

**“The Comforter Has Come!”**  
**John 16:4b-11**

**Introduction:**

1. Let's Turn Back In Our Bibles:
  - To John 16 - Where:
    - In Some Of Jesus' Final Words:
      - To His Disciples:
      - He Warned Them:
        - Of What The World Will Be Like:
          - For Them – Without Him!
    - And - All You Have To Do:
      - Is Look At The History Of The Church:
        - To See That Jesus' Forecast:
          - Has Been & Continues To Be:
            - Fulfilled!
        - Because - The Hatred & Hostility Of The World:
          - Against The Church:
            - Which Started In The Book Of Acts:
              - Continues Even:
                - Until Today!
2. But - Even Though:
  - Jesus Wanted Us To Know This About:
    - The World!
  - He Also Wanted Us To Know:
    - That - As His Witnesses To This World:
      - We Would Never Be:
        - Alone In It!
      - We Must Not Be:
        - Aimless In It!
      - And - We Need Not Be:
        - Alarmed About It!
    - And - This Is What We Saw:
      - The Last Time We Were In John!
3. But - Jesus Knew:
  - That His Disciples:
    - Still Had Some Concerns:
      - About His Departure:
        - From This World!
      - And - About Their Distress:
        - In This World!
    - And So - From The Last Part:
      - Of 16:4b-11 - Jesus Addresses Their Concerns:
        - Once Again - Through:
          - The Work & Ministry Of The Comforter:
            - Who Both He & His Father Would Send:
              - Soon After He Left!
    - And So - Jesus Said:
      - Starting At The End Of 16:4b:
        - “And these things I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you. / But now I go my way to him that sent me; and none of you asketh me, Whither goest thou? / But because I have said these things unto you, sorrow hath filled your heart. / Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. / And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: / Of sin, because they believe not on me; / Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; / Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged!”
4. Now - It Is Clear That:
  - The More Jesus Shared With His Disciples:

- Starting In Chapter 13 Until Now:
  - The More Concern They Had!
- Especially Since He Already Told Them:
  - Several Times:
    - That He Was About To:
      - Leave Them In This World!
        - 13:33 & 14:28!
  - And Now - In 16:5 - Jesus Says Again:
    - “But now I go my way to him that sent me; and none of you asketh me, Whither goest thou?”
- Now - You Would Feel Very Sad:
  - If Someone You Loved & Were Close To:
    - Kept Telling You:
      - That He Was About To Leave You!
        - Especially If You Would Be Surrounded By Danger & Distress!
  - I’m Sure - Sorrow Would Fill:
    - Your Heart - Just Like It Did:
      - The Disciples! (16:6)
  - Even If You Knew:
    - That The Place Your Loved One Was Going:
      - Was A Far Better Place For Them:
        - Than Where They Were Now!

5. So - You Would Experience:
- The Same Kinds Of Concerns:
    - That The Disciples Had!
  - And So - The First Thing:
    - That Jesus Addresses:
      - In These Verses Is:

**1. *The Concern About The Savior!***

- That Is - The Disciples’ Concern:
  - About The Lord Jesus!
    - And - Jesus Does Acknowledge:
      - Some Of Their Deepest Concerns:
        - About His Departure!
    - Which - We Know:
      - Is To Take Place:
        - Through The Cross!
  - But - Their First Concern:
    - About Jesus Is:
- His Presence With Them!
  - Which They Have Experienced & Enjoyed:
    - For Over Three Years Now!
      - In Which They Grew In:
        - Their Faith & Hope & Love:
          - All Directed Toward Him!
      - What An Experience:
        - That Must Have Been!
  - But Now - They Are Concerned About:
    - The Absence Of His Presence:
      - When He Would Leave Them!
  - And So - In 16:4b:
    - Jesus Acknowledges Their Concern!
      - By Saying - “And these things I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you!”
  - Jesus Knew That:
    - The Things He Just Told Them:
      - About The World:
        - Would Be Difficult For Them To Hear!
  - And - That Was One Reason:

