

Convicting the World

Sermon by Andy Sochor

Text: John 16:7-11

Shortly before His crucifixion, Jesus spoke to His apostles and promised to send the Holy Spirit. He would “convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment.” This would have a direct impact on the apostles’ teaching, and it should with ours as well.

Role of the Holy Spirit

- Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to guide the apostles into all truth (John 16:13) – this promise was for the apostles to carry out their role (John 14:26; 15:26-27; cf. 2 Corinthians 5:20)
- It would be to their advantage to receive help from the Holy Spirit (John 16:7) – besides revelation, He would be their comforter/intercessor (John 16:7); they would receive power (Acts 1:8)
- In fulfilling His role, the Holy Spirit would “convict the world” – the Greek word means to convict someone of a fault, or cause them to be put to shame; also used in other passages as “show him his fault” (Matthew 18:15) or “exposed” (John 3:20; Ephesians 5:11)

How He Will Convict the World

- Concerning SIN – sin is a transgression of God’s law (1 John 3:4); they would be convicted “because they do not believe in [Jesus]” (John 16:9); sin results when one does not fear the Lord (Romans 3:9-10, 18, 23); they needed to recognize their need for a Savior (John 9:40-41)
- Concerning RIGHTEOUSNESS – righteousness is the state of being right/justified before God; it includes something we practice (1 John 3:7); Jesus was going away and they would “no longer see [Him]” (John 16:10) or His perfect example; they needed a perfect standard of right and wrong, and the Holy Spirit would reveal this (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 1 John 3:7, 4)
- Concerning JUDGMENT – this judgment is the final judgment of the world; Satan is the ruler of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4), but he had been judged (John 16:11) and would be defeated (John 12:31); Jesus is coming to judge the world (Acts 17:30-31; 2 Corinthians 5:10); we are accountable to Him and must prepare (cf. Matthew 25:31-33, 46)

An Example in Paul's Preaching

- When Paul taught Felix, he was trying to convict him just as the Holy Spirit was convicting the world – he taught on the same things that the Holy Spirit was going to reveal (Acts 24:24-25)
- Righteousness – this is a call to God's perfect standard (Matthew 28:20; Acts 10:34-35)
- Self-control – this is the instruction to give up sin (Romans 6:6, 11; Acts 2:38)
- Judgment to come – this is the motivation to obey (2 Thessalonians 1:6-9; Acts 17:30-31)

Our Teaching Today

- In our teaching, we must speak as the oracles of God (1 Peter 4:11) – same as the apostles (Galatians 1:8-9); this means that we are going to teach on these same things
- Sin – identify sin as sin; people cannot change if they do not know they are wrong (2 Corinthians 7:8-10)
- Righteousness – point to God's perfect standard (1 Peter 4:11); cite “book, chapter, and verse”
- Judgment – teach others to prepare for judgment (2 Corinthians 5:10-11)

Conclusion

- The message of the gospel is to turn from sin, practice righteousness, and prepare for judgment
- We need to follow these things ourselves and teach others to do the same