

HOLY SPIRIT CONVICTION

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“Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. 8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 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.”

John 16:7-11

I would like to speak this morning on the subject of Holy Spirit Conviction. We shall consider in particular verse 8 as our primary text. Again it says in verse 8, *“And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.”* The word reprove is the Greek word - **ἐλέγχω = *elegcho***. The word means both to convict and convince, to expose, to discover, to reprove. It's not simply telling a person his fault or wrongdoing, or that he is sinner. It means to convince and convict a person in such a way that his sin becomes a reality to him, not that a person has made some mistakes or errors. Man left to them selves will never see sin as God sees sin. To man, sin is just a bunch misunderstandings or slip-ups. But to God, sin is transgression of His holy Law according to 1 John 3:4, *“Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.”* To God the soul that sin shall die. Thus, death is the penalty for sin. Romans 6:23 says, *“For the wages of sin is death...”* Not just physical death but also spiritual death. Man does not see sin like this and does not take it serious. Therefore, man needs the convicting and convincing work of the Holy Spirit to show them sin has its payment, so that, sin will become a reality to them.

Then you have the problem of our day and time when many pastors and churches try to do the work of the Holy Spirit. They do this by their methods, gimmicks, programs, entertainment and drama which are nothing but pragmatism. How sad that many churches substitute psychology for the gospel. This is why the Apostle Paul warns us in Col. 2:8, *“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.”*

Before I begin my message there are 3 indictments against the world by the Holy Spirit.

- The Holy Spirit will reprove the world of sin: The Holy Spirit will convince and convict the world of sin. He will show them their sins. Man by nature denies personal sin, but the Holy Spirit will convict and convince a sinner of their guilt before God. The Holy Spirit reproves a sinner of awful unbelief before God. Until a lost person is gripped by the sinfulness of his sin and the wickedness of their hearts, they will not see the need for a savior. This is why sinners do not seek Jesus Christ, but instead they seek religion or a reformation to soothe their conscience and guilt. What is needed is not a reformation but a transformation. This is why Christ said what He did in verse 9, *“Of sin, because they believe not on me.”*

- The Holy Spirit will reprove the world of righteousness: The Holy Spirit will convince and convict the world of the need of being right with God. There is a two-fold application here. The Spirit will reprove the world of their self-righteousness. Sinners think that they are somehow right with God by their religious works or religious rites. Little do they realize that the things they trust in are the very same things that will condemn them before God. Thus, the work of the Holy Spirit is to convict and convince sinners of the inadequacy of these things. Convincing them of the need of the righteousness of Jesus Christ if they are to have any hope for heaven.
- The Holy Spirit will reprove the world of judgment: The Holy Spirit will convince and convict the world of the reality of the impending doom of judgment and condemnation. The Holy Spirit convinces sinners of the reality of hell and that they are heading towards a Christless eternity in hell. Sinners are convinced by the Holy Spirit of their guilt and condemnation for sin and the awful judgment that awaits them without Christ.

There is more here, but just wanted to share a few things from what is mentioned in verse 8. We have 3 points this morning:

I. THE NECESSITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT CONVICTION.

II. THE NATURE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT CONVICTION.

III. THE EFFECTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT CONVICTION.

I. THE NECESSITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT CONVICTION.

First: The Necessity of the Holy Spirit Conviction. Because of man's fallen condition it demands the need for Holy Spirit conviction.

1. Man is not convinced that he is a sinner. They excuse themselves and say that they are not really that bad and that they don't deserved judgment in hell. They always look for someone who is worse than them, to pat themselves in the back. I'm not that bad, look at my neighbor, my co-worker, look at the people at jail, look at my ex; I mean the list goes on and on. They might even say, ok, I've done a few bad things, said a few lies, made some mistakes, but who hasn't? They make excuse after excuse. Does this sound somewhat familiar? Let me take you to the beginning, turn with to Genesis 3. Look at verses 6 – 13. The excuses haven't stop. Man is not convinced that he is a sinner before God or that they have sinned against a thrice Holy God!