- He Did Not Tell Them Everything:
  - That Being One Of His Disciples:
    - Would Entail!
- But - The Other Reason Was:
  - He Did Not Need To Tell Them Everything:
    - Because Of His Presence:
      - With Them!
- You See - The Whole Time That:
  - Jesus Was Personally Present With Them:
    - He Protected Them & Preserved Them:
      - From The Hatred & Hostility Of The World - That Was:
        - Directed At Him!
- And - Jesus Was Going To:
  - Protect & Preserve Them:
    - Even Through His Arrest Later That Night:
      - In The Garden Of Gethsemane!
  - Where - In 18:8-9:
    - As He & His Disciples Were Surrounded By An Imposing Band Of Men:
      - With "Lanterns & Torches & Weapons!"
    - He Simply Told The Arresting Officials:
      - "If therefore ye seek me, let these go their way: / That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou gavest me have I lost none!"
- The Presence Of Jesus:
  - Was A Comfort To The Disciples:
    - The Whole Time:
      - He Was With Them!
  - But - What Would Happen:
    - To Them - When His Personal Presence:
      - Was Gone For Good?
  - This Was Their First Concern!
    - And - Their Second Concern:
      - About Jesus Was:
- His Preparation Of Them!
  - Which They Too Experienced:
    - As They Followed Him!
      - They Were True "Disciples" Or:
        - Pupils & Students!
  - And - They Had Learned:
    - So Much From Jesus:
      - As Their Rabbi & Master!
    - Some Lessons:
      - Were Harder Than Others!
    - But - They Were Growing:
      - By Leaps & Bounds!
    - Jesus Had Even Taken Some Of Them:
      - Who Were "Fisher-Men" - And:
        - Trained & Prepared Them:
          - To Be "Fishers Of Men!" (Matt. 4:19)
  - But Now - They Were Concerned About:
    - The Conclusion Of His Preparation:
      - When He Would Leave Them!
    - Maybe You Never Felt This Way:
      - When You Were Done With:
        - Some Of Your Preparation!
          - High School / College / Other Training!
    - But - If It Was Training:
      - That Really Mattered:
        - In Life & Eternity!
      - Led By The Lord Himself:

- I'm Sure You Too Would Not Want It To End! Ready?
  - But - It Had To End At Some Point:
    - And So - In 16:5:
      - Jesus Acknowledged This Concern Too!
        - By Saying - "But now I go my way to him that sent me; and none of you asketh me, Whither goest thou?"
    - Now - Unlike Some:
      - I Don't Believe Jesus Is Being:
        - Critical With His Disciples Here!
      - As If To Say:
        - Why Aren't You Asking Me Any Questions About This?
    - But Instead - Many Of The Questions:
      - That His Disciples Asked Jesus:
        - Back In The Upper Room:
          - In Chapter 13!
      - He Answered & Addressed:
        - In Such A Way That:
          - They Trusted Him Even If They Did Not Fully Understand Him!
  - And So Jesus Could Say:
    - "None Of You Asketh Me - Whither Goest Thou!"
      - Because - By This Time:
        - They Knew!
      - He's Going:
        - To The One Who Sent Him!
          - Because - He's About To Finish His Mission In This World!
      - And - He's Going:
        - To His Father!
          - Because - This World Is Not His Home!
  - But Still - They Were About To Lose:
    - Their Teacher - Who They Loved:
      - With All Of Their Heart!
    - And Even Though:
      - Their Time Of Training:
        - Was Tough At Times!
          - **IE:** Like A Boot Camp!
    - Their Preparation By Jesus:
      - Was A Comfort To The Disciples:
        - While He Was With Them!
      - But - What Would Happen:
        - When That Preparation:
          - Came To An End?
    - This Was Their Second Concern!
      - But - They Also Had A Third Concern:
        - About Jesus - Which Was:
- His Picture To Them:
  - Of The World Around Them:
    - That He Just Painted For Them:
      - With His Words!
    - A World Of Hatred & Hostility & Even Harm:
      - For Those Who:
        - Have Faith In & Follow Him!
  - This Was Perhaps:
    - Their Biggest Concern!
      - Because - It's What Jesus Had *Just*:
        - Told Them About! (15:19-20)
    - In 16:2 - Jesus Told Them Specifically:
      - "They Shall Put You Out Of The Synagogues: Yea, The Time Cometh, That Whosoever Killeth You Will Think That He Doeth God Service!"
- No Wonder The Disciples Were Concerned!

