



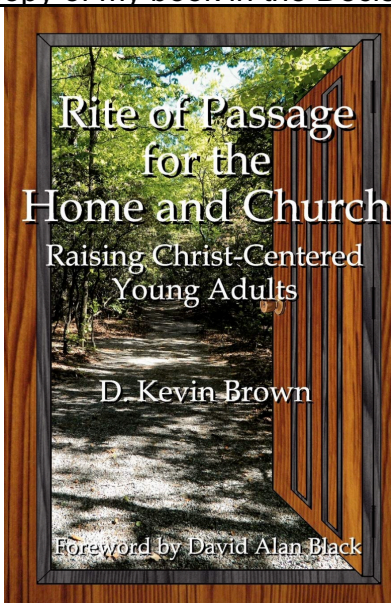
We're excited about our 16th year of ROP this summer! Here's last year's group.



We've had 137 young adults go through ROP over the last 15 years. We call ROP: "Jesus Season" around here. We have a season for everything else...all the sports and all the extra-curriculars...but, what about making certain we pass our faith (like a baton of faith) in Jesus Christ



along to our children? (Aug.) It's the most important thing we can do for our children. ROP is a way the church comes alongside Moms and Dads and we seek to "mark a season of time" in the life of their young adult where the YA can make certain they "own their own faith." Mom and Dad, please understand, you can't outsource the spiritual upbringing of your children to the church or someone else. You've got to do it...and I'll say this...I've come to understand that ROP is as much for the parents as our children. Pick up a copy of my book in the Decision Room.



Because you see, again, it's not the church's responsibility to bring your children to faith in Christ. The church is a place where families come together and get trained and equipped to do works of ministry and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Yet, for some reason, since the 1980's (this was never known before then) many churches across America got the idea that we could somehow take kids and put 25 of them in a room, like a high school class...take a 25-year-old "youth pastor" who has never raised a kid...but, because he was one (a teen) only 6 years earlier himself.

I'm not downing youth groups...every church has to do what they feel is best...I just don't see the model in Scripture. We went through 5 youth pastors in 10 years before I became. And it troubled me greatly...I taught the HS SS class for 15+ years and I watched...and I asked are we raising

Christ-centered young adults? Oh, we did a lot of entertaining...concerts, camps, activities, games...fun... But, I looked at my class rolls through this 15+ years and I saw that 80+% of the young adults, within 2-3 years of graduation were gone.

What I've watched over the years, and churches don't mean to...but, it's easy to unintentionally take the knees out of the parents by saying...bring your kids to us and we'll raise them spiritually for you...we'll go play paintball...have a 10-minute devotion and raise spiritual giants for you.

ROP is how MPBC comes alongside mom's and dad's, providing a model that we've taken from Scripture...from the very life of Jesus, at the age of 12 to seek to accomplish this goal. The key is: INTENTIONALITY. Raising Christ-centered Young Adults doesn't happen by osmosis, just because you bring them to church. You have to be teaching and training in your home from the time they can walk.

Yes, your kids' education is important and their athletic pursuits or extra-curricular activities...but, nothing is more important than nailing down their faith in Jesus. So, I encourage you to sign-up at the Events page at our website/app... your 12-18-year-old...and download the informational letter and try to come to the informational meeting on Wed. May 17th in the Fellowship Hall.

Last thing...you'll have every excuse in the world not to do it. Because it will take about 8-10 hours of digging in the Bible to answer the questions and do the work...but, YOU'VE GOT ALL SUMMER TO DO IT. There's nothing greater that you can do for your YA as to invest in them spiritually. You'll put braces on them...you'll put the best cleats on them...spend a lot of money on sports, dance, instruments, lessons. What about Jesus...it's as much on the parents as the kid. Let's do hard things...let's raise champions for Christ!

What I've just described is preparation for our kids...to become Christ-centered young adults...you know we spend a lot of our lives preparing, don't we? Fast food companies have figured this out about breakfast. Have you noticed when you go to bed at night...how after about 10 pm...all you see are BoJangles and Hardee's, CFA and others advertising biscuits/breakfast menu? They want to get you thinking about what's for breakfast the next day. Preparation. We prepare for vacations. We prepare for bad weather. We prepare for all kinds of things...the birth of babies...graduation, retirement, sickness. We're prepared people. And when we don't feel prepared...there is anxiety and worry. We fret over NOT BEING PREPARED.