2. Man is not convinced of the danger of sin. Eccl.8:11, 9:3, 11:9; Ps.94:7, 50:21; Prov.16:25. The smoker is not convince of the danger of cancer, the drunkard is not convince of the danger and damage of the liver, the drug user is not convince of the danger that can be done to the brain. MAN is not CONVINCED of the danger of SIN! (Tiger woods was not convince of the danger of being unfaithful would do damage to him, his wife, his family and his bank account)
3. Man is not convinced of the judgment due for sin. Romans 3:10-18; Acts 17:30 & 31; Ps.90:11; Rom.1:32-2:3.
4. Man can be partially but not thoroughly convince by other means than the Holy Spirit. (repeat)
 - Sinners can be convicted by their own conscience to produce a reformation and be religious. Being mere professors without possessing Christ. Rom.2:15 w/John 8:3-9.
 - Sinners can be convicted by the Law of God. James 2:9; Rom.3:19. The Law of God judges and convicts.
 - Sinners can be convicted by the Word of God. Titus 1:9; the parable of the sower Mark 4:16. Many weep at the preaching of God's word, but never repent of their sins. Ezek 33:31-33.
 - Sinners can be convicted by men. Isa.29:13. Just look at the many cults in our day, JW's, Mormons, Islam. Matt.23:15, they cross land and sea to make one proselyte and in doing so, they make them twofold children of hell. This type of conviction is an outward working of convincing a person by presenting certain facts.
5. Man can be convinced outwardly about sin but still have no inward desire to leave sin for the savior. Pilate, Matt.27:24 comp/w Mark 15:14,15.
6. Man can be convinced outwardly of his need for righteousness, but seek that righteousness in reformation or religion. They are not convinced that Jesus Christ's righteousness is their only hope. Herod Mk.6:18-20, Romans 10:1-4.
7. Man can be convinced outwardly of judgment, but not seek escape in the only savior of sinners-Jesus Christ. Many people believe in a coming judgment, but they are not convinced that they will personally suffer in that judgment. Lots wife. Felix Acts 24:24-26, King Agrippa Acts 26:1, 15-29.Romans 1:24-32; Pharaoh, Ex. 9:22-27, 34, Esau, Hebrews 12: 15-17; Mal.3:2, Ps. 130:3.

There is more needed than just an outward conviction of sin. There needs to be a powerful, effectual working of the Holy Spirit in the heart, convicting and convincing that person to flee from their sins, from self-righteousness, from judgment and flee to Christ as a refuge for their sin. Secondly:

II. THE NATURE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT CONVICTION.

The nature and work of the Holy Spirit is to convict and convince a sinner thoroughly of sin and judgment. Not just a mere admission of guilt or acknowledgement of sin, but a

personal and painful awareness that as a sinner, they stand guilty and polluted before a thrice Holy God and that they must receive the judgment due for their sins! We blame no one but ourselves; we make no excuses but confess our sins. Only the Holy Spirit can produce this. Look at David in Ps.51. The prodigal son, Luke 15:16. The thief on the cross, Luke 23:39-41. It's not in getting sinners to recite some sinner's prayers with some sort of mental assessment or acknowledging that there is a God.

- Man is thoroughly convinced that there is mercy to be found in Christ and Christ alone. The Leper in Mark1:41, man sick of the palsy Luke 5:20, blind Bartimaeus Mark 10:46-52.
- Man is convinced that righteousness is found only in Jesus Christ, Titus 3:5, Gal.2:16, Isa.61:10, Romans 4:1-8. When God convicts and convinces a sinner, that sinner knows that his own righteousness are but filthy rags which will not do him any good and thus throws himself at the mercy of God. Ps.130.1-8.

III. THE EFFECTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT CONVICTION.

True Holy Spirit conviction takes away the veneer of self-righteousness and self-reformation. Phil. 3:3-9. True Holy Spirit conviction takes away any self-esteem or self-improvement, removes pride and creates humility in the heart and a great need for deliverance from sin, not so much hell and its flames. 2 Chron. 33:9-13, Manasses, Nebuchadnezzar, Dan. 4:37, 34-36. True Holy Spirit conviction brings sinners to repentance and faith. Acts20:21 w/Acts 2:37 & 38. True Holy Spirit conviction brings a sinner to Jesus Christ in submission to HIS LORSHIP and to HIS SAVIORSHIP Acts 9:3-6: Who are you LORD? What will you have me to do? This is the effect of the Holy Spirit's work in the heart.

The Holy Spirit will finally convince the sinner that Jesus Christ and that He alone can forgive and justify the sinner, Acts 13:38 & 39, Acts 4:12, *"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."*

If you are lost this morning may God be pleased by the Holy Spirit to convince you of your need of the forgiveness of sins! May you be brought to repentance from sins and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ!

Jer.8:20-22, "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved. 21 For the hurt of the daughter of my people am I hurt; I am black; astonishment hath taken hold on me. 22 Is there no balm in Gilead; is there no physician there? why then is not the health of the daughter of my people recovered?"

Let's pray.

(Portions of this sermon are from Pat Horner notes)