

John 16

John 16:1 These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended.

“These things” refers more to what He has stated in the last chapter about the hatred of the world, a subject that He now continues by pointing out how this hatred will manifest itself. There was no break between the 15th and 16th chapters; the subject is continued without change. The Lord intended that they should be forewarned and expectant. The word “offended” means stumble or fall during the coming persecution. Those weak in the faith are likely to give away before the storm, and count the odds too great to continue to contend against all fallen mankind.

John 16:2 They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.

The first persecution shall come from the Jews, and the first Jewish punishment shall be excommunication from the synagogue. Which was more than spiritual, it made the person an outcast from society. Intense persecution of the Jews where even murder was sanctified was coming. Even Saul of Tarsus thought he was doing God’s service when he sought to kill the saints. The Rabbis taught whoever sheds the blood of the impious, does the same as if he offered sacrifice.

John 16:3 And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me.

This ignorance of God and Christ lies at the root of all persecution. If the tender love of God, as revealed in Christ the Son, was embraced by all humanity it would end all intolerance. These murderers may believe in some being who they call “god”, but it is not the God “who so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...” They may

believe in a being they call Christ, but it is not the tender, loving Savior who taught “blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy”.

John 16:4 But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them. And these things I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you.

When the hour of trial comes, there will also come the remembrance that the Lord had foreseen it from the beginning. They are to remember He promised to be with them, and He promised He would give them by inspiration what they should say to their accusers. While He was upon the earth, the bolts of hatred would strike Him, instead of His disciples. When He was gone, they will represent Him on the earth, and the bolts of hatred will strike them.

John 16:5 But now I go my way to him that sent me; and none of you asketh me, Whither goest thou?

He was going to the Father by the way of the cross, the tomb, the resurrection, and the ascension. They had asked where He was going earlier, but in their sorrow, they had ceased to ask.

John 16:6 But because I have said these things unto you, sorrow hath filled your heart.

He desires to turn their thoughts to the grand results of His going to the Father.

John 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

What seemed to be a crushing sorrow, was really a blessing. The Comforter means the Holy Spirit. The Greek word is “Paraclete”, and is also translated “advocate”, or “helper”. In the Old Testament, the Spirit was given to only a few inspired men, but now, the Spirit is to become the heritage of the Church of Christ.

The Spirit is the representative of the Godhead, and Christ as the King must send it. The Church of Christ is a universal kingdom in which the king everywhere, manifests His presence by abiding in His subjects.

John 16:8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

There are three points to consider: On the Day of Pentecost, the apostles spake as the Spirit gave them utterance. 1. It convicted of "sin" those who heard the preaching and had rejected the Lord of Life and Glory. 2. Of "righteousness" in that it was demonstrated by the manifestations of the Spirit, that God had exalted Jesus, Whom they had condemned, to His own right hand. 3. Of "judgment," in that they were assured of the wrath to come, and warned, cf:

Acts 2:40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

John 16:9 Of sin, because they believe not on me;

In naming sin, the chief of all sins is singled out. All sin springs from unbelief. To destroy sin, the heart of man must be pierced with the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God.

Acts 2:37 Now when they heard *this*, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?

The inspired answer of the Holy Spirit was ready.

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

John 16:10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;

Human tribunals convicted Him of blasphemy. God exalted Him to a Kingly throne, thereby showing that the condemnation of men was wrong and that He was righteous.

John 16:11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

Satan, as the ruler of the world, slew him. When He arose from the dead, proving He was sinless, the judgment of God went against the Prince of the world for all power was given unto Jesus in Heaven and earth cf: Matthew 28:18-20

John 16:12 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

All wise teachers give the truth as the minds of their disciples are prepared for it. Jesus added new lessons as the disciples' minds were prepared for them.

John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

Those things that Jesus desires them to know will be taught them still. The Holy Spirit will not be sent to testify of Himself, but to represent Christ, as He represented the Father.

John 16:14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you.

John 16:15 All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you.

This shows the unity of the Godhead. They are so united that what proceeds from one proceeds from all.

John 16:16 A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go to the Father.

John 16:17 Then said *some* of his disciples among themselves, What is this that he saith unto us, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me: and, Because I go to the Father?

On the morrow, He would die at the ninth hour; at evening He would be buried, and “a little while,” three days and nights, they would not see Him; then He would rise, and for another “little while,” forty days before He ascended to His Father they, in a spiritual sense, would “see Him coming in the kingdom of God” and become eye-ball witnesses of His bodily resurrection from the dead.

John 16:18 They said therefore, What is this that he saith, A little while? we cannot tell what he saith.

John 16:19 Now Jesus knew that they were desirous to ask him, and said unto them, Do ye enquire among yourselves of that I said, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me?

They hesitated to ask, but the Lord, observing their whispered words, answered their question.

John 16:20 Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy.

This was, in a few hours, fulfilled. The broken-hearted disciples wept bitterly at the tomb!