- Because Of The Not-So-Pretty Picture:
  - Of What The World Will Be Like:
    - When He Leaves Them!
- And - The Picture Of The World:
  - Hasn't Gotten Any Better!
    - Has It?
- And So - In 16:6:
  - Jesus Recognizes This Concern Too!
    - So He Says - "But because I have said these things unto you, sorrow hath filled your heart!"
  - So - Jesus Knew:
    - All About Them & Their Concerns:
      - And The Sorrow:
        - That "Filled Their Hearts" Like Water In A Sponge!
  - But - Jesus Was & Is Always:
    - Touched With The Feeling Of Our Infirmities!
      - And So - He Not Only Recognizes Our Concerns, He Cares!
    - Just Like He Cared For:
      - All The Concerns Of:
        - His Disciples!
  - Does Jesus care when my way is dark  
With a nameless dread and fear?  
As the daylight fades into deep night shades,  
Does He care enough to be near?
    - Oh, yes, He cares, I know He cares,  
His heart is touched with my grief;  
When the days are weary, the long nights dreary,  
I know my Savior cares!
- And Yet - The Picture Jesus Painted For Them & For Us:
  - Is Still Full Of Shadows & Darkness!
- These Are The Concerns That:
  - The Disciples Had About Jesus:
    - When He Would Leave Them:
      - In This World!
    - And Maybe - Some Of Their Concerns:
      - Are Your Concerns!
  - Even Though You Have Never Been:
    - With Jesus - Like The Disciples Were:
      - You Still Wonder & Even Worry About:
    - God's Presence With You!
      - Who Will Protect You & Preserve You:
        - From All The Danger & Deception & Distress In This World?
    - God's Preparation Of You!
      - How Can You Be Ready For:
        - What Might Happen To You:
          - In This World?
    - And - God's Picture To You:
      - Of This World:
        - In His Word!
- Well - Jesus Has Something Else To Say:
  - About All Of These Concerns!
    - Because - Even When You Have Them:
      - You Can Experience - Like The Disciples:

## 2. ***The Comfort Of The Spirit!***

- Who Jesus Brings Up Once Again:
  - In 16:7 - Who Is Called:
    - The "Comforter" - Or - "Paraclete!"
      - One Who Will Come Alongside You:

- To Be Your Aid & Advocate:
  - In This World!
- And So - It Is The Comforter:
  - The Holy Spirit Of God:
    - Who Jesus Also Described As:
      - The Spirit Of Truth!
  - It Is The Comforter:
    - Who Is The Answer:
      - For Each & Every Concern:
        - You Have About Jesus!
- Because - Jesus Will Always:
  - Provide His Comfort:
    - For Your Concerns:
      - If You Believe & Trust In Him!
- And So - In The First Part Of:
  - 16:7 - Jesus Even Says:
    - “Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away!”
- So - Instead Of Thinking Of Ways:
  - That He Could Get Out Of:
    - “Going Away!”
      - **IE:** Like We Might Want Someone To Do - If They Were About To Leave!
- Jesus Actually Tells His Disciples:
  - And Us - That:
    - “It Is Expedient!”
  - Other Ways This Can Be Said:
    - “It Is To Your Advantage!” (NKJV)
    - “It Is For Your Good!” (NIV)
    - “It Is Profitable!” (11:50 - Caiaphas)
      - “It Is Expedient For Us, That One Man Should Die For The People, And That The Whole Nation Perish Not!”
    - “It Is Better!”
      - For Us - That He “Goes Away!”
- Now - This Would, No Doubt:
  - Have Been A Shock To The Disciples!
    - How Could It Be Better:
      - In Any Sense Of The Term:
        - For Jesus To Leave?
  - What About:
    - His Presence?
      - Is There Any Better Presence:
        - Than Jesus?
  - What About:
    - His Preparation?
      - Is There Any Better Teacher:
        - Than Jesus?
  - What About:
    - His Picture Of The World?
      - Is There Any Better Helper:
        - Than Jesus?
- They Would Have Said - No!
  - But Jesus Says - Yes! There Is!
    - But - How Can This Be?
  - Well - Because Of What We Learn:
    - In Other Places About:
      - The Holy Spirit!
    - The Holy Spirit Extends:
      - And Even Completes:
        - All That Jesus Started In This World!
- And So - The Comforter:

