

The Work of the Holy Spirit

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[0:00] John 16, verse 7.

The Lord is in the context here, he's talking about going away.! And 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 has 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.

I want to talk about the Spirit's work. The work of the Holy Spirit. The work of the Holy Spirit. And we see it spelled out here in these verses. In particular, verse 8.

[1:16] He reproveth. And when he has come, he will reprove or convict. He will reprove the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgment.

He reproveth. He prompts. He convicts. That's the work of the Holy Spirit. The Lord Jesus says that's what he will do. Now, I was reading an article that was saying, most American teens believe in a works-based salvation.

I think it's probably true of Aussies too. Teens believe in a works-based salvation. These researchers from the National Study of Youth and Religion have concluded that American teens believe in a combination of works-based righteousness, religion as psychological well-being, and a distant, non-interfering kind of God, with no place for sin, judgment, salvation, or Christ.

Their creed is a far cry from Christianity. The study found that these teens believe that God exists, who created the world, and watches over human life.

God wants people to be nice to each other. The central goal of life is to be happy and feel good about oneself. And, of course, good people go to heaven when they die.

[2:35] That's what American teens believe. But it's counter to what the Bible says. We must critically examine what the Word of God says, what the Bible teaches, and get a biblical understanding about these things.

And the first thing to get a biblical understanding about is sin. And when He has come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.

Of sin, because they believe not on me. Unbelief. Sin. Disbelief in Christ. It's a lack of faith in Christ.

It's where sin is the domination of our life. And we need to understand sin. Sin in all its sinfulness.

In its exceeding sinfulness. We read of that in Romans 7.13. Paul says sin is exceeding sinful. We need to realise the exceeding sinfulness of sin.

[3:36] Of our sin. Of my sin. Let's get personal. The exceeding sinfulness of our sin. And, you know, the person I can least trust is the one I look in the mirror at.

You know, have no confidence in the flesh. Have no confidence in the flesh. Not only one of us can have confidence in a man. In ourself. In our flesh.

The exceeding sinfulness of sin. We need to recognise it for what it is. It's exceeding sinful. But thank God, there's exceeding great and precious promises. 2 Peter 1.4.

And there's an exceeding riches of His grace to us. Exceeding riches of His grace. In Ephesians 2.7. So realise that. Exceeding sinfulness.

But realise exceeding great and precious promises. Realise exceeding riches of His grace. See sin as God sees it today. That's what we must do.

[4:36] We must see sin as God sees it. See sin in all its deceitfulness. In Hebrews 3.13 it says, Exhort one another daily. Lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

Exhort one another daily. While it is called today. Lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. Not only is there a sinfulness to sin.

There's a deceitfulness to sin. Sin is deceitful. It's deceitful. As the heart of man. Deceitful. Desperately wicked. Who can know it? Instead of being hardened. Instead of being hardened. By sin. Be softened. By the Spirit. Be softened by the Spirit. That hardness. That hardness can be softened. By the Spirit of God. As we come in repentance. Our sin can be dealt with. Sinfulness. Deceitfulness. Neglectfulness.

[5:41] James 4.17. There's a neglectfulness to sin. It's not just what we do. It's what we don't do. James 4.17. Therefore to him that knoweth to do good.

And doeth it not. To him it is sin. To him that knoweth to do good. And doeth it not. To him. It is sin. Sin can be defined as neglect. Sin can be a neglectfulness. Husbands. Neglecting to love your wives. As Christ loved the church. It's sin. Wives. Neglecting to reverence your husband. It's sin. Fathers. Provoking your children to rather. [6:39] It's sin. Children. Failing to obey your parents. It's sin. Christians. Neglecting to worship.

Neglecting to witness. It's sin. To him that knoweth to do good. And doeth it not. To him. It is sin. The neglectfulness of sin. Friends. We need to be provoked. To provoke. One another unto. Love. And to good works. Sinfulness.

Deceitfulness. Neglectfulness. Unfruitfulness. Ephesians 5.11. Ephesians 5.11. And have no fellowship. With the unfruitful works of darkness.

But rather. Recrue them. Sin is unfruitful. It's going to stifle your growth. It's going to stunt your growth. It's going to make you barren. And sterile as a Christian.

[7:38] Sin. Proverbs 24.9. It says. The thought of foolishness is sin. Even the thought of foolishness is sin.

Sin can be a thought. Romans 14.23. Whatsoever is not of faith is sin. Sin.

Sinfulness. Exceeding sinfulness. Neglectfulness. Deceitfulness. Unfruitfulness. Sin. Recognise it. Even the thought. The thought of foolishness is sin. Proverbs 24.9. Why do we feed our minds with the thought of foolishness?

