



Sermon Notes, 2 May 2021

Term Summer 2021

Series Preparing for ... the Holy Spirit

Gatherings: the 11, the 5

Title Famous Last Words

Preacher Paul Langham

Reading – John 15:26 – 16:11

Context

We are listening to Jesus on the last night of his earthly life: these are some of his last words. He began teaching in chapter 13, washing his disciples' feet as a pattern for their life together

He predicts Judas's betrayal and Peter's denial

Ch. 14 he talks about a physical afterlife and promises they will join him there / he is the Way, truth and life

14:15 Jesus begins to speak of the Holy Spirit, and for first time refers to him as 'The Spirit of truth'

Jesus begins to teach them about love and obedience, and promises them peace

Ch. 15 – vine and branches: remain in me, remain in my love, no longer servants but friends / expect the World's hatred, because it hated me ...

Advocate

Parakletos – para = close beside / kaleo = make a call (in NT times the main term for a defence lawyer)

A key role of the HS is to reassure us of our salvation ...

Spirit of truth

Truth = alétheia (al-ay'-thi-a)

In ancient Greek culture, synonymous for "reality" as the *opposite of illusion*, i.e. *fact*.]

Within a generation, 'truth' as objective reality has unravelled. HS brings us reality as opposed to illusion

Testify

Martureó (mar-too-reh'-o) ... martyr

To bear witness, give evidence, testify, give a good report.

As on the Day of Pentecost, the HS comes to embolden our witness

16:1-4 Persecution

For information about persecution today, visit:

https://www.opendoorsuk.org/persecution/?gclid=Cj0KCQjwvr6EBhDOARIsAPpqUPF8kMIHxq06g0shpOga99r2EpVRjBvabiO5aqp1i7MsnQ2g9NIKd7UaAsFzEALw_wcB

Am I ready? I can't say I wasn't warned ...

16:8-11 Why has the HS come?

1. To be a spotlight, continually illuminating Jesus (14) (an extension of the language of 15. 26, in which the Holy Spirit is seen as the one who testifies about (bears witness to) Jesus.

2. To be a Counsellor – specifically here, counsel for the prosecution (8 – 11) – vv 8 & 9 are some of the most difficult verses in the New Testament – what do they mean?

The Counsellor, when he comes, will **convict** – expose, demonstrate, make plain.

Towards those who believe in Jesus, he's a skilled defence lawyer

Towards the world, he acts for the prosecution

'The world' is wrong in three specific areas – its **sin**, its (empty) **righteousness**, its (wrong) **judgement**

1. The World's **sin** = failure to believe in Jesus

Sin = hamartia (ham-ar-tee'-ah)

Missing the target ...

the brand of sin that emphasizes its *self*-originated (*self*-empowered) nature – i.e. it is not originated or empowered by God (i.e. *not of faith*, His inworked persuasion, cf. Ro 14:23)

Sin = at heart a failure to exercise faith

2. The World's **righteousness** (being right before God / ability to stand before God's presence) = its own doomed attempts to win favour with God ('All our righteous acts are like filthy rags – lit. menstrual cloths' – Isaiah 64:6)

Jesus righteousness = demonstrated by the fact that the Father welcomes him back ...

3. The World's **judgement** (lit. condemnation) = its decision to reject and kill the Messiah, God's own Son

Ruler of this world = Devil and he is condemned ...

Note: this work of the Spirit is a work of grace, for it is designed to bring people to repentance

QUESTIONS

- What things in my life serve to 'spotlight' Jesus for others? In what ways do I spotlight myself? How have I 'testified' to Jesus in the past week?
- Do I need the Holy Spirit to embolden my witness?
- Do I need an Advocate today? A good defence lawyer to defend my heart and mind against doubt, to reassure me that the cross worked and that, if I trust in Jesus, I will be saved?
- Do I need to invite the Holy Spirit to take up residence in my life for the first time?
- Do I need truth today in the sense of the ultimate reality of God's Word rather than illusion?
- Do I need courage in the face of the world's rejection?
- Do I need to be filled with the Holy Spirit afresh today?