

The Consolation of the Comforter

John 16: 7-13

We have come to a moment of great mystery and anxiety in the lives of the disciples. Having washed their feet, the last supper has now ended and Jesus is seeking to prepare them for what they are about to face. He is well aware of their uncertainty and the fears that they all possess. He knows that they are so overwhelmed with the thought of His departure that they see no way that they can go on from here.

It is under these moments of difficulty that Jesus reveals the great truths about the coming of the Holy Spirit. The disciples are not familiar with the Comforter and have a hard time imagining just how this will all work out.

We have the benefit of the complete Word of God, and yet many today have a hard time with the person and ministry of the Spirit. He is often discouraged and misunderstood, due in large part to people's fears brought about by the charismatic movement. Clearly this is not what our Lord desires in regard to the Holy Spirit. He was sent to this earth, to indwell the believer, for our benefit and encouragement.

I want us to take a few moments to consider the [essence](#) of this precious gift, sent for our benefit, as we think on: [The Consolation of the Comforter](#).

I. The Profit of our Lord's Departure (7) – 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. At this moment the disciples can see no benefit at all of the Lord's coming death. They have spent years with Jesus. They have believed upon Him and they still expect Him to establish His kingdom, allowing them to rule with Him upon the earth.

➤ Jesus declares that **it is expedient for you that I go away**. Here He reveals the importance and benefit of His departure. The word **expedient** simply means "*to be profitable.*" They could not possibly understand how His departure would work for their good, but Jesus knew that it would.

➤ Without the presence and enabling of the Holy Spirit, the apostles would never have been able to accomplish what the Lord desired of them. Christ was with them, but the Spirit would be within them. They would never have been used of the Lord because they would always have depended upon Him to do the works for them. This is what Jesus meant in [Jn.14:12 – Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.](#)

- The Spirit is profitable in our lives as well. He enables us to serve the Lord and accomplish those things He desires of us.

I. The Profit of our Lord's Departure (7)

II. The Presence of the Lord's Spirit (7b) – These words reveal some very precious truth to us. Christ teaches us that upon His departure, the **Comforter** would come. This is the Greek word "*parakletos*" and speaks of "*an assistant or helper; one who comes alongside of for aid. It is also used in reference to a defense attorney.*" (Make application.)

- Jesus promised to **send** the Comforter upon His departure. The word send also has a very interesting application. It literally means "*to bid something to be carried to another; to send (thrust or insert) something into another.*" This was not a vague hope but a secure promise. Jesus said that He would send the Spirit. He would bid Him to come to our aid. In fact, upon our acceptance of Christ, we are filled with the Spirit, having His presence inserted in ours!

III. The Purpose of the Lord's Spirit (8-11) – [8] **And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:** Here Jesus describes the work of the Spirit when He comes. He will reprove the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. Now the word **reprove** reveals that the Holy Spirit will convict and He will also convince. He will not only reveal a need, but also move one to action regarding that need. This reproof is three-fold.

A. He Reproves the World's Sin (8-9) – **Of sin, because they believe not on me;** That is very simple but it is a fundamental doctrine of the faith. Because of sin, men refuse to believe on the Lord in salvation. The Spirit is the divine Agent that convicts and convinces of sin.

- He convicts sin in the hearts of men, revealing their lost and condemned state before God. He points out sin and reveals undeniable guilt. When the Spirit brings real conviction, men realize their need!
- He then convinces the individual that their sin and unbelief are wrong. He convinces them of their need for Christ and brings them to the place that they are willing to admit their need and accept that Calvary was for them.

B. He Reproves the World of Righteousness (8, 10) – **Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more**; Christ stood as the embodiment of righteousness in the flesh. He came to reveal God to man. In His absence the Spirit would reprove the world of the righteousness of God.

- He brings conviction in regard to righteousness. He reveals the great truth that none are righteous, no not one. He shows mankind that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God; that our righteousness is as filthy rags.
- He then convinces those to receive the righteousness of God through the shed blood of Jesus upon the cross. He convinces man of His need for the righteousness of Christ to be applied to his account.

C. He Reproves the World of Judgment (8, 11) – **Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged**. Jesus speaks of the coming judgment on Satan and all who follow him.

- The Spirit convicts concerning the reality of coming judgment. He reveals to the sinful heart that all will stand before God accountable for sin apart from Christ. They will be judged and cast into outer darkness and torment.
- He then tenderly reveals that the righteous judgment of God has already been satisfied in the body of His Son. Man can have the righteousness of Christ imputed to them and avoid judgment through eternal life!

I. The Profit of our Lord's Departure (7)

II. The Presence of the Lord's Spirit (7b)

III. The Purpose of the Lord's Spirit (8-11)

IV. The Proclamation of the Lord's Spirit (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 shew you things to come**. Jesus speaks of the message that the disciples can expect the Spirit to proclaim. He spoke just as the Lord said and He continues to proclaim that message today. It is a consistent message; it never changes. Let's consider His proclamation.

A. His Agenda – The Spirit has only one agenda, one work to perform, and that is to exalt Christ. **He shall not speak of Himself.** He did not come to promote or exalt the works of the Spirit, but the Son of God.

➤ That is the best way to test the waters of genuine spirituality. Many of the charismatics promote the works, gifts, or talents of the spirit more than they do the One who gave the Spirit. They place much more emphasis upon being “baptized in the Spirit,” “being slain in the Spirit,” or “speaking in tongues” than they do upon the Lord Himself. The flesh always seeks to exalt the flesh; the Spirit always seeks to exalt the Lord. If a man is placing more emphasis on his gifts rather than the Giver of the gifts, it is a good sign that he is operating in the flesh!

B. His Authority – **Whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak.** The Spirit only speaks that which He has received from God. He recites the message that God has given Him to speak. He stands as the representative of God to humanity.

➤ We would do well to heed what the Spirit reveals to our hearts. We must be careful to avoid grieving the Spirit or being disobedient to Him. When He brings conviction we need to respond. He is carrying the message of God to us. It is often through the Spirit that God speaks to us and He carries our prayers before the Father when we desire to speak to Him.

C. His Administration – **He will guide you in all truth...and he will shew you things to come.** The Spirit is our guide and our stay. He leads us in the paths of righteousness. He guides our steps as we journey through this life, seeking to serve the Lord. As we grow and mature in Christ, He reveals more and more to us.

➤ It is through the guidance of the Spirit that we get a glimpse of things to come. Have you ever been studying a passage of Scripture that had always been a mystery and all of a sudden the light came on and you understood? That is the Spirit showing you things to come.

I am certainly glad for the Holy Spirit and His work among us. We could not make it without Him. I rejoice that He convicted and convinced me of those things pertaining to God.

Has He spoken to your heart this evening? Do you need to respond to His conviction and convincing? If so, why not come and do so right now?

