

John 16:8 – 28

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~ The Holy Spirit will completely overcome our Spiritual Safari in this report, because Jesus said in our last report that, even though the disciples were sorrowful in their hearts about the things He was saying, nevertheless, He was telling them the truth. That truth was that if Jesus went away He would send the Holy Spirit unto them. The Holy Spirit would "reprove" the world; and we examined the word "reprove." It is the word used for a prosecutor bringing a case against another man in a court of law; and it was used some twenty-nine times in the trial of Socrates. Well, the correct phrase would be, "... when He is come He will CONVICT the world of sin." The Spirit of God is going to present evidence in your heart and my heart that will bring forth a conviction – I can promise you that. With that conviction will come a decision that must be made. Until we are convicted, we cannot turn in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ....

8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

~ Here are the three things the Holy Spirit is doing in this world in this age of grace in which we live. This is the present ministry of the Holy Spirit of God in this world right now. Paul mentions another ministry of the Holy Spirit in second Thessalonians chapter two; and that is: that the Holy Spirit restrains evil in this world. Only the Holy Spirit can create a climate for the Word of God to go out, reach hearts and lives, and grow in them. I believe the Holy Spirit takes the Word of God and uses it; and I believe He is using it right now as the Word of God goes out in this so-called safari; but – let's remember – only the Spirit of God can keep these reports coming to you. Jesus said to the church in Philadelphia, "I set before you an open door." Well, we have so little strength in and of ourselves; we're actually completely helpless without the Spirit of God indwelling us.

The cults and ism's today have headquarters that sprawl over acres and are worth hundreds of millions of dollars. When you compare the Spiritual

Safari with the ministry of, say, Creflo Dollar or Osteen or Hinn; this is really just a Podunk, second-rate and insignificant little loosely labeled ministry. Well, the Word of God tells me that He is going to keep before me an open door. It is the Spirit of God Himself Who keeps the avenue open when we honestly attempt to take the Word of God to the entire world. I am not only praying that this safari goes to every thinking man in this world, but I also pray that God will open new channels for us to go into the world for Him soon. That is the work of restraining evil, friends – you can just write that down. But the Holy Spirit also convicts the world of three things....

9 Of sin, because they believe not on me;

10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;

11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

~ The Holy Spirit is now come to convict of sin, righteousness and judgment. Well, my question is: what sin? What righteousness and what judgment? Thank God He never leaves us to our own imaginations and devices of theory, or we would NEVER understand this truth. Let's all thank the Lord Jesus Personally in prayer right now that He took the time to explain to the apostles what this means.

The greatest sin for which there is no remedy is when a man does not believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and His death, burial and resurrection. If you pick out the greatest sinner of our age that we can remember – and there have been some real troublemakers like Hitler, Stalin, the mafia, the drug cartels and infamous murderers – but the greatest sinner running around the face of this earth MIGHT BE YOU. Yes, you read that correctly – Y – O – U. If you have not accepted Christ, then you are definitely that person. The rejection of the Lord Jesus Christ is a state of mind for which there is no remedy because the only remedy for sin is to trust Him. If you don't trust Him, then you are lost. It's just as simple as that, as important as that; and it's a decision every man will make for himself down here. We have already seen all of this before on safari. Jesus is saying it all again because it's important.

Friends, I don't think many of us actually get the point that if we have heard the Gospel taught properly, correctly and completely – then you have a responsibility to that teaching. When Jesus says He convicts of righteousness, and then He goes to the Father and we see Him no more, He means He was delivered for our offenses and was raised from the dead for our justification. When Jesus died on the cross, He did more than die a judgmental death taking our guilt upon Himself; Christ was raised for our justification. We not only have our sins subtracted, but we also have righteousness added to us when we accept and trust Him.

