

LENEXA EDIFIER

And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; Eph. 4:11,12

September 27, 2020

GOSPEL MEETING

Chad Sychtysz

September 27-30, 2020

Sunday 9:30 AM

Where Do You Stand With Jesus

Sunday 10:20 AM

How Jesus Amazed People

Sunday 5 PM

How People Amazed Jesus

Monday 7 PM

At Home With the Lord

Tuesday 7 PM

Making a Fresh Start

Wednesday 7 PM

The Devil Owns the Fence

We invite any and all to attend these services.

Bro. Sychtysz has prepared himself to present these lessons that will provide spiritual benefit for any and all who can attend.

Our services require attendees to be masked in compliance with local laws, but we are able to assemble all together. Not boasting but rather giving thanks for our Covid free congregation thus far by maintaining these standards.

The Holy Spirit's Conviction of the World

By Kyle Pope

In John chapter sixteen, as the Lord offered His final discourse to the apostles on the evening before His betrayal, He made an unusual statement. As He promised the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles, He declared, *"And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment"* (John 16:8) NKJV). *What does Jesus mean by this statement? How would the Holy Spirit convict the world of sin?*

The word translated *"convict"* is the Greek word ἐλέγχω (*elengchō*). This word originally meant "to disgrace, or put to shame" (LSJ) and eventually came to refer to *reproof* or *rebuke*. Most often the New Testament translates it in this sense. This is the word used in **Matthew 18:15** of the correction that is

to be offered to a brother who sins. It is the word used of what John the Baptist did to Herod for his unlawful marriage to Herodias (**Luke 3:19**). It is why the one who loves darkness does not come into the light, *"lest his deeds should be REPROVED (elengchō)"* (KJV). It is what the conscience did for those who at first sought to stone the woman caught in adultery, until *"being CONVICTED (elengchō) by their conscience"* (NKJV), they withdrew as Jesus challenged the one without sin to stone her first (**John 8:9**).

Its use in John sixteen is very similar to these examples. Jesus is not teaching that the final judgment of mankind took place when the Holy Spirit came on the apostles at Pentecost. Instead, He is talking about the consequence of the Spirit's revelation of the gospel. Only a few verses after this statement the Lord referred to the Holy Spirit as *"the Spirit of truth"* (**John 16:13a**). When truth is revealed it does something to error—it loses all pretense of validity! That is much of what Jesus declares in this statement. In revealing *"all truth"* (**16:13b**) to the apostles and New Testament prophets it exposed the error of anything else.

If this understanding is correct, how do we explain the specific sense in which the Holy Spirit's coming did this regarding *sin, righteousness, and judgment*. How do we understand this part of the Lord's statement? As the text continues, Jesus explains how the Holy Spirit does this for each of the three things He mentions. First Jesus explains, *"of sin, because they do not believe in Me"* (**16:9**). Earlier in the gospel Jesus had rebuked the Jewish leaders declaring, *"if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins"* (**John 8:24b**). Jesus' sacrifice would offer mankind the solution to the problem of sin. While the Law of Christ as revealed by the Holy Spirit would define sin from this point forward (**1 John 3:4**), it did not introduce sin into the world. It did, however, set the standard that would now hold man accountable before God. Jesus declared that His words would judge mankind on the final day (**John 12:47-49**). The

Holy Spirit fully revealed the terms of the New Covenant. If one will not believe in Jesus as the solution for man's problem with sin, the Holy Spirit's work of revelation serves to *rebuke* and *reprove* this error.

Next, He explained, *"of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more (16:10).*

Righteousness carries two distinct ideas in Scripture. To be *righteous* is sometimes dealt with in terms of man's legal standing before God. Since the Holy Spirit reveals that, *"all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23)*, in a legal sense the Holy Spirit declares, *"There is none righteous, no, not one" (Rom. 3:10)*. Only God's forgiveness granted through the blood of Christ can allow man to stand innocent before God, and thus *righteous*. The second sense, however, in which Scripture uses this term is that of moral behavior. There is behavior that is defined by the Holy Spirit as sinful, and that which is defined as *righteous*. Peter speaks of *"righteous Lot"* who did not practice the *"lawless deeds"* of those around him, but had a *"righteous soul"* which loathed their wickedness (2 Pet. 2:7-8). In Christ, Jesus is important to man with regard to both ways in which righteousness should characterize man's life. His sacrifice is the only way that man can attain forgiveness and stand righteous before God, but in addition to this, His life now offers the ideal example of righteous deeds man must emulate (1 John 2:6). With Christ's return to the Father, from this point forward no disciple can see in the flesh the righteous behavior of Christ—it must be followed by reading and believing the revelation of the Spirit recorded on the pages of Scripture. In this sense, the Spirit's coming now *reproves* a world unwilling to follow Him, and informs it of the offer of His means of making man righteous.

