**JOHN 15:26-16:15**

**PAIRS AND SPARES CLASS**

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, WAYCROSS**

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**INTRODUCTION**

During His last hours with His disciples prior to His arrest and subsequent crucifixion, Jesus promised to send them His gift of the Holy Spirit Who would indwell each of them and would be for them a Counselor, a Comforter, a Teacher of God’s Truth—One Who would walk beside them.

“…I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of Truth” (John 14:16-17a).

“…He lives with you and will be [is] in you” (John 14:17b).

“I will not leave you as orphans…” (John 14:18a).

“The Counselor…will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have told you” (John 14:26a, 26c).

*Jesus gifted the Holy Spirit to accomplish all these things in and through His disciples. He has gifted this same Holy Spirit to accomplish these very same things through us who believe in Jesus.*

In John 15:18-25 Jesus also told His disciples what to expect from the society in which they would live: to expect the world to hate them because of their commitment to Jesus.

Throughout the Book of John, we encounter the term “the world” which can have at least three different meanings:

1. The physical world that God created;
2. The human world, or mankind; and,
3. The social world, or those in society who are apart from God and opposed to God.

In the final verses of chapter 15, Jesus warns us about the world, the lost society in which Believers live:

1. The world hated and still hates Jesus, and the world hated and still hates those who follow Him—“ ‘If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first….If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.’ ” (vs. 18, 20b);
2. Believers do not belong to the world; we are in it but not of it—“ ‘If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world. That is why the world hates you.’ ” (v. 19);
3. The world is spiritually ignorant of God and spiritually blind to God—“ ‘They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the One who sent me.’ “ (v. 21); and,
4. The world will not be honest with itself or with others about its own sin: the rejection of Jesus—“ ‘If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin. Now, however, they have no excuse for their sin. He who hates me hates my Father as well. If I had not done among them what no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. But now they have seen these miracles, and yet they have hated both me and my Father.’ ” (vs. 22-24).

Jesus told His disciples in 15:17a that the world, the people who are apart from God and opposed to God, cannot conceive of the reality of the Holy Spirit, cannot know the Holy Spirit, cannot experience the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

But without the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in a person’s life, a void is created that opens the door of their soul to welcoming the demons of Satan.

*We live in a society that seems to be unraveling, and we wonder why. Our nation, its institutions, its leaders, and its people have rejected God and are actively attacking and minimizing those who follow Him. Whenever any person or any nation is committed to expelling God from their lives, they openly enthrone Satan in the void that is left, and demonic spirits invade the lives of the people who have no desire to know God, resulting in the destruction of their society and its transitioning from Godly to Godless.*

**THE SPIRIT TESTIFIES** (John 15:26-27)

In 15:26-27, Jesus promised that:

1. The Holy Spirit would be sent to the followers of Jesus by Jesus from God;
2. He is the Spirit of God that teaches the truth of God to the people of God; and,
3. He testifies to the truth of Jesus’s being Messiah, the Son of God, the Savior.

Jesus also told His followers that they, too, “must” testify, through the power and truth of the Holy Spirit, about their experience with Jesus. *In the power and truth of the Holy Spirit, Believers are enabled to tell and show others about our relationship with Jesus.*

*Throughout the history of the Church, times of persecution have also been times of proclamation about the truth of Jesus and salvation through Jesus. It is the Holy Spirit Who empowers and enables Believers to witness to unbelievers, especially during times of persecution. Without the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, Believers could not and cannot give a potent witness for Christ.*

**[SUMMARIZE JOHN 16:1-6]**

In the first six verses of chapter 16, Jesus told His disciples that if they thought things were confusing and unsettled and frightening now, just wait.

He told them a time was coming when the world would turn against them, when they would be expelled from the synagogues and would be killed because of their being followers of Jesus. Many of the people doing the expelling and killing of Believers would think their actions were in response to their commitment to God when in reality their actions would be the result of their commitment to Satan.

Jesus said these people would neither know God nor be serving Him.

Jesus told His disciples that He was sharing these things with them not to frighten or discourage them but to prepare them so that when they experienced these things they would be strengthened and reassured. In the midst of their persecution, they would be reminded that Jesus had told them what to expect, thus reinforcing the proof that Jesus truly is the Son of God.

