

Pastor Writes

Our theme for our morning's meditation is that, 'The Spirit of love and truth is promised to the church.' In John's gospel Jesus tells his disciples that he will send them the advocate the Spirit of truth who will testify on his behalf. Jesus knew that he was going to be killed and that he would rise again on the third day. He also promised that when he would ascend to the Father after which he would he would send the Holy Spirit to be with his disciples to teach and testify about Christ. We know that on the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit came upon all the believers and the disciples as a rushing mighty wind and as tongues of fire and they began to speak many different languages. From that day onward till today God continues to pour out his Spirit of truth and love upon the Church.

Jesus says when the advocate comes whom he will send from the father – the Spirit of truth – he will testify about him. Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as the advocate. An advocate is one who appears on another's behalf and mediates or pleads their case. He is an intercessor and a helper. So we see that the Spirit is sent by Jesus and he is the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father and testifies on behalf of Christ.

What does the Holy Spirit do? From verses 8 to 11 of John 16, the Spirit does three things: Firstly, when he comes he will prove the world to be wrong with regard to sin, righteousness and judgment. In other words the Spirit of truth judges the world. He discerns God's mind and intercedes for the Saints according to the will of God. He adjudges human behavior so precisely that it is as if he explores the gap between bone and marrow. He judges with regards to sin because people do not believe in Christ. The sin that he will judge is that of unbelief. It is not God who makes believing hard, but we do. We cover our eyes, plug our ears, turn our backs, stiffen our necks, turn up the volume, while all the time God is whispering our name teaching his truth, revealing a way. We need to respond like young Samuel saying, 'Speak Lord your servant is listening'.

The Spirit also judges in regard to righteousness because our righteousness can only come through the person and work of Christ on the cross and not through our own works. This is the truth that Holy Spirit instills in us. Finally, he also judges the ruler of the world who already stands condemned. In other words those who follow the ruler of this world and persist in sin will be judged and punished.

The Spirit of truth reveals God's will. In verse 13 we see that he guides us into all truth. He makes us understand what God desires of us. The Spirit of truth also comforts the Church. It is comfort, consolation, reassurance and light, the Spirit brings to a world-weary, sin-sick, bodily-suffering, thoroughly confused Christian soul. The Spirit can come like a gentle breeze on a hot sweltering day, and the Spirit refreshes like nothing else. The Spirit of truth makes us confront a culture of deceit and half-truth. The most glorious day we look forward to as a Christian is that time when there will be end of sin, deceit and half-truths and a glorious consummation of God's perfect kingdom reign.

We have looked at the Spirit of truth and love which God has sent into our midst. He continues to lead us into all truth and delivers us from deceit and half-truth. The Spirit of God constantly calls us to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and rejecting that will be the worst thing to do. The Spirit of God works as our advocate and our comforter. He intercedes and pleads for us. Above all he comforts us and draws us towards Christ. May we truly receive the Spirit of truth and love in our life.

Shalom

Paul Swarup

5th May 2013