

Title: Have You Been Convinced?

Text: John 16: 1-11

Date: 4-12-09

Place: Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Princeton, New Jersey

John 16: 1: These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended. 2: They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.

The Lord Jesus is preparing his disciples for what they will suffer. Just as religious men and women crucified the Lord calling on the name of Jehovah so he says men will do the same to you thinking they are doing service to God. Next the Lord declares why they will do this:

John 17: 3: And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me. 4: But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them. And these things I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you. 5: But now I go my way to him that sent me; and none of you asketh me, Whither goest thou? 6: But because I have said these things unto you, sorrow hath filled your heart.

Sorrow filled their heart because he told them: they would be despised and rejected of men, they would be put out of their synagogues, some would even be killed. And they were particularly sorrowful because his bodily presence would not be with them. These men had been fishermen just 3 years prior to this! They had escaped these things so long as the Master had been with them. But now how would they stand? How would they preach in his name? They were so filled with sorrow that none asked him where he was going. But our Lord gives them a word of assurance.

John 16: 7: 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.

The Lord Jesus doesn't say I am going to die, but merely I am going away, departing. He is going to the cross, to willingly lay down his life to put away their sin; he is going to the Father--raised again for their justification. Therefore he says, "It is expedient for you that I go away." But the Lord assures them that he is not leaving them "orphans" but I will send the Comforter, and not only this, but I will come to you (Jn 14: 18.)

John 16: 8: And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

This word "reprove" is convict and convince. When the Holy Spirit is come he will "convict and convince" the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment. This "convicting and convincing" by the Holy Spirit works upon sinners is this:

1. To some, it is that Holy Spirit conviction and persuasion which results in a sinner turning from his vain works to faith in Christ. It is that work whereby God makes his people willing in the day of his power.

2. To others, as the general call goes forth by the Holy Spirit, though they can not refute the person and work of Christ, yet they harden their heart in willful rejection of Christ.

2 Corinthians 2: 14: Now thanks *be* unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place. 15: For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: 16: To the one *we are* the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who *is* sufficient for these things? 3: 5:...but our sufficiency *is* of God.

So the Lord Jesus Christ is declaring that our sufficiency is of Him. As we hold forth the word of Christ, the Holy Spirit will do this work. He will reprove the world--both Jew and Gentile--of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.

PROPOSAL: Today, we will look at this passage as it pertains to the Holy Spirit's work of grace in the hearts of all who are saved by grace.

John 16: 9: Of sin, because they believe not on me;

I. The Holy Spirit Shall Convict and Convince Sinners That Their Chief Sin Is Not Believing On Christ Jesus.

A sinner has no idea that Sin is all that we are as we are born into this world the first time. The sinner shows his ignorance because when he stops doing the thing that he knows is wrong he will imagine that he has put away his sin. Depraved sinners will not come to Christ because their deeds are evil and they are afraid lest they be exposed as such. **John 3: 18: He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19: And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20: For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. 21: But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.**

Therefore, we must have the verdict read in our hearts by the Holy Spirit that all our going about to establish our own righteous is nothing but treading underfoot the blood of Christ. That is what Peter stood up on the day of Pentecost and declared and it is what we must be made to see that we have done by refusing to submit to him: **Acts 2: 22: Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: 23: Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:**

The Lord said: **John 8: 24: I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am *he*, ye shall die in your sins.**

So the first thing that the Spirit reveals is that we are yet in sin because we believe not on Christ Jesus alone.

II. Secondly, the Holy Spirit Shall Convict and Convince All Who Are Saved That Jesus Christ is The Righteousness God Requires of Sinners.

