

Bible is God's Word 3

Aid of the Holy Spirit

(preached 10/24/21)

Please turn to *John 14:15*

Sermon #1: Sanctification—Being Conformed to Christ

- Before we can be representatives of the truth to others, we must allow the Sword of the Spirit to cut into us.
- God calls upon us to be conformed to Jesus, and not to the world.
- The world has its own doctrine, teaching, morals, beliefs, and philosophies that conflict with what God says in the Bible...we could call this “leaven.”
- Both Jesus and Paul warned us that we cannot mix the leaven of the world with that of Scripture.
- The same applies to people who refer to themselves as Christians yet refuse to look to the Bible as 1) the inerrant, inspired, Word of God containing absolute truth and 2) refuse to submit to the process of Sanctification, allowing the Sword of the Spirit to cut into them and separating truth from falsehood.
- We cannot know God, nor His will, nor what He considers to be good or evil unless we're reading the Bible as truth, and allowing it to change us.
- The deceived Christian not only believes in the teachings of the world, but will promote them as being approved by God despite the fact they clash with what in Scripture.
- The deceived Christian parses worldly doctrine in a failed attempt to set themselves apart from it, by saying things like: “I wouldn't get an abortion myself, but I don't think there's anything wrong with someone else getting one.”
- Separation, Repentance, Lifestyle change.

Sermon #2: Interpreting the Bible 1: Exegesis

- No percent of doctrine one must believe to be Saved. We are Saved by Grace!
- Essential Doctrine: Trinity, Deity of Christ, His work on the Cross to atone, His Resurrection!
- Non-Essential Doctrine isn't necessary for Salvation, but it's still important.
- A true disciple of Christ seeks truth so they can share it—if we still believe false things we cannot properly represent the Word of God in the spiritual war we're engaged in.
- A true disciple submits to Sanctification, allowing God's Word to separate false teaching from true, giving us opportunity to repent & change our lifestyle.
- Exegesis vs. Eisegesis—the Exegetical method is the correct method for reading and interpreting the Bible.
- You've written a poem and posted it on SM as is, with no explanation to what it means.
- Eisegetical: someone interprets your poem reading their own thoughts, feelings, biases, etc. into its meaning. They never asked you and don't care what your thoughts, feelings, and meaning is.

- Even when corrected directly by you or someone who knows you a lot better, they assert that their interpretation & meaning is just as true & valid as your or anyone else's.
- Exegetical: people contact you and ask you the meaning of the poem, showing they care about YOU and want to know you more. They ask for your thoughts, feeling, and meaning...what message were you trying to convey?
- When you or a BFF shares the same, the reader accepts the explanation as truth and reflects the same when they talk about it to others.
- EISEGETICAL: people read the Bible and see it as flowing, fluid, and subject to modern day circumstances, morals, and social trends. They don't seek God nor people more familiar with God to help them understand the Scriptures, but actively resist the same.
- EXEGETICAL: people read the Bible and, recognizing God as the Author, ask HIM what He means. They seek His will, His plan, His character, His thoughts, and His desires.
- They allow themselves to be taught by others who are more schooled in the Bible.
- The disciples stepped out in both boldness and supernatural power only after Jesus appeared to them (post Resurrection) and opened their minds to the Scriptures (Luke 24:45).

TODAY we're going to see the importance of ***having the Holy Spirit lead us to understanding the living and active words written in the Bible.***

DOCTRINAL BUT JOYLESS. Have you ever met Christians who seem to know their Bibles really well, but they're condescending, holier-than-thou, joyless, and seem to lack love? How is this possible? Shouldn't it be the opposite? A Christian who has a firm grasp on sound Biblical doctrine should be full of joy and even though they're willing to speak truth, it should be accompanied by God's love.

FRUIT & DOCTRINE. Today's sermon will not only help us to understand the Bible correctly, but will enable us to share the Gospel and any other part of the Bible with others and not come off as condescending or lacking love.

RECEIVE WELL? That doesn't mean others will receive it well! Jesus can never be accused of not sharing the truth in love, for He is the embodiment of love. Despite this, people became murderously angry at some of the things He said and sought to kill Him for it...and eventually did.

JESUS LEAVING! The night of His arrest, Jesus drops a bombshell upon His disciples: that He's "leaving" and He was talking about His ascension back to Heaven that would take place after His Resurrection. He says He's going to Father's House to build a place for them, and that eventually He'll return and bring them with Him. I can only imagine the disciples were stressed about this—they didn't want Him to go! He and they had been together constantly for 3.5 years and the Lord wanted to reassure them that Him going was not a bad thing. Let's read what He

says to them, and this takes place after His famous saying of “My Father’s house has many mansions....”

John 14:15-21 (ESV)

¹⁵ “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,

¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

¹⁸ “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

¹⁹ Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.

²⁰ In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

²¹ Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

QUESTIONS ABOUT SPIRIT. After Jesus ascends back to Heaven, He’s going to ask the Father to send the Holy Spirit to the disciples.

