

I. Over the last few weeks (Christmas) we have been looking at the central reality of the salvation of the universe—the Incarnation.

- A. God has become a human, permanently.
- B. His life, death, resurrection, and ascension have changed the destiny of the universe.

II. In the Farewell discourse, at the end of the Lord's earthly life, he taught his friends how New everything was really going to be now...

- A. He institutes the New Covenant. 14:6 (Luke 22:20)
 - 1. People who belong to God come into Him.
 - 2. This new covenant supplies forgiveness, reconciliation, eternal life.
- B. He supplies the new relationship with God.
 - 1. As Father. 14:15-17 (16:26-28; 20:17)
 - 2. Through the Holy Spirit. (14:15-21)
- C. He gives the New Command. (13:34-35)
 - 1. Loving as Jesus loved his friends.
 - 2. *The love within the Trinity is now regenerating fallen humans.*

III. He begins to explain the New Life in the Old World. In Chapter 15 He reveals Four stunning, new realities (first three from last time). 15:1-17

- A. He Himself is the only True Vine: *The Ultimate Israel*. 1. *The whole Bible is about Him!* (Isa.5; Jer.2:21; Ps.80)
 - 1. Jesus Messiah is the True Israel. (See Klink, *ECNT John*, [Zondervan, 2016] p.650-651)
 - 2. *He is the only source of spiritual life and fruit.*
 - 3. *All God's promises are "yes" in him. 2 Cor.1:20*
- B. His disciples have his life in them as living branches. 2-11
 - 1. *These are the only living branches of God's life on earth. (!) Jn.1:12-13*
 - a) The branches are alive because of him.
 - b) They rely on and are utterly dependent on him.
- C. His Love is the evident fruit of his life in his disciples.12-17.
 - 1. So, they love as Jesus did. 12-13

IV. Today, the Fourth stunning reality: His message (the gospel) is deeply controversial 5:18-6:4.

A. Expect the World to reject you (often). 18-25. (miseo = to strongly dislike) Five Reasons.

- 1. Because your life-source is Me, not the world. 19
 - a) I chose you out of the World. Eklegomai: to choose from among others, select.
 - (1) You did not choose me, but I chose you. (16)
 - b) *You are the branches of me. Different, ontologically, spiritually because of this.*
- 2. Because the world hated me first. 20.
 - a) You are in me and like me. Col.1:24
 - b) If they persecuted me, they will persecute you.
 - c) If they believed me, they will believe you.
- 3. Because the world does not know God (Him who sent me) 21
 - a) They know he is there (Rom.1:18) but they do not know him.
- 4. Because I remind them that they need to repent. 22-24
 - a) The issue is sin. 22, 24.
 - b) *Moralistic (including religious) people are deeply offended when they are told that they need grace more than advice.*
- 5. Because the scripture must be fulfilled. 25
 - a) Quote from Ps.35:19 or 69:4
- 6. But he doesn't say that everybody will reject. Some people listened to Jesus, and some will listen to the disciples. Acts 18:9
 - a) If they kept my word (listened to me in faith) they will do the same with you

B. Expect the Spirit to be with you. 26-16:4. Four ways

1. He will encourage you. In you and with you. (14:15-18)
 - a) Parakletos = Helper/Counselor/Mediator/Encourager/Advocate. Someone that is on your side and there to strengthen you
 - b) This is God the Spirit, the 3rd person of the Trinity.
2. He will be the main witness through you. 15:26-27
 - a) *The Spirit uses us, not the other way around.*
 - b) *He works before us, after us, in us, and through us.*
3. He will keep you from falling away. 16:1, 4
 - a) *How? By bringing Christ's words to us and embedding His wisdom in us through his word. 15:7*
 - b) I told you...He will remind you.
4. He will sustain you when you lose your world franchise/membership. 16:2
 - a) Put out of the synagogue. Losing your religion, your previous spiritual and cultural identity.
 - b) People think they are serving God by killing you. That's exactly what they did to Christ Jesus.

V. How does the Lord strengthen us with this passage? Four Ways.

- A. He reminds us of who we really are.
 1. Chosen Expects in a fallen world. **1 Peter 1:1-2**
 2. New creatures in God through Christ. 2 Cor.5:17-19
 - a) The life of the Vine flowing in our veins.
- B. He reorients us to our true mission. Being sent to bear witness. 26-27
 1. *A life without purpose or mission that transcends this life will become bankrupt.*
 2. The Spirit's purpose is to "bear witness" of who Jesus is. Risen and Saving Lord.
 3. *We have another reason for being here than just being happy in this age.*
- C. He keeps us from "rejection shock" being shocked by opposition, so...
 1. Don't over-expect from the World. Rom.12:12, 14, 17-21; 1 Pet.2:19-25
 2. Don't take it personally. It's me they don't like. 18
 3. Don't equate popularity with witness. Lk.6:26; 16:15
- D. He focuses us on his Grace and Mercy. Eph.2:1-8; Rom.5:6-11; Jn.2:24-25
 1. *The Lord died for people who hate him!! And is converting them into people who love him.*
 2. He chose us when we hated him--and he put his love on us. Jn.15:16
 3. We were all hateful toward God before he turned us around. Rom.3
 4. *Which is why we can afford to put up with hatred and opposition from our fallen world. In confidence that God will rescue many as he did us. 1 Pet.2*