That was the Apostles as they walked to Gethsemane with Jesus. They were afraid, anxious and quite frankly, felt unprepared. Unprepared for what? Jesus leaving! All throughout the evening...that Thursday night before His death, He's been talking about leaving and the fact that they won't be able to follow Him and they can't go where He's going and they're afraid...NOT PREPARED. You know they had to be thinking, **“What are we going to do...how are we going to be able to survive without Him? What will do when He's gone? WE'RE NOT PREPARED!”**

For the Apostles...Jesus had the answer for that... He actually had a person for that. The Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit, He told them, would be the One who comes to replace Him as the “Helper” and provide all that they need. We've seen that already. Tim and Matthew have detailed for us (over the last couple of weeks the encouragement Jesus has offered about the coming of the Holy Spirit); and today, we're going to deep-dive into the role of the Holy Spirit and exactly what He does in our lives as we see: “The Role of the Holy Spirit.” That's the title of our message and our new series we're beginning this morning. “The Role of the Holy Spirit.”



the Role of the Holy Spirit

Now let me again set the scene...Jesus and the Apostles are headed to the Garden of Gethsemane. They've finished their last meal together in the upper room and they're making their way outside the city walls of Jerusalem, down into the Kidron Valley, and then up to the Mount of Olives, where the beautiful little garden known as Gethsemane is located. On this walk, Jesus is preparing His disciples for what they are about to see: PURE HATRED in action. Judas will come, leading a band of soldiers, and they'll arrest Jesus, and from there...Jesus will be dead by 3 pm the next day.

The heaviness of all of this on the disciples cannot be overstated. As we saw last week, He's been talking to them about how they'll be dragged out of the synagogues and ultimately, many will be killed. This frightens and grieves the disciples beyond belief. They don't feel prepared. Jesus knows this; and so, He seeks to comfort them by describing how the Holy Spirit will come and replace Him as their "Helper"...in other words...they're not going to have Jesus physically with them much longer...but, when the Holy Spirit comes, He will be with them all the time as He comes to dwell within them. Jesus tells them in essence: "Guys...my leaving is to your advantage..." Verse 7.

John 16:7-11

⁷ Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹ concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

Now as we begin, I want to draw your attention back to when Jesus met with Nicodemus in John chapter 3 and Jesus talked to him about being "born of the Spirit." Jesus telegraphs to Nicodemus what one of the roles of the Holy Spirit will be.

John 3:6-7

⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.^[a] ⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You^[a] must be born again.'

There it is church...listen, Jesus told Nicodemus that going to heaven had nothing to do with being a good Pharisee or keeping rules...it has to do with believing on Jesus and being born again by the

Spirit of God. It's a spiritual transaction carried out by the Spirit of God inside of our souls. But, Jesus said for those who do not believe, (such as the Pharisees), there is judgment. Jump down to vs. 19.

John 3:19-21

¹⁹ And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.²⁰ For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. ²¹ But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

Why did Judas reject Jesus? Why, (as we saw last week), did Jesus say they would be thrown out of the synagogues? Why such hatred? Simple. Those living in sin, those who do not have the Spirit of God living within them, do not want to be exposed. They don't want to repent. And none of us do. That's we need help. We need the Holy Spirit to draw us to God. That's what Paul told Timothy:

2 Timothy 2:25b-26

²⁵ God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, ²⁶ and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

Listen, in order to be saved...I don't care if you're Nicodemus...one of the most religious men who ever lived...or you are a murderer on skid row...you must come to your senses and repent; thereby, being released from the snare of the devil...like being loosed from a trap and be set free... And the One who pushes on the spring on the trap to release the jaws is the Holy Spirit. A sinner can not be saved unless the Holy Spirit comes to that person and draws them to Jesus. That's verse 8 in our text. Go back to it.

John 16:8

⁸ And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:

The Holy Spirit Convicts Concerning:

1. Sin
 2. Righteousness
 3. Judgment
-

Now, we're going to break these down in detail...but, before we do, I want to ask you a question. And I want you to be careful how you answer it. Are you ready? Was the Holy Spirit sent to the world or to the church? To whom was the Holy Spirit sent? To the church or the world. HE WAS SENT TO WORK IN AND THROUGH THE CHURCH. The Holy Spirit was sent to replace Jesus on this earth, so that His work could continue. Think with me. Just as Jesus had to have a body to do His work...the Holy Spirit now has a body to do His work...that body is us: believers, the Church! We are the temples of the Holy Spirit. We're here to do the job that Jesus was doing by way of the Holy Spirit indwelling us.

