

Lesson 23

The Work of The Spirit

John 16:5-33

1. From vs. 8-11, explain what these phrases mean to you. (“convict” means convince; “world” refers to Christians who reject Christ)

8 And when he comes he will convict the world in regard to sin and righteousness and condemnation:

9 sin, because they do not believe in me;

10 righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see me;

11 condemnation, because the ruler of this world has been condemned. Coming of the Advocate

- A. “Convict the world of sin” Also see John 3:19-21 & 15:22; Romans 3:19-20, 23

John 3:19-21

19 And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil.

20 For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed.

21 But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.

John 15:22

22 If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin; but as it is they have no excuse for their sin.

Romans 3:19-20, 23

19 Now we know that what the law says is addressed to those under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world stand accountable to God,

20 since no human being will be justified in his sight by observing the law; for through the law comes consciousness of sin.

23 all have sinned and are deprived of the glory of God.

B. "Convict the world of righteousness" Also see Isaiah 64:5; Romans 1:4, 2:16 & 10:2-3

Isaiah 64:6

6 There is none who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to cling to you; For you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us up to our guilt.

Romans 1:1-6

1 Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God,

2 which he promised previously through his prophets in the holy scriptures,

3 the gospel about his Son, descended from David according to the flesh,

4 but established as Son of God in power according to the spirit of holiness through resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.

5 Through him we have received the grace of apostleship, to bring about the obedience of faith, for the sake of his name, among all the Gentiles,

6 among whom are you also, who are called to belong to Jesus Christ;

Romans 10:2-3

2 I testify with regard to them that they have zeal for God, but it is not discerning.

3 For, in their unawareness of the righteousness that comes from God and their attempt to establish their own (righteousness), they did not submit to the righteousness of God.

C. "Convict the world of judgment" Also see Mt. 4:8-9; Acts 26:18; Rev. 21:8, 27

Matthew 4:8-9

8 Then the devil took him up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence,

9 and he said to him, "All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me."

Acts 26:15-18

15 And I said, 'Who are you, sir?' And the Lord replied, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.

16 Get up now, and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness of what you have seen (of me) and what you will be shown.

17 I shall deliver you from this people and from the Gentiles to whom I send you,

18 to open their eyes that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may obtain forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been consecrated by faith in me.'

Revelation 21:8, 27

8 But as for cowards, the unfaithful, the depraved, murderers, the unchaste, sorcerers, idol-worshippers, and deceivers of every sort, their lot is in the burning pool of fire and sulfur, which is the second death."

27 but nothing unclean will enter it, nor any (one) who does abominable things or tells lies. Only those will enter whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

2. What other roles does the Spirit play? (See John 14:16-17, 26-27, 16:7-11, 13-15)

John 14:16-17, 26-27

**16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always,
17 the Spirit of truth, which the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows it. But you know it, because it remains with you, and will be in you.**

26 The Advocate, the holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name--he will teach you everything and remind you of all that (I) told you.

27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.

John 16:7-11, 13-15

7 But I tell you the truth, it is better for you that I go. For if I do not go, the Advocate will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.

8 And when he comes he will convict the world in regard to sin and righteousness and condemnation:

9 sin, because they do not believe in me;

10 righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see me;

11 condemnation, because the ruler of this world has been condemned. Coming of the Advocate

13 But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth. He will not speak on his own, but he will speak what he hears, and will declare to you the things that are coming.

14 He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you.

15 Everything that the Father has is mine; for this reason I told you that he will take from what is mine and declare it to you.

3. What is the meaning of the word “glory” or “glorify”?

4. Vs. 14 states that the Holy Spirit will bring “glory” or “glorify” Christ to the believer. How do you think He does this?

5. From verse 14, can you explain how the Holy Spirit takes the things of Christ and makes them known to us? (For help see Mt. 16:17)

Matthew 16:17

17 Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father.

6. What events is Jesus referring to in verses 20-22?

20 Amen, amen, I say to you, you will weep and mourn, while the world rejoices; you will grieve, but your grief will become joy.

21 When a woman is in labor, she is in anguish because her hour has arrived; but when she has given birth to a child, she no longer remembers the pain because of her joy that a child has been born into the world.

22 So you also are now in anguish. But I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you.

7. In what ways does the world's "joy" (vs. 20) contrast with the joy the disciples will experience (vs.22)?

8. Reflect on the various roles of the Holy Spirit described in this lesson, which one have you come to appreciate recently?

9. In 16:31-32, did Jesus mean that He did not believe their profession of faith, or was He just preparing them for the trials ahead?

31 Jesus answered them, "Do you believe now?"

32 Behold, the hour is coming and has arrived when each of you will be scattered to his own home and you will leave me alone. But I am not alone, because the Father is with me.

33 I have told you this so that you might have peace in me. In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world."

10. What differences could it make in our life today if we took the promise Jesus gives in vs. 31-33 in a practical way? Try to give examples.