

Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2015 10:36 PM  
Subject: Las Nite's MOB Study

Men--Last nite we learned a little bit more about the Holy Spirit, from John 15:26-16:33. John records how Jesus spoke again concerning the coming of "the Helper," the Spirit of Truth," who would "proceed from the Father,"--but only come after He (Jesus) would leave them and "go to a place where they could not go!" The disciples still did not understand, but Jesus said He was telling them "these things" so that "when their hour comes, they would remember that He told them of them"!

This wasn't the first time He announced that He was leaving--going back to His Father--nor that the Holy Spirit would be coming "to abide with them and be in them! In fact, in the same context (in John 14:18), He said that He Himself would "come to them"--and thus "live in them," somehow in association with, or in the person of, the Holy Spirit. Paul would later write, in Romans 8:9, for example, that "if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ living in him, he does not belong to God!" This is a concept that can only be faintly fathomed as part of the "mystery" of the Trinity! Christ living in us, through the Holy Spirit!

All this helps explain why Jesus told His disciples that they would actually be better off and able to accomplish "greater things" after He was gone back to His Father. He would no longer be "alongside them" physically--but living within them and empowering them for service through the Holy Spirit! It was this same Holy Spirit who would "teach them all things and bring to their remembrance all that He had said unto them" (John 14:26), and "guide them into all truth...and disclose to them what is to come" (16:13)--thus explaining, among other things, their upcoming roles as writers of the "inspired" Scriptures, which would record, and testify to specific things that Jesus did and said!

But Jesus also said that the Holy Spirit would "convict the world concerning sin and righteousness, and judgment (16:8)--among other things, exposing the darkness of sin, shattering all pretensions of self-righteousness, and revealing God's judgment of, and victory over, Satan through Christ's death on the cross and resurrection from the grave!

Jesus spoke "these things" (including those we studied in our prior lessons) as part of His "farewell discourse," just hours before His betrayal, to "comfort" His disciples and in order to "keep them from stumbling" (6:1)--but also to prepare them for what was about to happen, "before it all happened," so that when it did, they would "remember" (16:4) and "believe"! (14:29). Jesus also made it clear to them that they would be hated by the world and be persecuted, and suffer--but that their "grief would be turned joy" (16:20)!

Then He ended His discourse with some final words of encouragement, which are just as relevant for us, and for believers all over our world today, many of whom are going through great suffering and persecution! He said: "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world!"

Shalom!

Lowell