atheist is broken; his blusterings and his carpings are hushed for ever! With shrieks of dismay, and clamorous cries of terror, they entreat the hills to cover them, and the mountains to conceal them from the face of that very Man whose cross was once the subject of their scorn. O take heed, ye sinners, take heed, I pray you, and be ye changed this day by grace, lest ye be changed by-and-by by terror, for the heart which will not be bent by the love of Christ, shall be broken by the terror of his name. If Jesus upon the cross do not save you, Christ, on the throne shall damn you. If Christ dying be not your life, Christ living shall be your death. If Christ on earth be not your heaven, Christ coming from heaven shall be your hell. O may God's grace work a blessed turning of grace in each of us, that we may not be turned into hell in the dread day of reckoning."¹⁰

Oh, Blessed Comforter, give the Christian a vision of hell! Speak through us, convict the world that Judgment

¹⁰ MOURNING AT THE SIGHT OF THE CRUCIFIED. NO. 860
DELIVERED ON LORD'S-DAY MORNING, MARCH 14TH 1869, BY C.
H. SPURGEON, AT THE METROPOLITAN TABERNACLE,
NEWINGTON.

is certain. We have turned to the back of the Blessed Book, we have seen the end of this story. God has already defeated Satan, and those who will not turn to Christ for salvation shall meet sure and certain damnation!

The Prince of this World is judged. May God turn your hearts fully to Christ so you will escape that terrible Great White Throne. May God bless these words and use them to His glory, forever and ever. Amen!

What are the three things that the Comforter is to convict the world of *through* the Christian?

Rock Hill Baptist Church
605 Rock Hill Road
Lexington, TN 38351

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

