

“He will convict the world...”

*John 16:5-15*

*"But now I am going to Him who sent Me; and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' 6 "But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. 7 "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. 8 "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; 11 and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.*

*12 "I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. 14 "He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. 15 "All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.*

*NASU*

/John 16:8-11 is bad news. But it's not really news at all. It is the status quo for this world.\

The good news of the gospel is the only answer to the bad news of John 16:8-11.

*John 16:8 "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; 11 and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.*

There are three big, big, basic facts about the human condition.

/The fact of sin. The fact of righteousness. And the fact of judgment\.

These three things mark out the extent of the bad news about the man of this world.

They define the nature of the vast, lifeless, desperate darkness of human life without God.

/Full of sin.

Empty of righteousness.

Facing the gaping jaws of a looming judgment.\

And we live in this world, though we are no longer of this world. We live in this troubled world, and we will have trouble in this troubled world.

Yet there is no need for us to be afraid.

*John 16:33*

*"These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."*

NASU

/The Spirit convicts the world concerning sin. \

October 7, 2023 <picture>

/The Times of Israel, 15 October 2023.\ On October 7<sup>th</sup>, over 1,500 Hamas terrorists stormed Israel's border, around the Gaza Strip, and murderously rampaged through southern areas, taking over communities and killing the men, women, and children they found, as well as overrunning military sites with similar deadly results. The toll from the bloody assault, which came alongside a widespread barrage of 5,000 rockets fired indiscriminately at towns and cities across Israel, has swelled to more than 1,300, the vast majority of them civilians. Thousands more were injured, hundreds of them seriously.

Among the dead were dozens of babies. Some of the victims, including entire families who were butchered, were reportedly beheaded. At an outdoor music festival, surrounded by the attackers, 260 people were systematically mowed down. In addition, the terrorists abducted more than 150 [ I believe the number now is closer to 250] people of all ages, including children and elderly women, dragging them to Gaza as captives. Hamas has continued to indiscriminately rain rockets on civilian areas of southern and central Israel since the attack started.

Here's the most terrifying thing: one might like to think of this as unusual, not normally how the world works. Sadly, that's not the case. This wasn't a one-time aberration or an exception to the rule. This is the rule of this world.

/The story of fallen man is a story of unrelenting cruelty and bloodshed. \

This won't be a history lesson, but turn to any page of a history book and you will see wars and battles, conquerors and the vanquished.

Pick any century and google "list of wars from, for example, 1800-1899".

There will be hundreds of entries. <pic>

Look at this graphic. It's stunning in its clarity. Six hundred years of war. The y-axis is the number of deaths per 100,000 people.

World War one was the war to end all wars.

We got the Nobel Peace Prize.

But then we got World War 2. We got the United Nations. The wars continued.

We screamed “never again” after the Jewish Holocaust at the hands of the Nazis in the 1940s.

And we have ignorant mobs screaming death to the Jews in 2023.

The world is a seething cauldron of sin, a volcano of flame and tar and acid.

It spits forth lava, and the lava sometimes overflows, and we experience something of the terror of that cauldron. But it’s just the part that boils to the top. /The whole cauldron is on fire with sin and unbelief and revenge and hatred and murder and immorality, idolatry, enmities, strife, outbursts of anger, greed and dissention. \

You see, October 7<sup>th</sup> was a flareup, and eruption. It was terrible. It was the bubbling over of the caldron of sin. But the caldron is always raging.

/If the world had any self-awareness, you'd think they wouldn't need to be convicted of sin by the Spirit. They would be fully convinced that man is utterly sinful.\

But what do we get? We get world leaders declaring that we are in a post-war world. We get denials. Will somebody please explain this to me?

God explained it. Jesus explained it.

*John 8:44*

*44 "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*

/The nature of sin is such that it deceives even itself as to its existence.\

*John 16:8 "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; 11 and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.*

/In the book of Romans, Paul presents the transcript of the Spirit's court case to convict the human race concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment.\

The full indictment is recorded in Romans 1:18-3:20.

I want you to hear His opening statement. As I read it, listen for those three facts: sin or ungodliness, righteousness or unrighteousness, and judgement or the wrath of God.

*Rom 1:18-25*



*18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. 21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.*

*24 Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. 25 For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.*

/Let's continue. Next, we get an expose on the depravity of man:\

*Rom 1:26-2:2*

*26 For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, 27 and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.*

*28 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, 29 being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, 30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful;*

*32 and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.*

*2:1 Therefore you have no excuse, everyone of you who passes judgment, for in that which you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things. 2 And we know that the judgment of God rightly falls upon those who practice such things.*

*/And then we have the closing argument chapter 3:\*

*Rom 3:9-20*

*What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin; 10 as it is written,*

*"THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;*

*11 THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS,*

*THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;*

*12 ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS;*

*THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD,*

*THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE."*

*13 "THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE,  
WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING,"  
"THE POISON OF ASPS IS UNDER THEIR LIPS";*

*14 "WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS";*

*15 "THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD,*

*16 DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS,*

*17 AND THE PATH OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN."*

*18 "THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES."*

*19 Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God; 20 because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.*

The Spirit convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. /All of the world is accountable to God. If only it had the humility and self-awareness to believe it.\