Luke 24:20-21 And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him. **24:21** But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done.

Then the glad news came, “The Lord is risen.” They saw Him ascend into heaven, then “returned to Jerusalem in great joy.”

Luke 24:51 And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven. **24:52** And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy:

John 16:21 A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world.

The figure of a woman in travail is often used in the Old Testament cf:

Isaiah 21:3 Therefore are my loins filled with pain: pangs have taken hold upon me, as the pangs of a woman that travaileth: I was bowed down at the hearing *of it*; I was dismayed at the seeing *of it*.

Hosea 13:13 The sorrows of a travailing woman shall come upon him: he *is* an unwise son; for he should not stay long in *the place of the breaking forth of children*.

Micah 4:9 Now why dost thou cry out aloud? *is there* no king in thee? is thy counsellor perished? for pangs have taken thee as a woman in travail.

The death of Christ is the agonizing travail of humanity, from His labor the God-Man issues, glorified, to the eternal joy of the whole body of believing mankind."

John 16:22 And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.

Suffering endured should be comforted by the thought that it is the pathway to joy. This was their hour of sorrow, but a new life for humanity was born, as Christ burst the bonds of death. His appearance to them after the Cross and Resurrection, would turn their sorrow to joy.

John 16:23 And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give *it* you.

That day refers to Pentecost, when a new day of joy began. After that, they will ask Him no questions because of ignorance or misunderstanding. The Comforter will teach the apostles all things, cf:

John 14:26 But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

In the future they will not ask Jesus directly for things as they did while He was on the earth, but in the Christian Age, the disciples will ask the Father in Jesus' name.

John 16:24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

When He taught His disciples the Lord's Prayer, He did not direct that the petition should be in His name, but rather, our Father which art in Heaven ... As the end of His earthly ministry approached, He directed prayer in His name. When He ascended to God's right hand He became our Mediator, Advocate, and High Priest, cf:

One Mediator:

1Timothy 2:5 For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

Advocate:

I John 2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

High Priest:

Hebrews 4:13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things *are* naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

John 16:25 These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall shew you plainly of the Father.

All that He said from the beginning of Chapter 15, is here called “proverbs,” but, should be more correctly translated “figures.” The revelations had been partly veiled in “figures” or “proverbs” such as, the True Vine, and the Woman In Travail. The time would come when there would be no more mysteries and half-understood sayings. The Spirit “shall shew you plainly of the Father”.

John 16:26 At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you:

The day when they were baptized in the Holy Spirit which was to be on the coming Pentecost; before Pentecost, the disciples continued in prayer, cf:

Acts 1:14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

After the church was founded on Pentecost.

Acts 2:47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

The church already recognized prayer as part of worship, cf:

Acts 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

God sent His spirit into their hearts making them into temples of God, in which the Father and the Son dwell.

John 16:27 For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God.

This declares the reason why it was not needful for Him to pray the Father for them. No intercession was needed for them to win the love of the Father.

John 16:28 I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father.

This is a simple and grand summary of Christ's entire life, His incarnation, and destiny. His near departure is only a return home.

John 16:29 His disciples said unto him, Lo, now speakest thou plainly, and speakest no proverb.

The last words He uttered seemed to the disciples plain and simple and the key to all the proverbs, or, figures He had spoken. He had come from God into the world, and now He would leave the world and return to God. Yet the disciples did not understand as well as they supposed. They were to again stumble, while the Lord was in the hands of His enemies.

John 16:30 Now are we sure that thou knowest all things, and needest not that any man should ask thee: by this we believe that thou camest forth from God.

The fact that He had discerned them and answered their questions so plainly, confirmed their faith.

John 16:31 Jesus answered them, Do ye now believe?

He recognized the incompleteness of their faith.

John 16:32 Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me.

All would desert Him at the time of His Crucifixion. But, though men might desert Him, He would not be left alone for the Father would help Him.

John 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

“These things” were spoken that they might have peace. The world may afflict them, but it will only be for a short season. The world is a conquered foe, Christ has overcome it: as Christ overcame the world by dying, so too the faith of the martyrs is often the faith that gains the victory.

We Have Learned

- 1. Often our sorrows are big with blessings.
They that sow in tears, reap in joy.**
- 2. Often we do not know what is best: it is a great misfortune. It behooved Him to die and to rise again from the dead.**
- 3. It would be a delightful thought if by going to Palestine we could look upon the face of Christ. Far sweeter is the thought that He is with us always: wherever we are! He “abides” with us.**
- 4. The Spirit is not only a Comforter, but a Conqueror.
The Sword by which He subdues is the Word of God.**
- 5. Resist not the Spirit for He, by the Word of God, convicts the world of sin and righteousness and judgment.**
- 6. As the body without the spirit is dead, so a preacher or professor of religion without the Spirit is spiritually dead.**
- 7. Death is often the travail from where victory is born.**

**Sources: KJV, e-Sword, Clarke's Commentary, and B.W. Johnson
Commentary.**