This is all-important for us to understand now – righteousness is something you and I just don't have, and it's something we need very badly. Not only do we need our sins forgiven so we can live and function down here but – if we aren't justified in righteousness, we are never going to stand in the presence of a Holy God, my friends. If Christ died that we only receive a pardon of sins – and that's all – then we are nothing in the world but pardoned common criminals in Heaven. Paul makes it clear that the Lord has made over His righteousness as our righteousness when we trust Him. The Lord Jesus Christ IS righteousness, and we are IN Him. Paul said he wanted to be found in Christ; but, not having his own righteousness, which is of the law, but that righteousness that has been made over to Him by the Father through faith in His Son. The only standing you have in front of God is IN the Lord Jesus Christ.

When Jesus said He is coming in judgment, that does NOT mean judgment is coming someday for the believer. The church will be gone to rule and reign with Him in that day. Jesus says the prince of this world is judged already. This is a very troubling passage for many believers to understand. We live in a judged world. Some people say they will take their chances with God, and they act as if they are on trial. We are not on trial, friends – we have been declared lost sinners by God, found guilty, convicted - and our sentence is DEATH. The wages of sin is death. This world is our own death row where we are awaiting execution. The appeals have been exhausted and the date looms large - but is unknown.

See, God is not some candidate running for office – He is already IN office; and He is Chief Judge of all the earth. Therefore, man will come before God in judgment. That axiom has already been determined by Him. Don't think that's fair? Too bad. You are simply not going to stand in front of our Holy God and declare what a sweet, innocent little boy or girl you are – forget that friends. Our righteousness is filthy rags in His sight; and I'm here to tell you that you don't want to appear before God with those because shame and guilt will be your eternal destination if you do. The judgment is because the prince of this world is judged. When Paul reasoned with Felix, it was all about judgment to come.

Now, I realize many people object to teaching the Bible as I do. Most American mainstream religious-type-Jesus-people absolutely resent me - and they have no patience for ANY man who brings them the proper, correct and complete Scriptural message. There are many things about God that the lost world hates. For example: the world hates that God is omnipotent. Well, this is His universe, and He is running it His way. Most people don't like that God is in charge and that He also saves by grace at the same time. The world absolutely despises the fact that man is a lost sinner in His sight....

12 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

~ The Spirit of God reveals Himself by bringing the believer along in the knowledge of the grace of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ in the Word of God as that man makes an effort to study the Bible. This doesn't mean we are worshipping a book; we have already seen the Word became flesh, so we are still worshipping the Lord Jesus Christ. We aren't doing Bibliolatry. When we grow in the knowledge of the Word of God we begin to know Him. Paul said he wanted to know the power of fellowship with God and the power of His sufferings. This is one area that believers have totally stagnated on and are completely ignorant of and, as a result, they are not growing. We can never grow in our understanding of God apart from the Word of God. Jesus has MANY things we don't know – we cannot know – until we grow in the grace and knowledge of Him and Him as our Savior first – and that means in the Word of God. However, just picking up the Bible

and reading it is not the answer and it never has been, and it never will be....

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.

14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

~ The Holy Spirit is the teacher on our safari as we have seen and said many, many times. You people who say you don't need someone to explain the Bible to you are simply not credible people. These last two verses are the steps we are to allow the Holy Spirit to take as He leads us to that place of wisdom. Only then can the Spirit of God teach and lead and guide us into all truth in Holy Writ. The Holy Spirit never speaks of Himself, and that is also very important to realize.

I ask that you read this paragraph super carefully and thoughtfully: when we hear these people who are constantly talking about the Holy Spirit here and the Holy Ghost there and the Holy Spirit something else or another; well, the minute someone says all these things, you can just write it down that the Holy Spirit is NOT working in that life or organization. Some people seem to think the Holy Spirit tells them what to eat for lunch – ridiculous. The Holy Spirit doesn't speak of Himself; the Holy Spirit ONLY – ONLY – ONLY speaks of the Lord Jesus Christ. We know the Holy Spirit is at work when Christ is being glorified – and that's it, my friends. When we are in a sincere Bible study and, all the sudden, we get a glimpse of the Lord Jesus, and He becomes wonderful and meaningful to our heart and life – THAT is the time we can know the Holy Spirit is working. See, the Holy Spirit hides Himself and He reveals Christ – and the Holy Spirit never deviates from that protocol, either, by the way....

