

## John 54 – Christ’s Death Changed Heaven & Earth

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John 16:4-15

### Christ Continues His Dialogue

- Christ reminds Apostles He is telling them bad news so that when the events occur they will not be bewildered
  - His death foreshadows their fates for being witnesses
  - He had not told them previously because He was with them, grounding them in the essentials of the Gospel
  - This news overwhelms them
  - But Christ does not leave them hopeless; there is help

### Christ Returning to the Father

- Christ bluntly tells them He is returning to Him Who sent Him – Back to the Father; i.e., Heaven
  - He points out that they do not ask Him any questions about His return
  - They are so overwhelmed with the news of their coming fates they are weighted by anxiety
  - Certainly, this was not their expectation; they expected to be victors in God’s Kingdom, except that is future...

## Review of Commandments

- In Lesson 51 we studied the purpose of God's commandments: To reveal sin in the flesh (Jn. 7:17)
- No commandments/Teachings = No accountability
- Sin revealed weakness of the flesh: All sinned
- Man could not save himself nor atone for sin: Weakness
- God must provide Himself as sacrifice for sin: Christ
- Difference between Saved and Lost: Relationship to Law

## Christ Must Go: Spirit Can Come

- Christ tells them that unless He goes, He cannot send the Spirit to be their Advocate
  - If Christ does not die there is no New Covenant; no New Covenant means no indwelling Holy Spirit
  - All His teaching has been pointing toward the stauros
  - The Apostles did not realize the full implications of the stauros; this is true of Christians today

## Mission of Spirit in the World

- Christ details to them the mission of the Holy Spirit to the World; distinct from His New Covenant duties
  - The Spirit will indwell each believer, maturing them in the image of Christ and placing them in the Body
  - He will also be at work in the World preparing them for Christ's return as King - Accountability
  - Both duties ongoing simultaneously since Pentecost

## Convict World: Sin

- The World will stand guilty because the Son came and the world
  - Rejected and killed Him at His coming
  - Rejects and kills those who are His in the World
  - Will unify and reject Christ at His coming (Re 19:11-21)
- Holy Spirit convicts everyone of sin {guilt} which man seeks to destroy and live in comfortably in sin (Ro 1:18-25)

## If Christ Had Not Come...

- If Christ had not come then the world would not be guilty of rejecting Him, killing Him (Jo 15:22)
  - Herein is the conundrum: If Christ had not come there would be no hope for salvation; all are condemned
  - But Christ did come providing New Covenant salvation through His death on the stauros
  - Unbelievers were condemned because some did believe (Jo 1:45, 9:13)

## Convict World: Righteousness

- If Christ had sinned and could not atone for sin then Lucifer would have *proved* that the Father was author of evil {sin} and unjust to condemn *anyone* of sin
  - Christ was successful and this established God's righteousness as the standard for judgment (1Pe 3:18-20)
  - Lucifer and man could not say His righteousness was impossible as He provides it freely to those who repent (Ro 5:15-19; 6:23)

## Convict World: Judgment

- Thus, Lucifer, and all who follow(ed) him, are rightly judged as personally guilty and accountable for sin
  - Christ's life, death, burial, resurrection and ascension changed everything forever in Heaven and on Earth
  - Christ's victory meant the complete and utter defeat of Lucifer and all who follow, and followed, him (Col 2:13-15)
  - Scriptures reveal Lucifer's defeat; Christ's victory

## Defeat of Lucifer Foretold

- Isaiah gives some details of the defeat of Lucifer (Is 14:12-17, Ez 28: 16-19)
  - He was cut down, laid low to the earth
  - He will be brought down to Sheol (Lake of Fire)
  - All who see him will wonder why he had power
- Lucifer lost his position when he sinned but he still had access to Heaven; yet, he was to lose this (Job 1:2)