We know what we're barren. We're barren with all the time, aren't we? Let's face it. We don't want that. Whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

[8:36] And consider the result of sin. What sin caused. What my sin did. My sin nailed in. My sin nailed in.

Our sin. Our sin. Our sin. Our sin. Our sin. Our sin. Was the reason for the cross. Was the reason for Calvary. Was the reason for his blood. Poured out.

Our sin. Yours. And mine. All we like sheep. Have gone astray. The Lord hath laid on him. The iniquity. Of us all.

We have turned everyone. To his own way. And the Lord hath laid on him. The iniquity. Of us all. When he has come.

When he the comforter. When he the Holy Spirit has come. He will convict the world of sin. Friends we need to be convicted of our sin. We need to see sin. In the stark reality.

[9:34] Of what it is. And he will convict the world. He will reprove the world of sin. And of righteousness. And of judgment. Of righteousness.

Because I go to my Father. And he see me no more. Righteousness. Righteousness. The wonder of it. That sinful man. Exceeding sinful man.

Could be made righteous. Righteous. Righteous. By the blood. Of the Lamb. Made right. With God. Made in right standing with him.

That righteousness is made possible. Because of Calvary. Because of Calvary. Because of those outstretched arms. Because of that wounded man. Because of that face.

Marred more than any man. Because of those wounds. Those bruising. That mocking. That spitting. That hatred that he bore. That sin that he carried.

[10:31] On his own body. On the tree. Made possible. Righteousness is made possible. Thank God. We that were counted. As unrighteousness. We that were counted.

As unrighteous. Can be changed. Changed. Changed. Into his likeness. We read of a description. Of all kinds of. Foul things.

And Paul says. And such were. Some of you. Thank God. Thank God. That the foulest. Can be made clean. That the most unrighteous.

Can be made. Righteous. That the chief of sinners. Paul himself. Can be changed. Changed. For that to occur. We must let go.

Of our self. Righteousness. We must. Tear off. Our self. Righteousness. And exchange it. For his. Perfect.

[11:27] Righteousness. We must. We must. If we cling. To those sinful. Dirty rags. Those filthy rags. Of our own.

Righteousness. We'll be foul still. But if we come. To the fountain. If we come. To the righteous one. The holy one. He can change us. As we read. In 2 Corinthians. 5. 21. His righteousness. Can be. Imputed. To us. He can credit it.

To your account. Whilst you don't deserve. A cent of it. An iota of it. He grants it. Freely. Of his mercy.

And grace. It's given. It's given. To us. As a gift. These young people. Who thought. That righteousness.

[12:22] Was some kind of. Works based thing. Be nice to everybody. Oh we should do that too. God helping us. Some people are nice. They're hard to be nice too. But. But God can help us.

To be nice. But that's not going to save your soul. You're going to be damned. To a devil's help. Without Christ's blood. Washing your sin away. There's no hope for you.

No matter how hard. You try. No matter what efforts you make. You're damned. Without the blood. Without your saving grace. You're lost.

Don't kid yourselves today. You've got to let go of your own righteousness. Let go of even your own effort. Of striving. Of yourself.

For salvation. And trust his grace. Call out. Cry out. While you're still opportunity to. And replace your self-righteousness. With his righteousness.

[13:17] Thank God it says. For he hath made him. He hath made him. God hath made Christ sin. For us who knew no sin.

That we might be made. The righteousness of God. In him. He hath made him sin. For us who knew no sin.

Can you grasp that today? It's unfathomable isn't it? It's unimaginable. We can't conceive of it. He not only takes our sin.

But he exchanges our sin. With his righteousness. Thank God for that. Thank God that it's by his grace. It's by his grace people today.

Thank God for that. If it was any doing of our own. We would be in a hopeless state. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus. Who of God is made unto us. wisdom and righteousness.

[14:14] And sanctification and redemption. 1 Corinthians 1 verse 30 and 31. That according as it is written. He that glorieth let him glory in the Lord.

It tells us of his name. One of his names. The Lord our righteousness. It's talking of Christ. In Jeremiah 23.6.

The prophets saw that in his days Judah shall be saved. Israel shall dwell safely. This is his name whereby he shall be called. The Lord our righteousness.

Righteousness. It means a right standing. A legal right standing. With God. Christ has taken away. Our sin.

That's our righteousness. And from that legal standing. Flows. A right living. That naturally should follow. Right living.

[15:16] I was. Provoked to think of. To explain this. To a degree. What the state government. Is doing at the moment.