Church, what did Jesus do when He was here on this earth? What did He talk about?

1. Sin
 2. Righteousness
 3. Judgment
-

And that's what got Him killed...because the Pharisees believed they were sinless and righteous; therefore "judgment" was preposterous in their minds. And you know what church...that's how the world feels today. Nothing has changed. The world wants to hear NOTHING about sin, righteousness and judgment. NO, you can't talk about sin in our society or that would make you guilty of "judging" and there's no judgment in our society. We're too kind and loving for that.

But, here's the problem. We've got to do something with Jesus' words in verse 8. Because the Holy Spirit inhabits us and we've been left to do the work of Jesus and the work of Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit is to what?

The Holy Spirit Convicts Concerning:

1. Sin
 2. Righteousness
 3. Judgment
-

Look back at verse 8...watch the word: "convict."

John 16:8

⁸ And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:

The word "convict" used there is a legal term in the Greek and it's a term that's used in a court of law and it means: "to pronounce a verdict." It's a word that would fit a grand jury and could be translated: "to prosecute" or "to prove guilty." In other words, you have been "convicted," meaning you have been measured against the law and the evidence is conclusive...you have been found guilty.

Church, the world is guilty...convicted as sinners, and the final verdict for that sin is Hell...and the Holy Spirit must show the sinner their guilt...which would then lead to desperation, which could then lead to salvation. You see, the Holy Spirit comes to a lost person and through our witness presents the evidence that they're lost...and that should lead to conviction in their soul.

You see, we must understand...there can be no conversion without conviction. That's the problem with so much of our evangelism today. We're trying to tell people to come to Jesus to have their best life now...but, that's not the truth...the truth is...they must come to Jesus because they're convicted of their sin and in their contrition...they fall to their knees...seeing their sin...seeing their desperation and they cry out for help...they cry out to the only one who came help them...Jesus! You see the conviction of the Holy Spirit comes first because of the conviction of: see it...

The Holy Spirit Convicts Concerning:

1. Sin
 2. Righteousness
 3. Judgment
-

Watch verse 9.

John 16:9

⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me;

Now the word "sin" is in the singular in that verse. So, we're talking about a "specific sin." What is that sin? Well, Jesus told us in the second part of the verse: "...because they do not believe in me." The Holy Spirit will convict people, hold them guilty, for not believing in Jesus...it is the sin of unbelief. Church, it's that sin (unbelief) that sends a person to hell. The sin of unbelief...the unwillingness of that human heart to surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ.

You see, when Jesus was here on this earth...He indicted those who listened to Him as He taught and preached. Jesus called them out... Let me give you three examples. Back in John chapter 7...

John 7:7

⁷ The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil.

He called the "world" sinners and remember, those who are of the "world" are part of the chaos, the disorder that came when Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden...so, you and I were born

part of the world system, whether we like it or not and Jesus was clear...the world hated him because He called their works/their deeds/their actions evil/sin. For all have sinned and fall short...

In John chapter 9, Jesus was coming out of the Temple after having blasted the Pharisees and He healed the man who had been blind from birth and Jesus proclaimed to him:

John 9:39

³⁹ Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind."

And then, #3 (third example of Jesus calling out sin)...

John 15:22

²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin,^[b] but now they have no excuse for their sin.

Jesus called "sin" sin. He didn't excuse it or back away from it and nor should we. We have the truth and with the help of the Holy Spirit, it's our job to share the truth. About what? About life and marriage and sex and gender and you name it...we must speak the truth at a time when so many Christians are trying to make the world feel good about themselves. Letting men play in women's sports. Men advertise women's bras and feminine products...that's sick and we must call it out. Church, we're not doing anyone any favors by lying to them, just so we don't hurt their feelings (when they're actually living in sin). It's like the parent of a five-year-old who refuses to discipline their child because they want their kid to like them...the problem is mom and dad, if that's you...you're going to have a bigger problem on your hands in about 10 years than you could have ever imagined. Oh, you pay me now, or you pay me later...and the "later" is a lot more expensive and problematic. Believe me!

Now there's something else that I want to be careful that we don't run by too quickly and that's the semantics of Jesus words in verse 9, when He said, they were: "not believing in Him." We need to be very careful about something that's often called: "Easy Believe-ism." Let me explain.