## Lucifer's Eviction from Heaven

- With the success of Christ, Lucifer and his demons were ousted from Heaven and thrown down to earth just as Isaiah and Ezekiel foretold (Is 12:7-10, 13: 17)
  - Lucifer's tries to destroy True Jews but God dispersed them; He will recall them just before Christ's return
  - Then Lucifer turned to persecuting those who believe in Christ, those who are of the New Covenant (Church)

## Lucifer Slowly Unrestrained

- Now that he is confined to earth, Lucifer has been busy preparing to prevent Christ's victorious return  
(Re 13; 2Th 2:15-17)
- Holy Spirit is the restraining influence on the works of Lucifer; however, His influence is being decreased as Lucifer's time approaches {Great Tribulation}
- Lucifer will be allowed to use a strong delusion, the lie, to unite the lost in regional socialisms bound for war

## Lucifer Enables Two Allies

- As the Dragon, Lucifer enables two men to be his fronts
  - Antichrist - He will be what the world desires but his teachings will oppose Christ's - Declares himself god
  - False Prophet - He will use religion/core values to unite sinners behind the Antichrist {Religion justifies Government}
  - Sinners - They reject Christ {Sin} and His truth {Righteousness}; therefore, God *allows* them to believe The Lie {Judgment} - Separation of Wheat and Tares by individuals

## Lucifer's Methodology

- In the *last days* Spirit says many will reject Christ's truth and worship doctrines of Lucifer through liars (1Ti 4:1-2)
- People will actively seek out false teachers and chase myths condemning themselves to destruction (2Ti 4:3-4)
- These arrogant people reject Christ but have an appearance of godliness yet deny Christ's power (2Ti 3:1-7)
- Though learned in the world: Ignorant in Christ (2Co 1:12)

## Last Days

- What or when are the last days? (1Pe 1:20)
  - Last days are a technical term meaning all time since Christ's: Life, Death, Burial, Resurrection & Ascension
    - This continues until the melting of this Creation (1Pe 1:10)
  - Day of the Lord refers to Christ's reign on earth from His Second Advent until the final rebellion of sinners (Re 20:1-5, 7-10)
  - Destroys Amillennialism and Postmillennialism

## Stauros Pivotal Point in Eternity

- God's plan, begun in Eternity past continues through the establishment of the New Earth in Eternity future, depended on this moment - Christ on the Stauros
  - I would not be exaggerating to say that even God's very existence depended on this moment
  - When Christ uttered, "It is finished," He literally inaugurated a vast paradigm shift of unfathomable proportions beyond the belief of Lucifer and man

## Apostles Truly Overwhelmed

- Christ still has many things to tell the Apostles, and us, but they are overwhelmed and many of us are captive by our own foolishness masquerading as wisdom
  - Christ promises that when the Spirit of Truth comes He will guide each one into all truth (Jn 16:13)
  - Holy Spirit, like Christ, will not speak on His own authority but will speak what He hears from the Father

## Spirit Illumes Christ

- The Spirit has one goal: Glorify Christ who secured God's plan on the Stauros as sinful man (Jn 21:6-24)
  - Though sinless, He was declared sinful by man/Lucifer
  - All that was the Father's is now Christ's
  - Spirit will take all that is Christ's and give it to us
  - This becomes the basis for the Spirit linking each person through Christ to the Father: All are one in Him

## Significance of Insignificance

- God uses the small insignificant aspects of the World to demonstrate His truth over Lucifer's, and man's, profundity (Ze 4:9-10; 1Co 1:25-29)
  - Hebrews were a small people whom God chose
  - Judah was a small province which God chose
  - Apostles were average or below in their society
  - We are average or below when God chooses us

## Depths of God's Grace for Man

- We sit in awed silence at the display of grace and munificence God has displayed in Christ to share with those whom He has called (Ro 11:33-36)
  - No matter how *educated* one becomes, all are simpletons before the grace of God; yet, He blesses us who repented
  - We will spend all eternity learning of His grace and still never arrive at complete comprehension
  - It is All of God and None of Us lest we should boast (2Co 12:9)