**THE SPIRIT CONVICTS** (John 16:7-11)

As a result of what Jesus was telling His disciples, they were “filled with grief” (16:6b). But He assured them that everything that was about to happen, including His leaving them, was for their benefit: “Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you.”

The disciples of Jesus had been kept safe by the presence of Jesus. He was now telling them that He would be returning to God where He would personally intercede with God on their behalf. He would ask God to send them the Holy Spirit to be present with them, to teach them, to protect them, to minister with them and through them.

?In addition to working in and through Believers, in verse 8, what else did Jesus say the Holy Spirit would do? (“…he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment.”)

The purpose of the Holy Spirit is NOT to condemn the world. The world apart from God and Jesus is already condemned. It is a world in need of redemption and salvation; a world in need of a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

The purpose of the Holy Spirit is to convict, to bring to light in the souls of individual human beings the reality that they are condemned, that they are guilty before God:

1. Guilty of their sin, singular—guilty of not believing that Jesus is the crucified, resurrected, enthroned Son of God Who is their only path to a right relationship with Almighty God;
2. Guilty of their unrighteousness before God when compared with the absolute righteousness of Jesus; guilty of not living a life that emulates the standards of God, that exemplifies the expectations of God;
3. Guilty of their being judged for following Satan who has already been declared guilty and who is awaiting the execution of his sentence; guilty of choosing to glorify the enemy of God instead of choosing to glorify God Almighty Who is the Only One worthy of our commitment and loyalty; guilty of following the one who is judged rather than following the One Who is The Judge.

*Those who do not believe in Jesus are already condemned, now and forever. The goal of the Holy Spirit is to bring the condemned, the lost, to realize his condemnation, to confess his unrighteousness, and to accept Christ as his only Savior.*

**THE SPIRIT GUIDES** (John 16:12-15)

Jesus always knows exactly what His followers need to know, when we need to know it, and how capable we are of receiving it.

In verse 12, Jesus acknowledged that He had a lot more to tell His disciples but to do so at that point would overwhelm them.

?So what was His solution? (He would send the Holy Spirit to be their Teacher.)

When the Holy Spirit arrived, He would:

1. Tell them everything they would need to know by sharing with them what they needed to hear from God; and,
2. Tell them “what is yet to come.”

?In verse 14, what did Jesus say the purpose of the Truth the Holy Spirit would share with the disciples is? (Bring glory to Jesus)

?How many times in John has he stressed the importance of Jesus and God being glorified?

?Do we fully grasp Who Jesus is? Who is this Man Who promised to send the Holy Spirit? Who is this man Who claimed equality with God Almighty? Who is this man about whom we take so much for granted, this man who calls us His friends? HE IS THE ONE AND ONLY SON OF GOD, THE SAVIOR OF THE LOST, THE ONE WHO HAS DEFEATED SATAN, THE ONE WHO HAS CONQUERED DEATH, THE ONE WHO REIGNS WITH GOD AND WHO WILL RETURN TO RULE ON EARTH.

When we even partially understand Who Jesus really is, we can only be overwhelmed by the realization that He loves us, He suffered for us, He rose for us, and He reigns over us—as unworthy as we are.

It is the Holy Spirit in us Who teaches us Who Jesus is. It is the Holy Spirit within us Who causes us to realize our need for Jesus. It is the Holy Spirit in us who leads us to claim Jesus as our Lord and Savior and to glorify Him.

**CONCLUSION**

Studying God’s Word is a very worthy and worthwhile use of our time and abilities. But our reason for studying and knowing God’s Word is not to master a literary masterpiece but to better know Jesus, to better know God, to bring glory to Them, to be prepared to share Them with the lost world in which we live, and ultimately to praise Them and glorify Them throughout eternity.

Jesus gifted those who believe in Him with the Holy Spirit to walk beside us in everything we experience; to teach us, to encourage us, to empower us to serve Jesus, to complete our mission for Jesus, to glorify Jesus.

As we live each day, do we sense the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives? Do we seek His guidance? Do we praise God for gift of the Holy Spirit?