- Who is the Holy Spirit?
- What’s the purpose of sending Him and what does “sending” mean?
- Once the Holy Spirit is sent to earth, where is going to hang out? In the atmosphere, at Jerusalem, in the Temple, or...?
- What exactly is He going to do when He arrives?

WHO HE IS. The word “Helper” is the Greek word Parakletos, which translates to Advocate, Counselor, and Comforter. Advocate and Counselor means He’s our lawyer and before that triggers anyone in a negative sense, he’s a lawyer whose completely on our side. He’s not out for himself, money, or anything like that—He’s here to bear witness FOR us and not against us. He’s here to defend the righteousness Christ gave us.

Verse 16: He will be with us forever which answers the question of where He’s going to hang out when He arrives. Does this mean He’s going to hover around us and follow us wherever we go, or...?

Verse 17: Jesus answers this important question: the Holy Spirit is literally arriving and moving into us. Our bodies will be His house, or Temple. Since He’s been compared to a dove, He will fly in and make a nest inside of us and He will live there. How long? Jesus told us: forever.

Verse 17 part 2: Jesus reveals another purpose of God’s Spirit: He represents the Truth.

The words written in the Bible represent Truth—but we need the Spirit of God when we read and speak them.

W/O HIM DISASTER. WRENCH. Attempting to read and speak the words of Scripture without Him is like trying to turn a bolt or nut without a wrench. You can finger tighten a nut or bolt, but is it secure? How tight will it be? When will it fall off: sooner or later? When you use a wrench or socket, however, it multiplies the power and security of human strength 5 fold whether one is binding or loosing the bolt/nut.

HS EMPOWERS. Such it is when reading and speaking Scripture. **When the Holy Spirit is leading, we are empowered to see and embrace life changing truth.**

Verse 18: Who is the Holy Spirit? He is God. Jesus says He will send the Spirit to live inside us, then He says its Him...that HE will live in us. The Holy Spirit is part of triune Godhead: God the Father, God the Son Jesus, and God the Holy Spirit.

Part of the NC is that God descends from Heaven and makes His home inside us.

NO OTHER “HIGHER” BEINGS. Why then do we seek after & pray to other beings we consider to be higher than us?

- Why would we need to seek out angels when we have God?
- Why would we wish to pray & speak to our ancestors or saints when we have God?
- Do we believe they would fill an emotional void that God can't?

Verse 20: We are one with Jesus and He is one with us. He's come to stay. We have the aid and advocacy of the most loving and powerful Being ever.

Let's continue in our exposition with **verse 22:**

John 14:22-24 (ESV)

²² Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?”

²³ Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

²⁴ Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

Verse 22: Neither Jesus nor the Holy Spirit comes to live inside of everyone—only those who have received Him as their Lord and Savior.

UNBELIEVER WON'T GET IT. An unbeliever who attempts to read and understand the Bible won't be able to, unless they repent of their unbelief and receive Christ as their Savior. For in that glorious moment, the Spirit of Truth enters into them and makes the words of Scripture become living and active, rather than just words on a page. It shows them it was inspired by God vs. just written by men with all their biases.

Verse 24: Jesus equates loving Him with “keeping” His words, which are those of God the Father. Keeping means believing and obeying. Unbelievers and lukewarm Christians don't see the Bible as the words of Jesus, don't allow it to stab them, and won't conform themselves to teachings of God.

John 14:25-31 (ESV)

²⁵ “These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you.

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.

²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

²⁸ You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I will come to you.’ If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.

²⁹ And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe.

³⁰ I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me,

³¹ but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here.

Verse 26b: the Holy Spirit is also our Teacher. What is He going to teach us? What are we going to learn from Him? Christ tells us: all the things Jesus has said. In other words, what's written in the Scriptures because remember: God is the Author of the Bible and Jesus specifically, is the Word.

REFERS BACK TO BIBLE. In other words, the Holy Spirit will quote the Bible, refer to Bible, redirect us back to the Bible, enhance our understanding of the Bible, use the Bible to confirm prophetic words we get, and cause the revelations within to not just be facts, but to alter our lives, renew of minds, refresh our hearts, and connect us with God!

DOCTRINE BUT NO FRUIT. What about Christians who have a great handle on Biblical doctrine but don't seem to be producing the Fruit of the Spirit? ***They're trying to do it without Him.*** They do see the Bible as God's truth, but they've fallen into the western American perspective of comprehending everything with their minds.

A Christian will only produce the Fruit of the Spirit when we are walking in the Spirit. When we're walking in our minds and intellects, we can have a firm grasp on Biblical doctrine but we'll come off as condescending, know it alls, and cold. Remember what I've told you in the past: what kind of fruit we produce is always a discernor of whether we walk in the Holy Spirit or in the flesh.

SPIRIT FRUIT. When the Spirit is leading us in Scriptural study, however, He doesn't just increase our knowledge but produces His fruit listed in Galatians 5:22-23. He will use the power of God's Word to make us more like Jesus on the inside, which includes being joyful and humble.

