



COMFORT FOR TROUBLED HEARTS "Comfort Through the Spirit" John 16:5-15

No. 2122

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Sometimes we try to understand how anything good can possibly come out of the bad things that happen to us. The disciples certainly felt like this when Jesus told them it was to their advantage that He would leave them via the Cross. The advantage of which He spoke to them is to our advantage, too. We need to be clear about the promise He gave to them and to us.

I. The Program Is Outlined.

- A. Jesus' understanding of the program. v. 5
 - 1. I came because He sent me.
 - 2. I'm going to Him who sent me.
- B. Disciples' misunderstanding of the program. v. 6
 - 1. Related to their own perceptions.
 - 2. Restricted by their own preoccupations.
 - 3. Reacted to from their own frustrations.
- C. Jesus clarified the program. v. 7
 - "It is for your good because:"
 - 1. "I am going away." (via the Cross)
 - 2. "After a little while you will see me." v. 16 (Resurrection)
 - 3. "Unless I go away the Counselor will not come..." (Glory)
 - 4. "If I go I will send him..." (Pentecost)

II. The Promise Is Underlined.

- A. The promise of the Spirit's coming.
 - 1. Isaiah's fertile field. Isaiah 32:14-18
 - 2. Ezekiel's valley of dry bones. Ezekiel 37:1-14
 - 3. Joel's outpouring of the Spirit. Joel 2:28-32
- B. The purpose of the Spirit's coming. vv. 8-10
 - 1. To convict the world of guilt:
 - a. In regard to sin because of unbelief.
 - b. In regard to righteousness because of the Cross.
 - c. In regard to judgment because of the prince's defeat.
 - 2. To comfort the believer in grief. vv. 12-16
 - a. Saying what is necessary for "bearing" life's problems.
 - b. Guiding where necessary through life's confusions.
 - c. Revealing what is necessary in life's uncertainties.
 - d. Doing what is necessary for maintaining life's priorities.

Points to ponder: Do I understand the Lord's program, or am I committed to mine? Do I appreciate the Spirit's role in my life of faith, or is He a mystery? Am I aware of the convicting work of the Spirit in the lives of unbelievers I know?