

The Gospel of John

The Believer and the Spirit

John 16:1-15

Christ never promised smooth sailing for the Christian. He gave no illusion that to be a believer was to also live a life of ease. On the contrary, Christ told His disciples that they would face persecution and hatred from those outside their fold. Christ did tell them that they would not face these hardships alone. He would be with them through it all, and the Holy Spirit would be there to help them.

The Setting

- After the Last Supper on Tuesday night, 14th of Nisan
- This teaching occurs as Christ and His disciples make their way from the Upper Room to the Garden of Gethsemane (14:31).

The Story

- The dark days ahead (vs. 1-7)
 - The purpose of telling them of hardships is keep them from stumbling – vs. 1
 - The coming persecution – vs. 2
 - The persecutors are not on God's side – vs. 3
 - Christ is preparing them for the dark days – vs. 4
 - Christ's soon departure – vs. 5
 - Christ sees that the disciples are saddened by these words – vs. 6
- The Comforter (vs. 7-15)
 - The Holy Spirit will come when Christ has ascended – vs. 7
 - Christ says it is good that He goes and gives us the Spirit!
 - The three-fold work of the Spirit – vs. 8
 - Convict the world of sin – vs. 9
 - Convince of Christ's righteousness – vs. 10
 - Convince of judgment – vs. 11
 - Christ cannot tell everything about the Spirit in the present setting – vs. 12
 - The Spirit will teach them further when He comes – vs. 13
 - This seems to refer to the establishment of Christianity and Christ's church, which remain a mystery to the disciples.
 - The Trinity in action:
 - The Spirit reveals to us truth from Christ – vs. 15
 - All that is the Father's is also Christ's – vs. 15