

WE HAVE SEEN HIS GLORY

The Glory of Revelation & Inspiration

INTRODUCTION

How should Christians respond to the world's hatred? Well Jesus teaches us:

- I. Don't stop witnessing.
- II. Don't fall away.
- III. Don't ignore the Holy Spirit.

Last Sunday we learned that the Holy Spirit provides testimony to Christ through the Church and He also brings conviction to the world. But we also learned that He was sent to guide Christ's Church. It is that theme that we want to pursue this morning.

TEXT: John 16:13–15 (ESV)

MAIN THOUGHT

The Holy Spirit's work in the Church.

OUTLINE

I don't have a fancy outline for this sermon, but the text itself seeks to lean towards these main headings:

- I. The Anticipated Day.
- II. The Sum & Substance of His Coming.
- III. The Primary Audience.
- IV. The Owner of Truth
- V. The Weight of the Bible
- VI. Things That are to Come.

EXPOSITION

I - THE ANTICIPATED DAY

“When the Spirit of truth comes.”¹ You will remember that the Old Testament is primarily a Book of expectancy, anticipation, and hope. Moses exclaimed, “Would that all the Lord’s people were prophets, that the Lord would put his Spirit on them!”² How often do we read the Psalms and hear the cry for guidance and direction? *“Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long”* (Psalm 25:4–5, ESV); and *“Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground”* (Psalm 143:10, ESV).

Joel prophesied the day: *“And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit.”* (Joel 2:28–29, ESV)

Jesus preached toward that day that the Spirit would come. John records this in Chapter 7: *“On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, ‘If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.”* (John 7:37–39, ESV).

Even in today’s text that day was yet anticipated. Jesus said, “When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth.”³ It wasn’t until recorded in Acts 2, Pentecost, that this long anticipated event would take place.

II - THE SUM AND SUBSTANCE OF HIS COMING

The grammatical structure of this text makes 2 overriding propositions:

1. When the Holy Spirit comes, He will “guide you into all truth”; and
2. When the Holy Spirit comes “He will glorify me [Jesus]”.

Jesus has been teaching on the role of the Holy Spirit. We learned that His role in the world is to “convict”. Now we learn that His role in the Church is to “guide into all truth” and “glorify Jesus”.

III - THE PRIMARY AUDIENCE

“Who are the “you” in the passage? Notice verses 12-15:

¹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Jn 16:13). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

² [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Nu 11:29). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

³ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Jn 16:13). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

- ¹² “I still have many things to say to **you**, but **you** cannot bear them now.
- ¹³ he will guide **you** into all the truth . . . he will declare to **you** the things that are to come.
- ¹⁴ he will take what is mine and declare it to **you**.
- ¹⁵ he will take what is mine and declare it to **you**.

If you were simply being objective who are the “you” that Jesus is speaking to? D.A. Carson rightly observes “It is important to recognize that the disciples who will directly benefit from these ministrations of the Spirit are *primarily* the apostles.”⁴ Notice in John 14:26 (ESV), one of the other passages on the Holy Spirit that it is the eye-witness disciples that are in view of the promise:

²⁶ *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.*

Likewise, in another similar passage we read, “*But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.*” (John 15:26–27, ESV)

So, let us be clear, the primary recipients of these promises are the Apostles. The ESV Study Bible notes help us tremendously here: “The Spirit’s ministry of guiding Jesus’ followers *into all the truth* is a promise especially directed toward these 11 disciples, and it finds particular fulfillment in the subsequent work of these disciples in personally writing or overseeing the writing of the books of the New Testament.”⁵ The promise to bring to their mind, to lead them in truth, to reveal the things to come are all fulfilled in the apostolic canon of Scripture: The New Testament. Individual Christian WILL NOT receive new revelation. So the promise of guidance into truth in this passage is TO the Apostles; but it is FOR us in that we have the Spirit-inspired Scriptures.

IV - THE OWNER OF TRUTH

Notice in our passage that Jesus makes it clear who the owner of truth is. “*He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.*” (John 16:14–15, ESV) Three times in two sentences Jesus emphasizes that truth is His truth. “It is mine,” Jesus said. Truth is God’s Truth.

If Jesus is God and if Jesus is Truth, truth is God. God is the owner and possessor of Truth. He is Truth. One of His attributes is truth. Have you ever heard these phrases:

- a) “My truth”;
- b) “Truth as I see it”; or

⁴ Carson, D. A. (1991). [*The Gospel according to John*](#) (p. 541). Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; W.B. Eerdmans.

