

20:20 Vision Ministries—Devotions by Roger Browning Week 36 (September 2-8, 2018)

In this week's studies, we will continue to study the workings of the Holy Spirit within the life of the believer.

Sunday, September 2 (read John 15:18-25)

"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first." (John 15:18)

I constantly remind you that those who have a politically correct worldview will persecute those who have a Biblically correct worldview. In the years ahead, you will see this come to pass more and more. We will be called narrow-minded, uneducated, homophobic, mean-spirited, haters and many other unflattering names. This is not because they are rejecting **us**, but rather they are rejecting **Jesus** and His Word (see 1 Samuel 8:7). On the last night of His earthly life, the Lord warned that these days would come to His followers (v. 18-21). If the people who are doing the persecuting were acting in innocence, they would not be guilty of sin, but they have heard the truth and have willfully chosen the ways of the world rather than the teachings of God. Jesus has come, accomplished His mission, and left His Word to sustain us so that no one can use ignorance as an excuse (v. 22-25).

Monday, September 3 (read John 15:26-27)

"When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, He will testify about me." (John 15:26)

In today's printed verse above, the Holy Spirit is called the Counselor and the Spirit of truth. These are two very important roles of the Spirit. As our Counselor, He is the One who advises us and guides us during times of stress as well as in times of peace and joy. As we will see in a later devotion, it is His job to lead us into **all** truth (John 16:13) so that we will not fall victim to the teachings of the world. The Spirit always leads us to Jesus and His teachings so that all glory goes to the Son (v. 26). However, that does not eliminate the need for our testimonies about Jesus. We are called to tell others what the Lord has accomplished in us through our salvation and in our daily walk (v. 27). How are you doing in fulfilling that command?

Tuesday, September 4 (read John 16:1-4)

"They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me." (John 16:3)

I spend a lot of time teaching prophecy, hoping that you will not be led astray by the politically correct teachings in the United States (v. 1). I pray that you will remember these things when the time comes for everything in the Word of God to be fulfilled (v. 4). Those who accept the "inclusive" teachings of the world will think they are doing their church a favor by rejecting you and your "narrow-minded" doctrine. Thus far, the persecution has come in the form of indignation, but soon it will become physical abuse as well (v. 2). Although they are church members, these persecutors do not have a personal relationship with the Father or the Son (v. 3). Don't miss the fact that John 16:3 is the exact opposite of John 3:16. Which verse are you following?

Wednesday, September 5 (read John 16:5-7)

“But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.” (John 16:7)

While Jesus lived on earth, he was limited to a human body that could only be in one place at a time. The Spirit could not abide **within** sinful man, because the debt for sin had not yet been paid. Jesus had to die for our sins and return to Heaven in order to prepare our **bodies** to be a dwelling place for His Holy Spirit as well as to prepare our **souls** to live in Heaven (John 14:1-4). That’s why the Lord says, “It is for your good that I am going away” (v. 7). Now that the Spirit lives in the hearts of all true believers, everyone throughout the world can experience God’s presence at the same time. Many Christians are filled with grief today, because they do not understand that God has a greater plan than they can possibly comprehend (v. 5-6). Can you trust Him even when He removes someone special from your life?

Thursday, September 6 (read John 16:8-11)

“When He comes, He will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment . . .” (John 16:8)

Today’s students are taught to avoid anything that makes them feel guilty. That may be one reason why many of them reject the ministry of the Holy Spirit. I have talked with several who are honest enough to say, “I want Jesus to forgive my sins, but nobody is going to tell me how to live my life.” Contrary to this line of reasoning, the Holy Spirit enters us at salvation to put a searchlight on our hearts with the intent of exposing areas that need to be yielded to God. Guilt is a good thing when it leads us to repentance (see 2 Corinthians 7:10-11). Allow the Holy Spirit to examine every area of your heart. Every recommended change will be only for your benefit.

Friday, September 7 (reread John 16:8-11)

“ . . . In regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; . . .” (John 16:9)

Yesterday’s printed verse lists three areas in which the Holy Spirit will bring conviction: sin, righteousness and judgment. Those who do not believe in the finished work of Jesus have no way to pay for their **sins** (v. 9). Likewise, those who reject Jesus cannot be led into **righteousness**, because they are still carrying the burden of sins that have not been forgiven. Jesus has returned to His Father (v. 10) and now sits on His right side to intercede for all believers (Romans 8:34). His purpose is to “lead them in paths of righteousness for His name’s sake” (Psalm 23:3b). Those who refuse to be led into righteous paths reject the intercessory ministry of Jesus as well as the work of the Holy Spirit. I think it’s time for us to live like we are the “salt of the earth” and the “light of the world” (Matthew 5:13-14). We will look at the third area in tomorrow’s devotion.

Saturday, September 8 (reread John 16:8-11)

“ . . . And in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.” (John 16:11)

This is the third time Jesus refers to Satan as the “prince of this world” (v. 11; see also John 12:31 and 14:30). Many church members don’t seem to realize that the earth has temporarily been deeded to the devil (see Luke 4:6), because they often ask why things are so terrible if God is in control. The good news is this: “You, dear children, are from God, and have overcome them (false spirits), because the One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world” (1 John 4:4). **Judgment** for sins took place at Calvary so that the Holy Spirit can now live in us to accomplish the third part of His work! We have been declared **innocent** because of Jesus’ death on our behalf. Allow the Holy Spirit to take a close look at your life. Give Him permission to recommend changes that will bring you closer to God’s Son.