

John 14:15-21 ESV

Blessed Truth for Believers

Services: Sunday, 5/21 at 8:00 & 10:45 + Monday, 5/22 at 7 PM

Church Year: Sixth Sunday of Easter – 2017

Join us on Ascension Day: Free Meal at 6 PM; Divine Service at 7 PM

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Today's setting is the same as last week: ♣It's late on Holy Thursday and ♣Jesus is in the upper room with His disciples – *ones who believe in Him!* In today's text, *from John 14*, Jesus will speak some powerful truth, *which is intended to impart some powerful blessings to believers* – both then and today!

1. **A Powerful Blessing for Believers:** First, *Jesus will tell us an important thing about believers; then, He will tell us of a powerful blessing for believers!*
 - a. Believers and Commandments: ¹⁵ **"If you love me, you will keep my commandments."**
 - i. What is necessary for a person to love God? First, *that person must receive God's love in Christ.* So unbelievers do not and cannot actually love God. The Bible says, **"And without faith it is impossible to please [God]"** (Hebrews 11:6 NAS).
 - ii. What does it mean to keep Jesus' commandments? Lenski gave this answer: They are **"certainly not 'commandments' in any Mosaic sense [as in the Ten Commandments].** [Luther described those commandments of Jesus with these words,] **"that you faithfully**

preach concerning me, have my Word and Sacrament laid upon you, keep love and unity among yourselves for my sake, and suffer with patience..." (995).

- b. The Spirit of Truth: ¹⁶ **And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper** [*παράκλητος, advocate*], **to be with you forever,** ¹⁷ **...the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot** [*literally, is not able to*] **receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you."**
- i. Think about Jesus' disciples during His ministry: He was with them as their Helper to support them in every time of need! Now, *as Jesus knows He will die in about 18 hours*, He wants His disciples to know about another Helper.
- ii. The Spirit of truth is for believers, not unbelievers: To those who were **crushed** by their sins, Peter said, "**Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**" (Acts 2:38 ESV). The Holy Spirit had been **with** Jesus' disciples; however, *in 53 days, on the Day of Pentecost*, the Holy Spirit would be poured out and begin to live **in** those who know Jesus. So, *thankful that we have been crushed by the law and know Jesus as our Savior*, let us rejoice that the Spirit lives within us!

2. **Wonderful Relationships:**

- a. The Holy Spirit: ¹⁸ **“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”** ¹⁹ **Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. //**
 Orphans are children who have no one to help them, support them, or speak up for them. Jesus knew His disciples would feel like orphans when He died, *so He told them what would happen in advance:* I will leave, yes, but you won't be alone; unbelievers will no longer see me, but you will see me. What did Jesus mean?
- i. You will see me risen before I ascend!
 - ii. The Holy Spirit will show me to you!
 - iii. I will be present in Word and Sacrament!
- b. The Day of Pentecost: ²⁰ **In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.” //** So **“that day”** is *the Day of Pentecost*, when the eyes of Jesus' disciples were opened to see many wonderful relationships:
- i. Between the Father and the Son!
 - ii. Between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!
 - iii. Between Father, Son, and Jesus' disciples!
 - iv. Between the Spirit and Jesus' disciples!

Even today those relationships exist; *are YOU aware of them?* When we have *little* Bible knowledge, then we have *little* awareness of such things. Therefore, God is calling us to grow up in His Word, see His truth, and rejoice that we

know the Holy Trinity! Try to imagine this: Right now there is buried treasure in your back yard; however, *since you don't know about it*, you are not benefitting from it 😊. Now, since God's Word is filled with buried treasure, *let's start digging in and benefitting* 😊!

3. **Another Powerful Blessing for Believers:** ²¹ “[The one having] my commandments and [keeping] them, [that is the one loving] me. And [the one loving] me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

- a. Take note: “having,” “keeping,” and “loving” are all present participles; they are not one-time actions, but ongoing actions!
- b. Love: Jesus restated in v. 21 that *the blessings mentioned in verses 16-20 are for believers, those who love Jesus*. Those loving actions never save – *Jesus has done that work*, but they show our love for Jesus! The Bible says that love is shown “in deed and truth” (1 John 3:18 NAS).
- c. In between: Jesus is between the Father and us; when – *by grace through faith* – God enabled us to receive Jesus, we also received the Father's love and membership in His family!

Conclusion: Let us pray: Dear Father, You have so richly blessed us with Your Son and the Holy Spirit; open our eyes to see, our minds to understand, and our hearts to rejoice!