They've launched a campaign. To help people make. Healthier choices. Healthier choices. Healthier choices. And the campaign is called. Don't stop it.

Swap it. Don't stop it. Swap it. Because it realises. Recognises some people. Take a bit of letting go. Of all that. Yummy.

Yucky ducky. That's a. You know that's a. Fast food. McDonald's. Stuff. And all that stuff. To eat less of that. And eat more of the healthy stuff. So I'm just using this as a bit of an illustration.

The government says. Swap it. Swap the unhealthy. With the healthy. And that's a good thing. That we could all do. It's a good. A good truth. But the Bible doesn't say.

[16:14] The Bible says to stop it as well. But. But. But. You know. We can learn. In a sense of. Stop. Some of that unhealthy stuff. And increase more of the healthy stuff.

We can think of that spiritually. Couldn't we. What is the healthier choice for me to make as a Christian? You know. I'm. Trying to. Illustrate this here.

You know. One of my besetting sins. If I'm. Parked in front of a TV set. That's why we don't ever turn it on. But. But. You know. You get that. The remote. You know. You put your brain in remote. Click. And you put on that blank stare. And. You just sit there. Is that a healthy choice? As a Christian?

Or. Can I swap that? Swap it. You know. Swap it. Learn. Instead. Again. I'm not. I usually.

[17:11] You know. Rabbit's on about TV. Now and again. But. But we know. It's a true. Isn't it? Let's face it. Come on. People. Let's be honest. All right. Is it much that's wholesome.

And healthy for you as a Christian. On that. TV. No. There's not a lot is there. Let's be honest. And so. Swap it. Swap your remote.

For the word. It's a good choice. Isn't it? It's a healthier choice. For you as a Christian. It's a more wholesome choice. Swap that which is doubtful. For that which is healthy.

You know. I'm dismayed. When I hear of. Folk. They take their children down. The DVD store. And they let the children pick out. What they want to watch.

And. Friends. We've got to be careful of that. We've got to be careful. What's healthier? Maybe it would be a healthier choice. A healthier choice. As a Christian. And even then.

[18:11] You've got to be careful. To go down the Christian bookstore. And buy a Christian DVD to watch. I mean. Even then. You've got to be careful. But. But nevertheless. Better to swap.

That which is doubtful. For that which is more healthy for you as a Christian. Now when you're. You're driving down the road. And you turn the radio station on. Maybe a healthier choice might be. To have a Christian CD. Plug that into your car. When you've got time to spare. Swap it. Swap the worldly radio program. With something that's godly.

And edifying. Put a CD. A preaching sermon. Or a. A Christian. Music. CD. Swap it. Exchange.

That which is doubtful. With that which is going to be more beneficial. We can learn to do that. What is healthiest for my soul? It's righteousness isn't it? It's thinking what's the righteous choice? What's the righteous choice?

[19:07] It's not about self-righteousness. So you can parade it around to others. It's about you. Giving account. To the Lord. For yourself. It's about me. Giving account. To the Lord. For myself.

And. He that doeth righteousness. Is born of him. It says in 1 John 2.29. It'll show. If you're righteous. It'll show. There'll be fruits. It'll be evident. As we read in Hosea 10 verse 12.

Sow to yourselves in righteousness. Reap in mercy. Break up your fallow ground. For it is time to seek the Lord. Till he come and rain righteousness upon you. There's a work there.

There's a reaping. There's a breaking up of fallow ground. There's a recognising. Some things need change. Some things need challenge. It comes from him. Awake to righteousness and sin not.

1 Corinthians 15.34. Righteousness. It's what you do. It's a positive thing. Righteousness is a positive thing. It's a positive thing.

[20:03] I'm going to make the healthier choice. I'm going to make the more spiritual choice. I'm going to seek to witness to my friends. If I'm on Facebook and someone starts barraging me with curse words and swear words and filthy jokes or innuendos or rubbish, I'm going to challenge them.

I'm going to speak to them. I'm going to preach to them. And I'm going to cut them off if they don't listen. Because I'm a Christian. I'm going to make the healthier choice. Now, I'm on Facebook because I want to witness there.

I'm on Facebook because I want to be salt and light. Because I want to promote good godly stuff. That's why I'm on Facebook. It's not about having a yarn about all the latest gossip and Hollywood

trash.

People, it's about making the right choices. And I need to make more of the same and be questioning myself. And we all need to question ourselves.

Friends, it's about when he's come, he will reprove the world of sin. He'll reprove the world of righteousness. What can I do? What can you do in a positive way?

