

REVIVE US

REVIVE US: HOLY SPIRIT SERIES HUB GROUP NOTES | NOVEMBER 15, 2020 Bob Ketterling

In John 16 Jesus is preparing his disciples for His departure and the coming of the Holy Spirit. In this lesson we are going to look at verses 8-11 in which Jesus talks cryptically about how the Spirit will convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgement. What did he mean by this statement?

John 16: 8-11: ⁸And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: ⁹of sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; ¹¹of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

Read each verse and the explanations from different commentators.

What does each commentator add to our understanding of the verse? What questions do you have about their statements? Do you see any weakness in their arguments?

⁹ of sin, because they do not believe in Me;

Barnes's Bible Commentary

Of sin - The first thing specified of which the world would be convinced is sin. Sin, in general, is any violation of a law of God, but the particular sin of which men are here said to be convinced is that of rejecting the Lord Jesus. This is placed first, and is deemed the sin of chief magnitude, as it is the principal one of which men are guilty. This was particularly true of the Jews who had rejected him and crucified him; and it was the great crime which, when brought home to their consciences by the preaching of the apostles, overwhelmed them with confusion, and filled their hearts with remorse.

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The Holy Spirit will lead Christians to preach Jesus' gift of salvation, which delivers people from their sins (plural). When people reject that, they will be convicted of the "sin" (singular) of not believing Jesus' sacrifice on the cross paid the death penalty due for their sins, and therefore remain guilty of them.

¹⁰ of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more;

<p>StudyLight.org Of righteousness ... The world is convicted of this by: (1) Christ's return to God, and (2) the absolute finality of Christ's work - "ye behold me no more." Jesus' resurrection and ascension to God were irrefutable proof that his total message was from God; and his remaining thus at God's right hand signaled the total completion of the righteousness which he wrought.</p>	<p>Barnes Of righteousness - This seems clearly to refer to the righteousness or innocence of Jesus himself. He was now persecuted. He was soon to be arraigned on heavy charges, and condemned by the highest authority of the nation as guilty. Yet, though condemned, he says that the Holy Spirit would descend and convince the world that he was innocent.</p>
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¹¹ of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

<p>StudyLight.org Calvary was intended by Christ's enemies as their judgment of him; but God made it the judgment of his enemies, particularly of Satan, the prince of this world. The cross indeed bruised the heel of the seed of woman, but it bruised the head of Satan. Christ's death, burial, and resurrection condemned the value-judgments of men. Wicked men, living lives of conformity to the will of their prince (Satan) behold in Christ the rejection by Almighty God of their principles of judgment. The way of Christ was declared by his resurrection to be the right way. The Spirit of God would never cease from Pentecost and ever afterward to convict the world of what righteousness really is.</p>	<p>BibleVerseStudy.com You'd expect "<u>the ruler of this world</u>" to be the one passing judgment. But because Jesus crushed on the cross Satan's grip on humanity's sin, Satan is judged as having been defeated, and that news will also be preached by Christians led by the Holy Spirit.</p>
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Here are three concluding statements on the passage. What are the strong points of each? Which do you feel best captures the meaning of the text?

1. StudyLight.org: Sin ... righteousness ... judgment. Over against these three words stand three proper names: Adam, Christ, and Satan. Through Adam came sin; through Christ came righteousness; upon Satan the penalty of ultimate judgment shall fall.
2. Bible Track: The Holy Spirit comes after Jesus has ascended on the day of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit will identify distinctions - three listed here: (1) Sin for those who have rejected Christ as Savior (2) Righteousness for those who accept Jesus as the finished work for salvation (3) Condemnation ("judgment") has been passed on the ruler ("prince") of this world (i.e. Satan).
3. Enduring Word: He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment. Sin is the truth about man; righteousness is the truth about God; judgment is the inevitable combination of these two truths.