- Is The Answer To:
  - All Of Your Concerns:
  - About Jesus!
- It Is The Comforter Who:
  - Is The Answer To:
    - Your Concern About:
      - The Picture Of This World:
        - That Jesus Painted For Us!
  - Which Is Why:
    - Jesus Brings Him Up Again:
      - In 16:7b - "For if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you!"
  - You See - If Jesus Stayed:
    - His Personal Presence:
      - Would Have Remained Limited:
        - Because Of His Nature:
          - As A Man!
      - His Personal Protection & Preservation:
        - Would Have Extended Only To:
          - The Disciples Who Saw Him & Heard Him:
            - Just Like Those Eleven!
    - But - Since Jesus Departed:
      - Even Though His Picture Of The World:
        - Remains The Same!
          - Dark & Gloomy!
        - There Is Sunlight:
          - Breaking Through Those Clouds:
            - And Shining Onto Every One:
              - Who Believes In Him!
          - No Matter Where:
            - You Live In This World!
        - What A Comfort This Is! Especially To Us:
          - Who Live Over 6,000 Miles & 2,000 Years Away From Where & When Jesus Lived & Ministered!
      - The Provision Of The Holy Spirit:
        - Is The Best Thing For You:
          - In This World!
        - So - How Do You Know:
          - If He Is With You?
        - Not Through Some Sign Or Wonder Or Work:
          - But Through The Simple Promise:
            - We Find In God's Word!
        - If You Believe In Christ - And:
          - Belong To Christ - Then:
            - You "Are The Temple Of God, And The Spirit Of God Dwelleth In You!" (1 Corinthians 3:16)
      - So - Even In This World:
        - You Are Not Alone - And:
          - You Do Not Need To Fear!
      - Because - Jesus Will Always:
        - Provide His Comfort:
          - For Your Concerns:
            - If You Believe In Him!
    - The Comforter Is Also:
      - The Answer To:
        - Your Concern About:
          - The Preparation:
            - You Need - In This World!
        - Which Is Why Jesus Also Said:
          - In 16:7b - "But if I depart, I will send him unto you!"

- So - Once Again - Jesus Reassures Us:
  - That He Will Not:
    - Leave Us Alone!
  - He Will Not:
    - Leave Us Comfortless! (14:18)
- And So - Through The Ministry:
  - Of The Holy Spirit:
    - Our Training & Preparation:
      - Continues!
- And - Its Even Better:
  - Because The Spirit's Teaching:
    - Is Even More Persuasive & Penetrating!
    - He Works From The Inside! In Your Heart!
- Because - Jesus Will Always:
  - Provide His Comfort:
    - For Your Concerns:
      - If You Will Just Trust Him!
      - But Even More:
- The Comforter Is:
  - The Answer To:
    - Your Concern About:
      - The Presence Of Jesus:
        - With You In This World!
  - Because - It Is The Holy Spirit:
    - Who Will Carry On The Work:
      - Of Jesus Himself:
        - In This World!
    - The Work That He Tells Us About:
      - In 16:8 - "And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment!"
  - All This Describes What Jesus Himself Did!
    - But - His Ministry Was Limited:
      - To The People & The Places:
        - He Personally Served!
  - But - The Comforter:
    - Is Able To Extend & Expand Jesus' Ministry:
      - To This World!
    - And So - What Does He Do?
      - He "Reproves" The World!
    - Which Means That:
      - He Both Convicts & Convinces Those Who Are In The World:
        - About The Truth & Reality Of Spiritual Things!
  - According To 16:9:
    - Like Jesus - He Will Convict & Convince People:
      - About The Truth Of Sin:
        - "Because They Believe Not In Jesus!"
        - Which Is The Greatest Sin Of All!
    - This World Is Wrong:
      - About Its Sin! All Too Often:
        - It Calls "Evil Good, And Good Evil" & "Put Darkness For Light, And Light For Darkness!" (Isaiah 5:20)
      - And So - The Holy Spirit Came To Shine The Light Of Truth:
        - To Those Who Do Not Believe In Jesus Christ!
    - Because - Sinners Will Never:
      - Come To The Savior:
        - Until They Are Convicted In Their Hearts:
          - About Their Sin!
      - And - This Is The Work:
        - Of The Holy Spirit!



