

Gospel Reflections:
JOHN 16

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JOHN 16:1-6 – PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS TO BE EXPECTED

- ¹ These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended.
² They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth GOD service.
³ And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known The Father, nor Me.
⁴ But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them. And these things I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you.
⁵ But now I go My Way to Him that sent Me; and none of you asketh Me, Whither goest Thou?
⁶ But because I have said these things unto you, sorrow hath filled your heart.

What a painful separation of synagogue and Church passed through history, from The Cross down to the present day, to be put right only when The Lord Himself returns in His Glory. The greatest proof of the existence of the devil, I believe, is the historic split and enmity between Jews and Christians, who should rather be fellow brethren in The LORD. But if a man denies GOD The Son, He can not personally know GOD The Father, for The Two are as one. We may know of GOD and much of His nature from the study of creation and the use of our intellect. We may know of Him even more deeply by The Revelation of His Divine Law under The Old Covenant. But to know Him, and dwell with Him now and forever face to face, we must come to The Cross of CHRIST.

Here is the test, as Saint John records it in I JOHN 3:2-3, that The Messiah JESUS is fully GOD and fully Man but without sin, “Hereby know ye The Spirit of GOD: Every spirit that confesseth that JESUS CHRIST is come in the flesh is of GOD: And every spirit that confesseth not that JESUS CHRIST is come in the flesh is not of GOD: and this is that *spirit* of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.” This is the father of this world, the devil.

But we need not fear the devil, nor his works or workers, for The Victory has been bought and paid in full at The Cross by our Lord. As Saint Paul declares to us in I CORINTHIANS 15:55-57, “O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death *is* sin; and the strength of sin *is* The Law. But thanks *be* to GOD, Which giveth us The Victory through our Lord JESUS CHRIST!” As that old hymn sings out so boldly, “Faith is The Victory! Faith is The Victory! Faith is The Victory that overcomes the world!”

JOHN 16:7-15 – COMING WORKS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- ⁷ 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.
⁸ And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:
⁹ Of sin, because they believe not on Me;
¹⁰ Of righteousness, because I go to My Father, and ye see Me no more;

¹¹ Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

¹² I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

¹³ Howbeit when He, The Spirit of Truth, is come, He will guide you into all Truth: for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak: and He will shew you things to come.

¹⁴ He shall glorify Me: for He shall receive of Mine, and shall shew it unto you.

¹⁵ All things that The Father hath are Mine: therefore said I, that He shall take of Mine, and shall shew it unto you.

CHRIST gives The Apostles, and all of us down through the ages, The Truth that He will not leave us alone to struggle against the evil assaults of the world, flesh and devil! He promises to send The HOLY SPIRIT after He has ascended to His Father in Heaven. So we are still looking here forward to His work on The Cross. The Comforter has not yet been sent. The Atonement for the sins of the world has not yet been offered. The hand of Providence has not yet set upon The Rock of faith the full birth of The Church. But all these wonders approach here in The Gospel. We know what is to come, but The Lord's disciples listening to These Words as He speaks them from his mouth do not. They are fearful. They do not yet see The Victory which The Messiah is about to deliver to them, and to us!

Those who deny JESUS as The CHRIST and refuse to repent of their sins before Him are to be condemned by The HOLY SPIRIT when He comes. For now no man has a cloak to hide his sin, nor excuse to offer up to Heaven, as if he ever really did in the first place! Those who are saved in JESUS CHRIST will receive The full Grace of GOD. They will be strengthened and washed by The HOLY SPIRIT. And the father of all lies, the devil himself – the mere temporary created master of this world – is judged, defeated and condemned by the work of salvation continued by The HOLY SPIRIT. The Kingdom comes, expanding from mere Israel to all the 4 corners of the earth via The Church, into all of creation and into Heaven itself before GOD's Glory!

JOHN 16:16-33 – JESUS REVEALS HIS DEATH, RESURRECTION & 2ND COMING

¹⁶ A little while, and ye shall not see Me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see Me, because I go to The Father.

¹⁷ Then said some of His disciples among themselves, What is this that He saith unto us, A little while, and ye shall not see Me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see Me: and, Because I go to The Father?

¹⁸ They said therefore, What is this that He saith, A little while? we cannot tell what He saith.

¹⁹ Now JESUS knew that they were desirous to ask Him, and said unto them, Do ye enquire among yourselves of that I said, A little while, and ye shall not see Me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see Me?

²⁰ Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy.

²¹ A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world.

²² And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.

²³ And in That Day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask The Father in My Name, He will give it you.

²⁴ Hitherto have ye asked nothing in My Name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

²⁵ These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall shew you plainly of The Father.

²⁶ At That Day ye shall ask in My Name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray The Father for you:

²⁷ For the Father Himself loveth you, because ye have loved Me, and have believed that I came out from GOD.

²⁸ I came forth from The Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to The Father.

²⁹ His disciples said unto Him, Lo, now speakest Thou plainly, and speakest no proverb.

³⁰ Now are we sure that Thou knowest all things, and needest not that any man should ask Thee: by this we believe that Thou camest forth from GOD.

³¹ JESUS answered them, Do ye now believe?

³² Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave Me alone: and yet I am not alone, because The Father is with Me.

³³ These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

See clearly that JESUS declares, “Do not fear. I have overcome the world. If you are Mine, you will overcome all assaults of evil in Me!” Our Victory in this life is in The Name of JESUS CHRIST, sent of The Father. Again and again, He repeats that He and The Father are one. This is the assurance of our Victory in CHRIST, because He is Who He is – The Creator taken on the form of men, but still The Divine Eternal One! Such a Mystery we can only begin to fathom, and even in Heaven, we will not fully know nor understand such a Wonder!

But what we can know now with absolute certainty is that GOD loves us beyond our deepest understanding; that JESUS is with us now in this life when we are part of His Body The Church; that His Victory at The Cross is our Victory, given to redeem and sustain us until He takes us home to His Father’s House Above! CHRIST has washed us from our sins. His righteousness is imputed to us over our souls. His uprightness is infused into us, making us into His Likeness more and more with each passing day of life, even while we endure the trials of this world.

If we walk in The Divine Light of CHRIST, we shall have and live out That Victory which, by His Grace, He calls us to receive in all its fullness! So Saint John says in I JOHN 1:5-7, “This then is The Message which we have heard of Him, and declare unto you, that GOD is Light, and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not The Truth: But if we walk in The Light, as He is in The Light, we have fellowship one with another, and The Blood of JESUS CHRIST His Son cleanseth us from all sin!”