John 16: 10: Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;

A. God's righteousness is manifest in Christ--**Romans 3: 21-26.**

B. It is only by Christ's obedience that many shall be made righteous--**Romans 5: 19: For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.**

C. God manifest that he is satisfied, well-pleased with his Son Jesus when he raised him from the dead-- **Psalm 24: 3: Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? 4: He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully; 1 John 2: 1: My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: 2: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of* the whole world.**

D. Peter declared this as he preached Christ on the day of Pentecost: **Acts 2: 24: Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it. 25: For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved: 26: Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: 27: Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. 28: Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance. (Who was David rejoicing in when he said that?) 29: Men *and* brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. 30: Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; 31: He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that "Christ's" soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. 32: This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.**

1. So the Spirit convinces those who will be saved that we are yet in sin because we believe not on Christ Jesus alone.

2. And the Spirit convinces us that Christ is all our Righteousness.

III. The Holy Spirit Shall Convict and Convince Those Christ Redeemed That Jesus is both Lord and Christ.

John 16: 11: Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

A. The Lord Jesus assures his disciples--his witnesses--that by the power of the Holy Spirit their ministry shall not fail because Christ is both Lord and Christ. HE is not only the Savior of his people but their Lord and Lord of heaven and earth. He will call out his sheep by name and they shall follow him. There is not the slightest possibility that he shall fail.

B. What does "the prince of this world being judged" have to do with that? The prince of the power of the air is the accuser of the brethren. All those who are truly saved by grace were under the power of the prince of the air following his lies. God sent his Son to put away the sin of his people and thus take away the power of the prince of this world.

Isaiah 49:24: Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, or the lawful captive delivered? 25: But thus saith the LORD, Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered: for I will contend with him that contendeth with thee, and I will save thy children. 26: And I will feed them that oppress thee with their own flesh; and they shall be drunken with their own blood, as with sweet wine: and all flesh shall know that I the LORD *am* thy Saviour and thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob.

Hebrews 2: 14: Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil. 15: And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

Our Lord declared: **John 12: 31: Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. 32: And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all *men* unto me.**

Christ binds the strong man then he enters into the house. **Colossians 2: 13: And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; 14: Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; 15: *And* having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. 16: Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath *days*: 17: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body *is* of Christ.**

Revelation 12:10: And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

Sin shall not have dominion over you who believe, because you are not under the sinful dominion of the devil any more but under the gracious dominion of Christ. You were the servants of sin of the prince of the power of the air, children of wrath even as others (Eph 2) but now you are the servants of righteousness of Christ unto holiness, unto that glorious One who is our great Holy Redeemer through faith. You will not be led astray by the wiles of the devil, you have spiritual discernment, the Spirit shall guide you into all truth. And you will not be brought into judgment for your sin, because sin is removed. The prince of this world brought in: lies, now you are born of truth; you were born in sin the first time, but you were born in righteousness and true holiness the second time. Sin brought in death—but sin being put away death hath no more sting. **John 8: 51: Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death.**

D. This is why the assurance the Lord Jesus gave to his disciples concerning the success of their ministry was based upon his Lordship. **Matthew 28: 18: And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19: Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.**

E. Did Peter declare this as he preached Christ at Pentecost? Acts 2: 36: **Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.**

Conclusion: So what is Christ saying in our text? What is the effectual result when the Holy Spirit:

1. Convicts and convinces a sinner of his unbelief?
2. Convicts and convinces a sinner that Christ is the Righteousness God requires?
3. Convicts and convinces a sinner that Jesus is both Lord and Christ, King of kings and Lord of lords, who shall deliver the believer?

The Lord and Savior does exactly what he promised he would through the Spirit through his gospel. **Acts 2: 37: Now when they heard *this*, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men *and* brethren, what shall we do? 38: Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. 39: For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, *even* as many as the Lord our God shall call. 40: And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. 41: Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls.**

Once the Holy Spirit reveals Jesus Christ the Righteous we will say with Paul--**Philppians 3: 7-9: But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. 8: Yea doubtless,**

and I count all things *but* loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them *but* dung, that I may win Christ, 9: And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

Have you always believed on Christ--I pray the Spirit convince you that is too long. Are you trying to come to God by your works? I pray the Spirit reveal Christ the Righteous in you. Are you worried about being accused, having a charge leveled against you, of death and of judgment to come? May the Spirit convince you that Christ has delivered you from the prince of this world. **Romans 8: 1: *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit....who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is Christ that died, yea rather, is risen again and is seated at the right hand of God.***

Wait then remains for the believer to do?

1. Tell somebody! Mark 5: 19: Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee. 20: And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all *men* did marvel.

2. Wait and keep on believing! Galatians 5: 5: For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

Have you been convinced by the Holy Spirit. Let us say with Paul, **And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ** (2 Thessalonians 3:5.)