- But What He Does For The World:
  - He Still Does For Us!
  - He Convicts & Convinces Us:
    - Of Our Sin!
  - Need To Rely On Him:
    - And Respond To Him!
- But Also - According To 16:10:
  - Like Jesus - He Will Convict & Convince People:
    - About The Truth Of Righteousness:
      - “Because Jesus Was Going To His Father, And His Disciples Would See Him No More!”
  - This World Is Wrong:
    - About Its Righteousness!
      - Because They Cannot See:
        - Their Works The Way:
          - God Does!
    - According To Isaiah 64:6:
      - “All Our Righteousnesses Are As Filthy Rags!”
  - And - Sinners Will Never:
    - See Their Need Of The Savior:
      - Until They Are Convicted In Their Hearts:
        - That What They Do Is Not Enough:
          - To Please God!
    - They Need Something More!
      - Even The Righteousness:
        - Of God Himself!
  - And - This Is What Jesus:
    - Displayed The Whole Time:
      - He Was Here In This World!
    - And - Now That He’s Gone:
      - This Too Is The Work:
        - Of The Holy Spirit!
  - But What He Does For The World:
    - He Still Does For Us!
    - He Convicts & Convinces Us:
      - Of Righteousness!
    - He Is The One Who Whispers:
      - In Your Heart - “This Is The Way, Walk Ye In It!” (Isaiah 30:21)
    - And - You Need To Rely On Him:
      - And Respond To Him!
  - And Also - According To 16:11:
    - Like Jesus - He Will Convict & Convince People:
      - About The Truth Of Judgment:
        - “Because The Prince Of This World Has Been Judged!”
    - The World Is Wrong:
      - About Its Judgment!
        - Because - They Don’t Recognize:
          - How Holy God Is! And:
            - How Sinful They Are!
    - And - They Need God:
      - To Do Something:
        - To Bridge That Gap!
      - Otherwise - They Will Experience:
        - The Same Judgment:
          - Of The Devil Himself!
    - And Yet - Sinners Will Never:
      - Believe In The Savior:
        - Until They See That Jesus Alone:
          - Is God’s Solution:

- For Their Sin & Their Judgment!
- And - Once Again:
  - This Is The Work:
    - Of The Holy Spirit!
- But What He Does For The World:
  - He Still Does For Us!
  - He Convicts & Convinces Us:
    - Of Judgment!
- That Is - He Reassures You:
  - That - When You Believe In Christ Alone:
    - “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit!” (Romans 8:1)
- And Now - You Can Rely On Him:
  - And Respond To Him!
- And So - When Jesus Left:
  - The Holy Spirit Came:
    - To Take Over And:
      - Continue The Ministry Of Jesus!
  - Which Means:
    - The Presence Of Jesus:
      - Is Still With You:
        - Through The Holy Spirit!
  - Because - Jesus Promised:
    - To Always Provide His Comfort:
      - For Your Concerns:
        - When You Respond To The Work Of The Holy Spirit:
          - When It Comes To Your Sin & Your Righteousness & Your Judgment!

**Conclusion:**

1. Do You Have The Same Concerns:
  - About Jesus - That:
    - The Disciples Did?
  - The Concern About:
    - His Picture:
      - Of This World?
    - Your Preparation:
      - For This World?
    - And Even - His Presence:
      - With You - In This World?
2. Then - Rely On & Respond To Jesus:
  - And - The One He Sent:
    - To Provide His Comfort:
      - For Those Concerns!
    - Because - The One Jesus Sent:
      - “The Comforter – Has Come!”
        - For You!

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