

The Christian's Advantage in the World

John 16:4b-11 (page 86 in the black Bibles)

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Introduction:

Jesus tells the disciples that because they are not of the world because He chose them out the world that the world will hate them (15:18ff)

1 John 3:13

Do not be surprised brethren if the world hates you.

John 17:14

I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

Jesus returns to the theme of His impending departure. (16:4b-5)

^{4b}These things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you.

“These things” (see 15:18-16:4a)

“At the beginning” From the time that the disciples followed Jesus till now.

Jesus has been the primary focus of the world's anger, hatred and persecution but when He leaves the world will turn their hatred toward the followers of Jesus.

John 17:12

⁵“But now I am going to Him who sent Me;

John 14:28; 16:10, 17, 28

and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’

John 13:36-37; John 14:5

Up to this point the disciples' questions have been primarily self-centered because of their sadness and concern with the thought that Jesus is leaving them. Their focus hasn't been on Jesus and what He is about to endure and about His return to the Father.

John 14:28

The disciples are filled with sorrow at the thought of Jesus' departure. (16:6)**⁶“But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.**

John 14:1, 27-28; 16:22

“Sorrow” Luke 22:45; John 16:20-22

The Believers' Advantage – The Coming of the Helper (16:7)**⁷“But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away;**

“Advantage” – “beneficial, advantageous, profitable.”

John 11:50 (18:14)

“...it is expedient for you that one man die for the people...”**Explanation****for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you;****but if I go, I will send Him to you.****The Helper's Role in Relation to the World (16:8-11)****⁸“And He, when He comes, will convict the world****concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;**

“Convict” can be translated as “reprove, rebuke” (1 Tim. 5:20) or even “expose” (Eph. 5:11-14) but the idea here is, “convict,” (i.e. 1. “To prove someone guilty of an offense or crime, especially by verdict of a court.” 2. “To convince of wrongdoing or sinfulness.” (Webster's Dict.)

John 8:46

1 Corinthians 14:24-25

“The world”

“This is the one place in Scripture where the Spirit is spoken of as performing a work in “the world”. The many other references refer to what He will do with believers.” (Morris, The gospel According to John, TNICNT, 1971, p. 607)

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

John 8:21-24

¹⁰and concerning righteousness,
because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me;

Jesus' perfect righteousness and His vindication by His resurrection and exaltation in contrast to the self-righteousness of the world.

Romans 3:21-25

¹¹and concerning judgment,
because the ruler of this world has been judged.

"Ruler of this world" John 12:31, 14:30

1 John 3:8; 5:19

Illustrations:

Acts 2:22-24, 36-41

Acts 24:24-25

Application:

The Believer in Jesus Christ is not at a disadvantage because Jesus isn't physically present with us. It is to our advantage because we have the Holy Spirit empowering as witnesses to Christ in the world.

Acts 1:8

John 14:16-17

John 15:26-27

The Christians calling is to be obedient witnesses in the world and to talk about sin, righteousness, judgment and the gospel of Christ.

Romans 1:16-17

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "But the righteous man shall live by faith."

Mark 4:1-20 - The Soils, the Sower and the Seed