

Parakletos

At Work

10-6-24

John 16:7 (ESV)

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the **Para/klē/tos** will not come to you. But if I go, I will send HIM to you.

For the 4th time, Parakletos is used. Only used 5 times in the entire Bible and four of them in John. Para/klē/tos can be translated as Helper, Advocate, Comforter, Counselor. In John 14:16, we are told the Parakletos is the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth. Interestingly, Jesus tells us our sins are forgiven and we have a home in heaven, yet HE still finds it necessary to tell us 4 times about the Parakletos? Not only does Jesus tell us for 4 times, HE now says that it is important for HIM to go away so that the Parakletos will come. Why the emphasis?

John 16:8 (ESV)

When the **Para/klē/tos** comes, HE will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment.

Do we hear what Jesus said? Who will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment? The Para/klē/tos! How many of us are trying to convict people concerning sin and righteousness and judgment? Not our job. The Para/klē/tos is the prosecuting attorney who presents God's case against humanity. The Para/klē/tos creates an inescapable awareness of sin so that it cannot be dismissed with any excuse or evaded by taking refuge in the fact that "everybody is doing it."

The Para/klē/tos function is like that of Nathan the prophet, who said to David after his sin with Bathsheba, “You are the man!” which compelled David to acknowledge his sins. See 2Sam.12:7. David was so convicted he cried out to God, “Against YOU, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in YOUR sight!” See Ps.51:4. This is the work of the Para/klē/tos! Let me restate this, “It is the Parakletos who convicts the world of sin.”

John 16:9 (ESV)

When the **Para/klē/tos** comes, HE will convict the world concerning sin, because they do not believe in ME.

This is why David said, “Against YOU only God, have I sinned!” Sin is not doing something bad. Sin it is acting independent from God because of our unbelief.

Romans 14:23 (ESV)

For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.

Jesus insisted that sin was fundamentally the rejection of HIS message and HIS mission. A court can convict a man of murder, but only the Para/klē/tos can convict him of unbelief.

John 16:10 (ESV)

When the **Para/klē/tos** comes, HE will convict the world concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see ME no longer.

The second area in which the Para/klē/tos convicts the world is righteousness.

There must be an awareness of the holiness of God before a person will realize his own deficiency. Apart from a standard of righteousness, there can be no sin. Only the Para/klē/tos convicts the world of God's righteousness or simply stated convicts the world that God is right. We don't convict the world that God is right. The Para/klē/tos convicts the world that God is right confirmed because Jesus returned to the Father to sit at HIS right hand. Jesus' resurrection vindicates God righteousness.

John 16:11 (ESV)

When the **Para/klē/tos** comes, HE will convict the world concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

The third area in which the Para/klē/tos convicts the world is judgement. When human sin is confronted by the righteousness of Christ, condemnation and judgement is self-evident. Satan, the ruler of this world *has been judged and now the Para/klē/tos* convicts the world of the coming judgment for *satanic self-will and rebellion toward God. Only the Para/klē/tos* convicts the world of eternal condemnation.

In summary, we need to understand that God has this world in HIS HANDS and that the Para/klē/tos is convicting the world of sin, righteousness, and judgement. The Para/klē/tos is going before us. Because we don't fully understand God's will, often HE is moving in spite of us and not because of us. Since the Para/klē/tos is moving before us, we need to be alert about what is happening around us. Henry Blackaby said,

“We should see where God is working and join HIM.” We are to follow Christ and not lead Christ by trying to force HIM into our plans.

When we trust Christ and let the Para/klē/tos go before us, our instructions become abundantly clear.

Philippians 4:4–7 (ESV)

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Good News! Jesus doesn't condemn. Jesus rescues! Jesus sends the Para/klē/tos!

John 3:17 (ESV)

For God did not send HIS Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through HIM.

Therefore, we rejoice because:

John 3:16 (ESV)

For God so loved the world, that HE gave HIS only Son, that whoever believes in HIM should not perish but have eternal life.