Verse 27: the Holy Spirit brings peace and not stress. Whether He's pouring gentle love upon us, inspiring us to prophesy, and giving loving correction He doesn't produce the fruit of anxiety or worry—He brings the peace of Jesus.

Verses 28-29: the Spirit coming to live in us is a great cause to rejoice! It's a greater reason to celebrate than a birthday or anniversary, because now God is truly with us. No longer is He a distant figure sitting on a throne on this faraway place called Heaven, He's right here, right now, ever present and available. Now we are empowered not just to know the truth but to represent it to others.

Verse 30: the ruler of this world is the devil. He has no claim on Jesus because Jesus was 100% righteous, obeying all the laws of God all the time...no sin on Him for the Devil to accuse and condemn. From here Jesus would go to the Cross and die there, shedding His blood so that you and I would be righteous. When you and I received this righteousness for the first time, we also received the Holy Spirit.

Therefore Satan has no claim upon us either.

JOHN 15. *Turn to John 15* where, in the latter half of this chapter, Jesus tells the disciples they will be hated by the world for representing Jesus—for sharing His Gospel which converts others. Now look what He says as the immediate follow up to this persecution in **verse 26:**

John 15:26-27 (ESV)

²⁶ "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.

²⁷ And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

BEARS WITNESS OF 2 THINGS. The Spirit of God bears witness about Jesus to 2 audiences: 1) us, and 2) everyone else. When the Holy Spirit speaks to us about Jesus and then He uses our mouths to bear witness to others about Jesus.

VERSE 1. Let's turn to chapter 16 starting with verse 1:

John 16:4-11 (ESV)

⁴ But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you. "I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you.

⁵ But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?'

⁶ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.

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.

THROUGH THE CHURCH. When Jesus says the Holy Spirit will convict the world of sin, righteousness, and God's judgment let's be clear: He does that through the Church. He does that through us living Godly lives and preaching the same. ***We are commissioned and empowered by the Spirit of God to do this.***

Let's read on:

John 16:12-15 (ESV)

¹² "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.

¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

¹⁴ He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Verse 12: they cannot bear further revelations from Jesus because they don't yet have the HS living inside them. It's only when He's present we can more fully understand the words of Christ.

Verse 13 confirms what I just said: the Holy Spirit leads and guides us to truth. We need Him!

Verses 14-15: part of that truth is that He will declare what belongs to Jesus to us. Don't limit your thinking to physical possessions. When Jesus ascends God will seat Him at His own right hand on a throne of ultimate authority and power. Father gives everything over to His Son, which includes complete power over the earth and everyone that lives on it. The status of Jesus

is above all the angels, both the good and bad ones, which means His authority usurps theirs and they answer to Him.

JESUS NEVER LOST. Victory is given to Jesus—do you know He’s never lost? Lost what? You name it. Never lost a battle, an argument, an outcome, never failed in an effort, never had a setback. All enemies are under His feet including death, the devil, the world, and sin.

BRINGS LIFE. The Holy Spirit declaring the same to us pours LIFE into us...why? We might be thinking the devil is kicking our but, death has claimed too many of the people we love, and that we’ve lost plenty of battles.

UNDEFEATED LIVES INSIDE. Jesus lives inside of us. The One who remains and will always be completely undefeated has made His home with us. His OT name, Immanuel, translates to “God With Us” which means living with us. He is on OUR side. He is OUR Advocate. He is our comfort. He is our Teacher. He is our Truth!

SET ON COURSE OF RESURRECTION. He’s set us on a course that cannot be altered by any man, woman, child, devil, or circumstance. We are heading toward more than merely dying and going to heaven, but Resurrection and becoming eternal citizens of His Kingdom on earth, as it is in heaven. He’s sharing His victory over death, Satan, and sin with us and every day that passes, we are one step closer to the manifestation of this victory. The Seal of promise, like a down payment, is the presence of the Holy Spirit inside of us Who, on that day, will activate a fuller measure of His power and raise us from the dead!

Let us all listen as the Holy Spirit reminds us all of everything that belongs to Jesus!

I finish with the following verses—please turn to **1 Corinthians 2 starting with verse 10:**

1 Corinthians 2:10-16 (ESV)

¹⁰ these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

¹¹ For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

¹³ And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

¹⁴ The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

¹⁵ The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one.

¹⁶ “For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

We can only understand and connect with God through the Holy Spirit.

He is our shining Bridge that leads directly to Father God so we can explore His beautiful goodness, love, justice, holiness, plan, will, and desire! The Holy Ghost will do for us what Jesus did for His disciples—***He will open our minds to understanding what the Scriptures really mean.***

POST RISEN DISCIPLES. After Jesus did this for the disciples who were hiding in the house after His death:

- They went from being scared to being bold.
- They went from hiding to appearing before crowds, priests, politicians, and soldiers alike with no fear.
- They went from a state of hopelessness to being Baptized by the Holy Spirit and His power, moving in healing and miracles and converting thousands!

He will do the same for us!

PRAY