[21:14] In a positive way to shine his light. To be filled with the fruits of righteousness. Of the fruitfulness to righteousness.

Philippians 1.11 As much we could say.

The grace of God teaches us that denying ungodliness and worldliness, we should live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world. Thank God, righteousness is his provision. He's made it possible. This is not some impossible dream that you can be righteous. In fact, your righteousness can be exceeding righteous. You can exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees.

Because it's his. It's his. It's his. It's his provision. It's according to... As his divine power have given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness.

2 Peter 1 verse 3. In Romans 4 verse 5 it says, But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

[22:20] So it's our faith. As your faith grows. As I must decrease and he must increase. So he will have more of us.

And he will work in us. As God helps us to grow. So friends, I just want to exhort every soul here today.

And I'm in need of exhorting myself. When the Holy Spirit comes. When the Comforter comes. He will reprove the world of sin. And of righteousness.

And thirdly, and of judgment. Verse 11 of John 16. Of judgment. Because the prince of this world is judged. One day the enemy of our soul will be judged.

We read of that in Revelation 20 verse 10. And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire. And brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And shall be tormented day and night.

[23:19] Forever and ever. That day is coming. A day of reckoning. A day of judgment. A solemn truth. A solemn truth. A fearful truth.

A glorious truth. Thank God the devil is going to go to hell. Amen. Everybody set. Amen. Thank God for that. We'll be rid of him forever.

He'll be burning forever. That'll be a good day. That'll be a great day. And one day we will stand before that same holy God. One day every man and woman here today will stand before that same holy God.

And what will we have to say? What will be our claim? What will be our statement? Will it be? My sin was nailed for me. And I trusted Christ as my Lord and Saviour. Or will it be? I tried pretty hard.

[24:24] And I was reasonably good. I wasn't as bad as Hitler. I was maybe almost as good as Mother Teresa. But that won't help you people today.

There's no claim you can make. There's no effort of your own. It's only trusting Him. If you're not saved today, please get right with God. There's no time to muck around.

It's a glorious truth. A fearful truth. A judgment is coming. Judgment is coming. Deathbeds are coming. Judgment is coming. And one day we will all stand before a holy, holy, holy God.

And His righteous wrath and judgment will be available to those who are outside of the cover of Christ's covering.

And some people, they don't take judgment that seriously. You know, the world mocks judgment, don't they? And laughs at it, you know, the latest Armageddon judgment type films that the Hollywood crowd come up with.

[25:37] It's like it's a big kind of joke. Just a bit of a Hollywood spectacular. Now, there was a day once in a theatre where there was some entertainers and some were dressed in all kinds of costumes.

And one day the fire broke out backstage in the theatre. The fire broke out. And this man, he was one of the actors. He was dressed as a clown. He came out to the public and was yelling to them, there's a fire.

And they laughed. And they joked. They thought it was part of the act. And he repeated, he's warning, he shouted louder and louder, fire, there's a fire.

But he was dressed as a clown. They just thought it was a joke. They applauded as he shouted louder. The world draws closer to judgment day.

The world draws closer. People think that preachers and Christian truth and the Bible is just some fairy story, some laughable legend.

[26:41] People, it's truth. It's truth. And one day, judgment is coming. The Holy Spirit will reprove the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgment.

There's no time for jesting. We must take this personally today. Paul spoke to Felix of faith in Christ in Acts 24, verse 25. And as Paul reasoned with Felix, he reasoned of righteousness, temperance and judgment to come.

Felix trembled. I don't know how he trembled. You know, you can imagine someone trembling. There was a physical manifestation. There was a visible sign that this man was being moved, physically moved, by the Word of God.

He was shaken, trembling, quaking. He trembled and he said, Go thy way for this time.

When I have a convenient season, I will call for thee. That's what some people do. When it gets a bit up close and personal, when it gets a bit, Oh, that's a bit heavy today.

[27:53] Maybe it's God provoking. Are you right with God? Please, please, don't pretend to be saved if you're not. The day of reckoning is coming.

And some tremble, yet they put it off. Tremble and get it right. Get right with God. Judgment is sure, and as it is appointed unto man, once to die, but after that, the judgment.

Hebrews 9, 27. For the believer, friends, believers today, it's a crowning day. It's a crowning day. Not only is the adversary, the public enemy number one, cast into his eternal fire, but for us it's a crowning day.

It's a day of rejoicing, a day of rewards. Works will be tested, but it will be an awarding day. But there's an accountability for all.

An accountability for all. In Romans 14, 12 it says, So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

[29:04] You will give account out of your mouth. You will give account for you, for your life, for how you've lived, for what you've done with him, for what you haven't done.

