

**“Holy Spirit’s Convincing Ministry” (part 1)
July 12, 2015**

7 But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

8 When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 about sin, because people do not believe in me; 10 about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; 11 and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. (John 16:7-11 NIV)

Background:

- **Jesus’ final conversation with His disciples (John 13-16)**
- **John 16:7- Lit.- “It is to your extreme advantage; will be far better”**
- **Theme: HS will lead you “into all truth (My reality)”**

CORE: HS will also be at work “in the world” (i.e., on every heart) bringing convincing proof as He corrects the world’s understanding of: sin, righteousness & the judgment.

1. HOW HE CONVICTS US

- **He “convinces”—to bring proof in order to show where we’ve been misguided, where we have misunderstanding, where we are wrong—done with “the gentleness of wisdom” (James 3:13).**
- **i.e., Saul of Tarsus—persecutor, hated & sought to eradicate Jesus’ name**
 - **“Saul, Saul...”- (SHAY—OLE)- spoken as a mother calls her child**
 - **“What have you done?”—God, in love, calling people to step outside of themselves and question their actions**
- **NOTE: His “correction” is not to put us down—but to call us higher!**

2. HOW SIN EFFECTS US

- **We were created by our ultimate Parent (Father God) for amazing companionship with Him—joining Him in His Triune relationship.**
- **At the root of sin is the 1st temptation: “You shall be AS God.”**
 - **NOTE: Any worthwhile temptation has some truth in it**
 - **We were created to be like Him—by being dependent on Him**
 - **SIN says, “You can be like God—without God!”**
 - **SIN SEPARATES (i.e., death)—from God, others, even ourselves**

3. HOW JESUS CONQUERED SIN

- **Jesus came to “seek & save the lost”—means someone values you enough to miss you!**

- We are “lost” on many levels—losing touch, losing interest, loss of identity and direction, etc.
- Jesus came to:
 - REMOVE the divide caused by sin
 - RESTORE fellowship with the Father
 - REVEAL what we’ve been purposed to be (i.e., like Him—“as He is, so are we in this world!” 1 John 4:17)—normal, healthy, whole-hearted living looks like!

SIN is broken, as we believe this—filled with the deep conviction of HS!

4. BECOMING RIGHTEOUS

- Misunderstood as a “religious” word describing a list of rules, with certain sins considered worse than others (i.e., Pharisees pointing out sins of others—while overlooking their own) “ALL have sinned”
- In a culture often consumed with “MY rights”—righteousness asks the question: “What’s right with God?”
- More than opinions of right/wrong—focuses on “what’s right with His heart?”
- Lit.- “IN RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH”
- A COVENANT RELATIONSHIP
 - Opposite of a CONTRACT (*I distrust you, so I protect myself*)
 - In COVENANT, I devote myself to the One I trust
- A HARMONIZED RELATIONSHIP
 - To sing or dance together—making room for one another
 - “Keeping in step with the HS”
 - Not robots or puppets—we make a willful choice to flow with Him
- Ultimately, it’s all about LOVE (not “law”)
 - 10 commandments—in love, I won’t have “other gods”; nor will I lie to you or steal from you
 - His laws now “written on our hearts”; “love Me—keep My commandments”
 - **Rick Warren:** *“Our culture has accepted two huge lies. The first is that if you disagree with someone’s lifestyle, you must fear or hate them. The second is that to love someone means you agree with everything they believe or do. Both are nonsense. You don’t have to compromise convictions to be compassionate.”*

5. THE SOURCE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

- Jesus: “Righteousness—because I go to the Father.”
- From this point on, righteousness will be found in the fact that I conquered sin and death (separation) on the Cross.
- Trusting MY righteousness—not your own self-righteous attempts to please Me.

OUR RESPONSE:

**“Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness”
(Romans 4:2)**

NOTE: Quote from Genesis 15:6- “Believed” (Hebrew word- “to say, ‘Amen.’”)

Our response? **“Be it unto me.”** (and the HS brings convincing proof that this is our new reality). i.e., like the prodigal son receiving his father’s righteous offer—unlike the older brother who “slaved for his father”.

We now share in covenant love—that must be manifest to the world in order for them to come home, too.

Toward the world? More than pointing out their unrighteousness—we point to the One who alone can make us righteous. As we allow the HS to make this real to us—so we can make it known to the world.

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Cor. 5:21

It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God--that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. 1 Cor. 1:30

Therefore, as it is written: "Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord." 1 Cor. 1:31