Finally, He declared, *"of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged" (16:11)*. This is the third time in the gospel Jesus had spoken of Satan as the *"ruler of this world."* As Jesus neared the time of His crucifixion He proclaimed:

Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself (John 12:31-32).

Jesus death would end Satan's power over all who would come to Him in faith and obedience. His death would *"cast out"* Satan from any claim over disciples of Christ. At the beginning of this discourse Jesus had said to His apostles, *"I will no longer talk much with*

you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me" (John 14:30). Here, Jesus' death is pictured as a *coming* of Satan. The torment and anguish of Jesus on the cross was accomplished through the hands of sinful men yielding to Satan in their wicked behavior (Acts 2:23). It was not, however, a victory for Satan, but a defeat. It would rob him of his power, and ultimately seal His fate for all eternity. Hell is a place *"prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matt. 25:41)*.

The Spirit's revelation *reproves* the world of sin because now in Christ liberation from Satan is granted if man will only accept it. The gospel declares this offer to all mankind. If we will only choose to accept it, we no longer need to be slaves of sin, serving a master doomed to eternal punishment. In Christ we can be freed from sin and brought into freedom from sin and fellowship with God.

THINGS TO COME

"Then He continued by saying to them, Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be great earthquakes, and in various places plagues and famines; and there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and will persecute you, delivering you to the synagogues and prisons, bringing you before kings and governors for My name's sake. It will lead to an opportunity for your testimony. So, make up your minds not to prepare beforehand to defend yourselves; for I will give you utterance and wisdom which none of your opponents will be able to resist or refute. But you will be betrayed even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death, and you will be hated by all because of My name. Yet not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your lives" (Luke 21:10-19 NASV).

In 586 BC the Babylonians destroyed the temple King Solomon had built years earlier (970 BC). Even though the Jews who returned from captivity rebuilt the temple, an older generation lamented the lost glory and beauty of the original. *"Who is left among you who saw this temple in its former glory? And how do you see it now? Does it not seem to you like nothing in comparison?" (Haggai 2:3)*. John 2:20 refers to King Herod's temple renovation, a project that actually extended beyond his lifetime. The temple was in the heart of Jerusalem—city center. More, the

temple was the heart and life of Judaism. The temple was where Israel met with God. Early in life, Jesus made two trips to Jerusalem. Now, the temple would be destroyed. Why? There were clues; yet, the money changers, religious leaders, and hard-hearted Jews missed the true significance of the temple; it was time for a cleansing. The life and death and teaching of Jesus, the one who is greater than the temple, said it was time for judgment to come on the recalcitrant Jewish nation. The chosen people of God, with all of the hopes and dreams and possibilities imaginable, rejected not only the prophets of God, but also, the greatest prophet of all. They soon cried: Crucify Him! Crucify Him!

Using OT judgment language, Jesus said nations would turn on each other. Natural disasters would occur (**Ezekiel 36:29-30**). Prepare to stand strong; you will be persecuted in the synagogues. In Acts, Luke tells that story repeatedly, especially early in the life of the church. This would be the time to give up; instead, this was an opportunity to show their faith in Christ, their testimony. The Apostles were able to preach faithfully even as they were thrown into prison. Jesus said: don't be so concerned about these matters that you deliberate constantly about how to persevere. Even your loved ones will turn against you.

Chaos ensued when the Roman army surrounded the city and destroyed the temple. A cause for concern? Yes! Still, Jesus said: Not a hair of your head will perish. Did some Christians die during these times? But even if they died, were they really dead? No. They were alive in Christ. The disciples asked questions about the temple and the city. Jesus said times will be tough but you will live. When the Roman armies come to our city, into our lives, when our struggles increase, what can we do? Jesus said: Endure and then you will live.

Randy Harshbarger

Why So Many Churches – The Problem With Traditions

A new bride was preparing her first Easter dinner and cut off the end of the ham. Her new husband, curious, asked why and was told, "We've ALWAYS done it that way!" "Yes, but Why?" "I don't know. Let's call Mom." Mom didn't know either so she called Grandmother who said she had no idea but they had ALWAYS done it that way! On Monday they all went to visit Great-Grandmother and asked the question

"Why do we cut the ends off the ham for Easter?" to which Great-Grandmother sagely replied, "My roaster was too short and it was the only way to get it all in. Why?" And thus begin all church traditions! Something is begun, imitated without examination, elevated to the level of accepted practice and then becomes "gospel".