Friends, it's challenging to think of, isn't it? And it should stir us. It should make us convicted. The Holy Spirit should convict us of judgment to come.

For he cometh to judge the earth, and he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with truth. Psalm 96, 13. Careless words will be accounted for.

Careless words, careless thoughts, careless actions, careless inactions, we'll answer for them there. But thank God as a believer, you're safe from the judgment for your sin.

It's been already paid for. There's a story familiar, I'm sure, it's a son of a place where it was a bushfire kind of scenario, where maybe you could imagine being up at the top of the hill there, and the raging fire coming.

[30:14] But the farmer had already burnt some of the ground. Some of the ground was already burnt, as they'd done some back burning. And they'd burnt some of that grass, that fuel for the fire, had been burnt away.

And the farmer was there with his little girl. And his little girl cried out in terror, Are you sure? We shall not all be burnt up. And the father says, My child, the flames cannot reach us here, for we are standing where the fire has been.

We must go where the fire has been. The fire fell on that hill of Calvary. That fire fell. The judgment fire, the wrath, the fury, the due punishment, and penalty was paid in full there, for your sin and mine.

It was your sin nailed there. If you trust him, your sin was nailed there. Can you see that? Can you see that? And the fires of his judgment were burnt out there.

If we go where the fire has been, where the fury of God was venged, where the wrath of God was poured out, in Calvary's cross, we can be safe there, if we've trusted him.

[31:38] Judgment is coming. It goes on, after the devil was cast into the lake of fire, it says, I saw a great white throne. A great white throne.

And him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away, and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God, and the books were opened.

And another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged out of those things, which were written in the books, according to their works.

And the sea gave up the dead, which were in it. And death and hell delivered up the dead, which were in them. And they were judged to every man, according to his works.

And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. And this is the second death. And whosoever was not found written, in the book of life, was cast into the lake of fire.

[32:52] Father, we ought to tremble. We ought to tremble. Is your name written? I trust that you will trust him.

I beseech you. I plead with you. Don't put it off. People today, you might think you're a Christian, but have you truly trusted him to save your soul?

Honestly, please, people today, don't pretend. Please trust him. Trust him now. Don't trust in anything of yourself. And trust his blood.

I'm not taking it for granted that you're all saved here today. Nor should I ever. And believers today, when he has come, when the Comforter has come, he will reprove the world of sin.

Sin in our lives, as believers, he will reprove us for that sin. He will chasten us. He will chastise us. He will discipline us.

[34:01] He will give us no rest. When we sin, he will reprove the world of sin. And of righteousness, swap it.

Swap your unrighteousness things. Swap the questionable things with that which there is no question about. Swap that which is questionable. Swap that which is doubtful. Exchange your unrighteousness with his righteousness.

Exchange your self-righteousness with his righteousness. And be mindful of the judgment to come. The judgment will be for the lost, for their sin, because they're outside of Christ.

But there will be a judgment for you that believe. A judgment for an accountability for what you've done, for what you've not done. A loss of reward.

Friends, wouldn't it be tragic? Wouldn't it be tragic for you as a Christian? Whilst you're saved, there's no doubt of that. If you're saved, entrusting Christ, his blood has saved you for now and for eternity.

[35:11] But what a tragic thing. What a shame it would be if you get to glory and there's nothing to show. There's nothing to show for your life. What could it be?

What could it be? And we all need to be reprov'd, convicted. What can I do? How more obedient to him can I be in terms of witness, in worship, in living?

What needs to change in me? Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we thank you that there is therefore now no condemnation to them in Christ Jesus who walk not according to the flesh, Lord, but according to the spirit.

Lord, we pray and help us to walk that way that would be pleasing to you. That you would convict us where we need it, Lord. Convict us, convict us, Holy Spirit.

Reprove us. Provoke us, Lord, to greater faith, to greater obedience, Lord, that we might not be under a yoke of bondage, of man's making, but that we might come under your yoke willingly, freely, joyfully, cheerfully, because it's our privilege to be yours.

[36:38] We pray for every soul here, Lord, that every one of us will be challenged to a deeper walk, a deeper faith. Help us, Lord, to recognise sin, to realise righteousness, and to be mindful of judgement, as you help us to live the life that you've called us to.

Forgive us, Lord, when we fail. We repent corporately, Lord, individually, if it be so, Lord, that you might help us to walk that walk that you've bled and died and rose again for, that we can be a people that you're pleased with, that we can walk well pleasing to you, fruitful in every good word. In Jesus' name, Amen.