

Exegetical Notes, John 16:7-16:15
“The Role of the Holy Spirit”

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John 16:7-15

Verses 7-11

But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

⁸ When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ about sin, because people do not believe in me; ¹⁰ about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; ¹¹ and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

- In this part of the last discourse Jesus has returned to the concept of his return to the Father. He has already told the disciples that he is going back to the Father, but he returns to that idea.
- Jesus said that it was good that he was going away from the disciples. As is so often the case, what God has decreed will happen does not look as though it is good. The disciples do not understand how Jesus leaving them could be good for them. But Jesus explained that “the Advocate,” “The Counselor,” “The Holy Spirit” would only come to them after he had returned to the Father.
- He explained that the Holy Spirit would do two significant things: First he would lead “convict the world of guilt” and “lead the disciples into ALL truth.”
- The Holy Spirit would convict the world of guilt by: 1. Pointing out the world’s sin; their rejection of Jesus. 2. Pointing out that righteousness can only be found in Jesus, for he and the Father are one; no one can save themselves. 3. Pointing to judgment; Satan and his followers would be condemned.

Verses 12-15

¹² *“I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. ¹³ But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. ¹⁵ All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.”*

- The Holy Spirit would reveal to believers ALL the truth which is found in Jesus and declared within his word. Only through the ministry of the Holy Spirit could/can the word of God be understood.
- The Holy Spirit only speaks what he has been told by Jesus. What he hears from Jesus, he makes known to Jesus' disciples.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon entitled *The Role of the Holy Spirit*. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen, Senior Pastor at Cornerstone Fellowship, Coatesville Pennsylvania. All rights are reserved by *Cornerstone Fellowship* & The Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen. They are used here by permission.)