Jesus dealt with this problem in the first century in **Mark 7:5-9** where we read, *"And the Pharisees and the scribes ask him, Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat their bread with defiled hands? And he said unto them, Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoreth me with their lips, But their heart is far from me. But in vain do they worship me, Teaching as their doctrines the precepts of men. Ye leave the commandment of God, and hold fast the tradition of men. And he said unto them, Full well do ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your tradition."* I have seen folks get downright belligerent defending traditions not found in scripture yet give not a care about denying the deity of Christ which is clearly taught in the scripture. Let's remove our 'rose colored glasses' and relentlessly follow the Pure Gospel!

Cleveland Reddinger

Boast Not Of Tomorrow

"You do not know what your life will be like tomorrow...." **James 4:14.**

We are a people who regularly make plans for something we intend to do at a later date. We often make plans for where we are going to go tomorrow and what we are going to do when we get there. We plan to attend events or make vacation plans months in advance. Yet none of us know what our life will be like an hour, a day or a month from now (**James 4:13-16**). Tomorrow can be, and often is, a most dangerous word. We should, yea we must understand that our lives must not be lives solely of "I intend".

How many kind words of encouragement have we left unspoken? How many times have we failed to just say "I love you"? How many opportunities have we lost to help strengthen someone carrying a heavy burden (**Galatians 6:10; Proverbs 3:27; Matthew 5:16**)? How many people know what they should do to inherit eternal life? They have heard and even believe (**Rom. 10:17; Mark 16:16; Gal. 3:22**) but have not repented, confessed and been baptized for the

remission of sins (**Luke 13:3; Matt.10:32-33; Acts 2:38**). How many people have done this but are not being faithful (**Rev. 2:10; 1 Cor. 15:58**)? Over the years I have heard individuals say, "I know I should do this or that and one day I'm going to....." O, the things we intend to do-- just not today!

The words of James should echo through our minds, "*You do not know what your life will be like tomorrow*" (**James 4:14**). Tomorrow the desire to do what we intend to do may be gone. Tomorrow may see us incapable or we may simply forget. Tomorrow could find us dead (**Ecc1 9:10**). In this hour I suggest to you that there are two things certain about this life, namely, that life itself is full of uncertainty and the day is coming in which we will die (**Heb.9:27; Acts 17:30-31**). The moment we take our last breath, the moment our heart beats for the last time will mark the end of all opportunity for us to do that which we intend to do.

I leave you with these words: *:Be dressed in readiness, and keep your lamps lit"* (**Luke 12:35 NASB**).

Charles Hicks; swabbie5256@gmail.com

NEWS AND NOTES

Sick in need of prayers:

JAN PATRICK, ALMA BAUMGARTNER, TRUDY MULLEN, RENE RATLIFFE, DENESE GORING, RODNEY BLOUNT, TRACY RICHARDSON, DAISY DARNALL, BROOKLYN BOYER, STEVE WIMP, JESSIE GIBSON AND PAT GAINES ALSO PLEASE REMEMBER ALMA BAUMGARTNER IN HER GRIEF OVER THE DEATH OF HER MOTHER. FUNERAL TO BE CONDUCTED FRIDAY AT PAOLA, KANSAS.

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS - **BOOK OF DANIEL - BILL MILLER**

WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS - **STUDY OF WORSHIP -**

Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer

Elders:

Ron Peck and Jim Stauffer

Deacons:

Bill Miller

Brandon Jimison

Joe Hurd

"Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons:"

(Philippians 1:1)

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the gospel - **Rom. 10:17**

Believe in Jesus Christ - **Heb. 11:6**

Repent of sins - **Acts 17:30**

Confess Christ as Lord - **Rom. 10:9,10**

Baptism for remission of sins - **Acts 2:38**

Be Faithful unto death - **Rev. 2:10**

Psa. 1:1 *Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.*

ADDRESS AND HOURS OF WORSHIP

7845 Cottonwood Dr. Lenexa, Kansas,
66216

Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study

Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship

Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship

Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study/ Worship

Visitors welcome

We conduct in home Bible Studies

We offer Correspondence Courses

Check out the following websites:

facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist
lenexachurchofchrist.org

"And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned." (Mark 16:15-16)