15 All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

~ Once again, the Lord Jesus makes Himself equal to God in verse fifteen. The Holy Spirit alone takes the things of God and shows them unto us. Eye hath not seen nor ear heard, nor has it entered into the hearts of man those things that God has prepared for them that love Him. The only way you know ANYTHING about God is because it was revealed to you by the Holy Spirit in the Word of God. Nowhere else; no other way. It is the Holy Spirit Who searcheth and reveals all things, yeah, even the deep things of God. Only God can reveal His thoughts to us....

16 A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go to the Father.

17 Then said some of his disciples among themselves, What is this that he saith unto us, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me: and, Because I go to the Father?

18 They said therefore, What is this that he saith, A little while? we cannot tell what he saith.

19 Now Jesus knew that they were desirous to ask him, and said unto them, Do ye enquire among yourselves of that I said, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me?

20 Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy.

~ Jesus is telling the disciples He would be arrested, and they would be scattered, and they would all be separated from each other. Jesus is telling them He would be crucified and buried but, in a little while, they would see Him again. The disciples understood at this time the absence from – but not the reappearing to – them of the Lord Jesus. Now, this has a much fuller and deeper meaning for us today. The picture we have here are always the steps the Spirit of God uses to guide us into all truth and wisdom. The “little while” was three days to the apostles. However, there was to come another “little while” and that is when Jesus ascended back into Heaven;

but Jesus didn't leave them without comfort, because He came back to them in the Person of the Holy Spirit. Jesus wasn't going to leave them as orphans, and He tells them He is with them through the Spirit of God.

The Holy Spirit takes the things of Christ and makes them real unto us – and that's where you and I live today. The "little while" has been two thousand years plus now; but during that time, multitudes have turned to and have come to know God. The Holy Spirit is making Himself real to people today; and those people are all looking forward after having gone through sorrows and suffering. God's people know what it is to be hated, maligned and ridiculed in this world; but God brings us through it. That's the method God used here and it's the method God still uses today. Friends, our sorrows shall be turned into joy. I don't really know who reads these reports, but if you're a child of God and you have tears in your eyes – maybe you have a completely broken heart – well, if you're His child then weeping may endure for the night, but joy cometh in the morning....

21 A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world.

~ when we get into the presence of God I think we are ALL going to look back and say to ourselves, "... why didn't we do more for Christ down there and why didn't we suffer a little bit more for His Names sake? Why didn't we make a stand for Him when we should have?" That's going to be the regret we experience - you may be absolutely sure....

22 And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.

23 And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.

~ This is the third reference in this Gospel account about praying in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. This means for us to abide in Him, as we also considered in our last report. It also means to obey Him. It's all important.

Those who think they can just hash tag their prayers with “in Jesus Name” and get everything they ask for just happen to have this passage hopelessly confused. These disciples had never prayed to God in Jesus Name before; and you and I are to pray to God the Father in the Name of Christ Jesus. Some people want to pray directly to Jesus – and that’s okay if they want to; but they are robbing themselves of an Intercessor Who is up there for them. We can pray directly to the Father because Jesus is also praying for us when we pray in His Name. God wants to answer our prayers, but it must come from the heart of one who loves Christ, is in fellowship with Christ and is obedient to Christ....

24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

25 These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall shew you plainly of the Father.

26 At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you:

27 For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God.

28 I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father.

~ Here we have one of the keys to the Gospel of John. Verse twenty-eight is much bigger than Bethlehem, and it’s wider than outer space as it reaches back into eternity and arrives at the Throne of God the Father. Bethlehem was, actually, just a one-way street Christ used to come out from eternity. Well, Jesus went back into eternity; and during the earthly ministry of the Lord Jesus, we see God contracted into a span. Our Spiritual Safari through the entire Word of God will resume right here in the next leg of our expedition, and we will see that tremendous prayer of the Lord Jesus in the next chapter. In this world, we will have trouble; and that is a

promise Jesus makes to us in our next report. I hope you are all of good cheer, though; and I hope you have all seen the Lord Jesus Christ overcome the world through the Word of God in your Spiritual Safari ~

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