⁵ Crossway Bibles. (2008). [*The ESV Study Bible*](#) (p. 2057). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

- c) "Speak your truth";
- d) "I've been trying to live my truth lately";
- e) "We disagree. Your truth is your truth and my truth is mine";
- f) "I admire the way you speak your truth".

Truth has no rightful owner but God. And if this truth is revealed in Holy Scriptures then it is logical that anything that contradicts the Bible is not true for it undermines God who is true. Christians must settle this matter once and for all. To contradict the clear teaching of the Bible is to do so at our own peril.

V - THE WEIGHT OF THE BIBLE

Let me repeat: "This promise of the Holy Spirit's guidance into truth takes a different form for us than it did for the first disciples. They were reminded of what Jesus had taught them personally. We get the teachings of Jesus through them. The Twelve chosen by Jesus were used to inscripturate—to put in written form—the truth of Jesus. Now we are brought to the truth by the Holy Spirit as we open up the Word of God. The Spirit works through the Word."⁶

This being true, we can see most clearly how "revelation" and "inspiration" took place. We read in 2 Peter 1:21 (ESV),

²¹ For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Notice the chain of revelation: Revelation bears the authority of the Godhead focused on the glorification of Christ, communicated by the Holy Spirit, to the Apostles. And we learn later that the Apostles put it to writing. Just think for a moment about the "weight" that's behind this Bible. The entire authority, unity, firsthand witness of the Godhead revealed in writing to you, through holy men, by the Holy Spirit.

Think of it: We receive personal guidance from the Spirit as we read the Word He wrote.

VI - THINGS THAT ARE TO COME

"He will declare to you the things that are to come."⁷ This must mean "things" that are future to the Apostles. It must mean things that are post-Pentecost, for the Holy Spirit doesn't come until then.

If God's truth is given by the Spirit, to the Apostles, so that the inspired Word of God can be written, then it is plain that the prophecy of "things that are to come" are found in their entirety in the Bible. I

⁶ Carter, Matt; Wredberg, Josh. *Exalting Jesus in John* (Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary) . B&H Publishing Group. Kindle Edition

⁷ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Jn 16:13). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

say that as to dissuade you from thinking that there are modern day prophets and apostles that can foretell things to come. There is no eschatology apart from bibliology.

For centuries false teachers have arisen and claimed insight it was is going to happen next. All the soothsayers proved themselves to be absolutely wrong in this last year. How many took authority over COVID-19 and rendered it obsolete? How many claimed the White House for former President Trump? All of this is foolish and false. What we know of the future is that which is clearly written in God's Word. Everything else is dangerous speculation.

SUMMARY

This teaching on the Holy Spirit that Christ has embarked on with His disciples forms the basis and foundational understanding of the Spirit's work. Much is done in the name of the Holy Spirit today as it has in the past. The bottom-line is that the Holy Spirit came to lead His Church in Truth – truth we have today in the inspired text of Scripture; and He came to bring glory to Jesus Christ. These form the best criteria for discerning the Spirit's presence.

- A. When there is a love for the Truth as found in the Scriptures, you can be sure the Spirit is at work.
- B. When Christ is revealed and preeminent in the hearts and minds of His Church, the Spirit is at work.

The reality is that these two foundational aims are really one. As Kevin DeYoung writes, "The 'all truth' they would receive was not the truth about every bit of knowledge in the universe, from supernovas to DNA. The 'truth' refers to the whole truth about everything bound up in Jesus Christ, the way, the truth, and the life."⁸ In other words, everything you and I need to know about how to glorify Christ is revealed to us. We were created and re-created to bring glory to God. That is our purpose, our mission, our aim in life. And the good news is that the Triune God through the Holy Spirit inspired Scripture has given us all we need to do that. Peter writes in his second letter:

"His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence," (2 Peter 1:3, ESV)

"The work of the Holy Spirit is to bring glory to Christ by taking what is his—his teaching, the truth about his death and resurrection—and making it known. The Spirit does not work indiscriminately without the revelation of Christ in view. Arguably, the Holy Spirit's most important work is to glorify Christ, and he does not do this apart from shining the spotlight on Christ for the elect to see and savor."⁹

⁸ DeYoung, Kevin. The Holy Spirit (The Gospel Coalition Booklets) . Crossway. Kindle Edition.

⁹ Ibid,