When Jesus said (in verse 9), "They do not believe in me," He wasn't talking about some surface level "belief" or "mental assent." Nicodemus knew Jesus was from God... He said as much, but he wasn't saved. The demons believe Jesus is from God...but, they're doomed. So, let's be clear in understanding what Jesus means when He says, "to believe in Him." He's speaking of following Him. Going after Him. Seeking Him. Acknowledging Him as Master. Surrendering our lives to Him.

I've used the analogy many times...it's as good as I've got. A chair. You see, we can say that we believe in a chair. We can walk up to it and look at it...see that it can hold us...espouse to everyone, "I believe in that chair...it will hold me." But, until I put my full weight on it...I don't really believe. It's just talk! And, that's what Christianity is to a lot of people. They say they believe in Jesus, but they're not willing to put their full weight on Him and willing to look weird or strange or peculiar. They're not willing to truly go "all in" for Jesus.

This goes back to ROP and our young people. Are you willing to stand in the chair? To own your own faith! Are you willing to take the hits...not be seen as "popular" or "normal" (according to the world)? Jesus said that we must be willing to deny ourselves and take up our cross to truly follow Him. Are we? Are you? Are you living in sin? Are you standing in the chair?

Now #2...

The Holy Spirit Convicts Concerning:

1. Sin
 2. Righteousness
 3. Judgment
-

Watch verse 10...

John 16:10

¹⁰ concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer.

What is Jesus saying? Jesus is saying: I'm sending the Holy Spirit to do through you what I've been doing...which is to call people to repentance...to turn from sin...to do a 180 so that they can walk in righteousness.

We can say it this way...and this is really the heart of the Gospel...the message of the Gospel, listen: *Sin convicts and sentences an unbelieving soul to Hell, but repentance will save that soul, because the righteousness of Jesus will be imputed to that soul.* You see, there is absolutely no righteousness that in any human being could ever muster to bring that person into the presence of God. Our works are as filthy rags. Therefore, if we're ever going to be able to be in the presence of God, we will have to have righteousness of Jesus to do so. This is doctrine of "Imputed righteousness."

You see, when you believe in Jesus...when you stand in the chair and surrender to Him...the Holy Spirit comes to indwell you and imputes to you the righteousness of Jesus Christ. How can He do that? Because Jesus took your sinfulness on the cross and paid for it with His own blood...He cancelled your sin with His righteousness so that across your sin debt He stamped: PAID IN FULL!

Yet, for those who refuse that payment, there is judgment. #3.

The Holy Spirit Convicts Concerning:

1. Sin
 2. Righteousness
 3. Judgment
-

John 16:11

¹¹ concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

Who is the ruler of this world? Satan. Therefore, this verse speaks of the judgment of Satan. In fact, the two words: "is judged" is one word in the Greek. It's a verb and it's in the perfect tense, and is therefore translated: "has been judged and continues to be judged." Remember, at the cross, what looked like Satan's greatest victory was actually the sealing of Satan's doom and his ultimate destruction. Jesus judged Satan as impotent on the cross and proved it by rising from the dead three days later! That's Hebrews 2:14

Hebrews 2:14b

that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,

Church, what is Satan's final destiny? Where is he going to end up? The second to last chapter in the Bible tells us his final doom.

Revelation 20:10

¹⁰ and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Satan thought he could overpower God...but, he didn't. Jesus crushed his head when Jesus got up from the dead Satan knew he was doomed; and so, are those who refuse to surrender and stand in the chair and follow Jesus.

As we close, I'm not going to ask you if you're prepared for breakfast in the morning. I'm not asking you if you are prepared for college or retirement. No, what I'm going to ask you is: Are you prepared for where you will spend eternity?

Oh, I wrestle RIGHT HERE...with how to end these services...trying to figure out how to implore you to follow Jesus...wanting so badly to try to get across how much joy there is...even amidst the trials...in following Jesus. Sometimes I wish Jesus would Jesus walk through the black curtain over there and come up here and say, "Follow me!" Could you imagine Him walking in here and doing that? Could you imagine Him standing here and imploring you to follow Him...as His arms are extending...begging you to come. Oh, but He's already done that, hasn't He? He did that on a hill called Calvary. No, He didn't stand in a chair...He hung on a cross with His arms stretched out as His invitation: Come to me! I pray the Holy Spirit will draw you right now!
