

“sin and righteousness and judgment”

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.

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This morning we continue to learn what Jesus is saying in chapter 16:8-11.

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.\

The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin. Last Sunday, we looked at the reality of sin in this world.

/Today we will examine verses 8-11 as a unit. We'll see a sketch of the one ministry of the Spirit regarding unbelievers ("the world").\

We will begin with the meaning of the Greek word for "convict".

/The Greek word for "convict" is *elencho*.\

This Greek word has several different meanings depending on how it's used.

/

Elencho can mean

- (1) To bring to light or expose
- (2) To provide proof or evidence of wrongdoing; to state that someone has done wrong
- (3) To bring a person to the point of recognizing his wrongdoing
- (4) To express strong disapproval of someone's actions; to rebuke or reproach
- (5) To penalize for wrongdoing, to punish or discipline, for the purpose of improvement\

It takes on several of these meanings in our passage today.

/In John 16:8-11, the Spirit deals with three things.\

The Holy Spirit *elencho's* the world concerning sin, and concerning righteousness, and concerning judgment.

/For each one, the word *elencho* takes on a different meaning.\

This is the only ministry of the Spirit to the unbeliever.

And as we will see, even here, His work is ultimately to the glory of Christ and the benefit of the disciples.

/The Spirit's ultimate purpose is to glorify Christ.\

John 16:14

14 "He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you.

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That goes for His ministry to the world.

/ Each element in verses 8-11 should be seen in view of the Person and Work of the Lord Jesus Christ.\

Notice:

*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**.*

/During His public ministry to the world, Jesus spoke about all three.\

concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me;

/Concerning sin:\

John 8:21

21 Then He said again to them, "I go away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin; where I am going, you cannot come."

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He told the Jewish unbelievers that He was going to go away.

John 9:39-41

39 And Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, so that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind." 40 Those of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these things and said to Him, "We are not blind too, are we?" 41 Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

Here Jesus speaks of judgment as well as sin.

John 15:18-25

18 "If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. 19 "If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. 20 "Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.'

If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also. 21 "But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me. 22 "If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. 23 "He who hates Me hates My Father also. 24 "If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would not have sin; but now they have both seen and hated Me and My Father as well.

/Concerning righteousness

John 16:10 and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me;

/Jesus brings the disciples into His statement concerning righteousness.

Notice that He does not say “they” as in the world will no longer see Him. That’s of course true, but here He says “you” the disciples will no longer see Me.

Why?

/Sin is an affront to the righteousness of God. \ It is an offense against Him.

/Christ vindicated the righteousness of God at the cross.\

This happened after Jesus ended His ministry to the world.

/The Spirit carries the ball as it were on this message. \

And the Holy Spirit does this work by means of the disciples and now the church.

/The disciples – and now the church – confront the world with that fact.\

The Holy Spirit teaches them what to say.

/He directly inspired the apostles, and since then He teaches this message through the word of God. \

So we have for example the book of Romans that reveals so much about the righteousness of God.

/Concerning Judgment:\

11 and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

John 12:30-33

*Jesus answered and said, "This voice has not come for My sake, but for your sakes.
31 "Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.
32 "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself." 33 But He
was saying this to indicate the kind of death by which He was to die.*

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/The ruler of this world has been judged at the cross. Now whole world of unbelievers will face the same judgment as their ruler.\

Rev 20:10

And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

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/Jesus warned the unbeliever about judgment.\

John 3:16-21

16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. 17 "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. 18 "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. 20 "For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. 21 "But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

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John 5:24

24 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life."

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/Now Jesus is returning to the Father. So the Holy Spirit will continue the work of Christ on earth. \

The Spirit uses the witness of the church and the word of God to make His case against the world.

/The unbeliever needs to understand that he has sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.\ Some will listen, and be convinced that they need a savior.

/He needs to see that the Lord Jesus Christ satisfied the righteousness of God with His death on the cross.\

The blood of Christ is the only provision for our salvation.

/If the unbeliever refuses to believe in Christ, he has rejected the only means by which he can be saved.\

/He faces certain judgment.\