

Text— John 14:15-21

Fellow redeemed sinners, redeemed by the blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,

Today is Pentecost Sunday. Therefore, we especially reflect on the Person and work of God the Holy Ghost, who launched the New Testament Christian Church in a big way, when He empowered the apostles of Jesus Christ to preach the Word of God in the various languages of the world.

It's as Acts 2:1-6 reports, "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language."

And, what was it the apostles preached from God's Word? Acts 2:11 informs us that the people heard in their tongues, "the wonderful works of God." Oh, the most wonderful works of God are surely those works involving His sending His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to save the world. Accordingly, the work of the Holy Ghost in empowering the apostles of Jesus Christ to preach God's Word – Law and Gospel – in the various languages of the world was vitally important, since the Holy Ghost works through the Word to convert sinners into saints. Indeed, God's Law shows us our sin, while the Gospel of Christ shows us our only Savior from sin, Jesus. Hence, Romans 10:17 plainly states, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Fellow Christians, let us never forget that without

the work of the Holy Ghost operating in and through the Word of God we would not be Christians, for we read in Romans 1:16-17 and 1 Corinthians 12:3, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost."

Fellow Christians, our sermon text can help us grow in appreciation of the Holy Ghost and His vitally important work, for in our Scripture selection we behold Him as:

"ANOTHER COMFORTER"

With that as our theme, may we, in view of our text and with the help of the Holy Ghost, see—

- 1) Who He is
- 2) What He does

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Verse 15, ----- (John 14:15)

Jesus was speaking to His disciples, His followers, when He said: *If ye love me, keep my commandments.*

Fellow Christians, that directive of Christ applies to all of His followers to this very day. Jesus desires that ALL Christians KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS out of love for Him, because He loved us so very much as to die for us, paying for all of our sins with His own holy and precious blood. Let us never forget, "in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love." — as Galatians 5:6 declares. Indeed, our faith in Jesus Christ is to be fruitful in truly good works: works done in full accord with God's Word, NOT works of our own devising.

The apostle John, in 1 John 2:1-6, writes, “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.” Therefore, it is clear that we Christians are not free to live contrary to God’s will as revealed in His Holy Word, for Christ has freed us FROM sin NOT TO sin! Yeah, there are some folks who call themselves Christians and yet deliberately live to please the desires of their sinful flesh, rather than striving to live in accord with God’s commandments as given in the Holy Bible.

My friends, we Christians are to endeavor to be fruitful in the faith by lovingly keeping God’s commandments, for Jesus our Savior urges in the opening verse of our sermon text: *If ye love me, keep my commandments.*

Verses 16 & 17, ----- (John 14:16-17)

Notice Jesus worked in harmony with His heavenly Father in giving His disciples *another Comforter*, whom Jesus identifies as *the Spirit of truth*. Thus, we observe that the *Comforter* is a distinct PERSON from God the Father and from Jesus since HE IS ANOTHER COMFORTER. Yes, Jesus Christ provided His disciples with comfort while He was visibly with them; and, the Spirit of truth would and did provide the disciples with comfort when Jesus removed His visible presence from them, for *the Spirit of truth is another Comforter*.

My friends, *the Spirit of truth*, who is *another Comforter*, is further identified subsequent to our Scripture selection, for Jesus says in John 14:26, “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall

teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.” Accordingly, GOD THE HOLY GHOST is ANOTHER COMFORTER of whom Jesus spoke.

Verse 18, ----- (John 14:18)

Observe that when Jesus had spoken of *another Comforter, even the Spirit of truth*, He then added, *I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you*. Thus, it is clear that the Comforter, the Spirit of truth, is in fact Jesus’ Spirit, for the apostle Paul, in writing to Christians, states in Romans 8:9, “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.” Hence, the Comforter, the Holy Ghost, IS the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ; the Comforter, the Holy Ghost, IS the third divine Person of the Holy Trinity. Yes, the one true God is the Triune God, “For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.”— declares 1 John 5:7, Jesus Christ being the Word made flesh, the only begotten of the Father, as John 1:14 relates.

Let us never forget that the Holy Ghost is ANOTHER COMFORTER, since He is true God, as is the Father and the Son.

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As we continue to ponder our sermon text in regards to another Comforter, let us see what He does.

Verses 16-18, ----- (John 14:16-18)

Another Comforter – who is the Spirit of truth, God the Holy Ghost – abides with Jesus’ followers forever, for He dwells with them and in them.

Fellow Christians, what a blessing it is for us to have the Comforter, God the Holy Ghost, with us and in us, because we could never do anything right without His empowering us, “For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his

good pleasure.” — declares Philippians 2:13.

Fellow Christians, we are God’s children, adopted sons, by God-given faith in Jesus Christ as our personal Savior and Lord, for Galatians 3:26-27 states, “ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” Furthermore, Galatians 4:6-7 informs us, “And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.” Thus, we observe that we Christians are truly blessed by having the Comforter, the Spirit of truth, the Spirit of Christ, dwelling in our hearts and impelling us to pray to our heavenly Father.

Note well that our sermon text informs us that the world, the unbelievers, cannot receive the Spirit of truth, *another Comforter*, because the unbelieving world has NO spiritual eyesight, being blind to the Truth of God’s Word, having rejected Jesus Christ the Savior. Yes, the lost are they, “In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.” — as 2 Corinthians 4:4 relates. Hence, the indwelling of the Holy Ghost is unique to believers in Christ, those folks whom the Holy Ghost has graciously gifted with faith in Jesus, working through the Word, the Gospel of Christ in particular.

Verses 19 & 20, ----- (John 14:19-20)

Jesus was speaking to His disciples when He said: *Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also. At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.*

When Jesus spoke the words we just read, it was shortly before He would suffer, die, be buried, bodily rise from the dead after three days in the grave and visibly ascend into heaven forty days later.

Thus, it was but a little while and Jesus’ disciples would no more behold Him with their physical eyes, nor would the world behold Him. Nevertheless, at that day Jesus’ disciples would see Him with spiritual eyes, knowing Him as their living Lord and Savior who was gone into heaven visibly, and yet remained with them invisibly, also dwelling with them in His Holy Spirit, another Comforter.

Concerning Jesus Christ, Hebrews 7:24-28 reports, “But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. For such a high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people’s: for this he did once, when he offered up himself. For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated for evermore.”

So, Jesus continues to intercede for us at the throne of God the Father, while His Holy Spirit — the Spirit of truth, another Comforter — dwells with us and in us, keeping us in the faith of Jesus Christ and strengthening us in the same, enabling us to be fruitful in truly good works, works done in full accord with God’s Word.

Fellow Christians, let us never forget the following truths reported in Ephesians 2:8-10, “by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

Thus, it is God the Holy Ghost who has gifted us with faith in Jesus Christ; and, God the Holy Ghost enables and urges us to be fruitful in the faith of Jesus Christ, bringing forth good works, works done in full accord with the God’s commandments. We could never love the Lord and even begin to

keep His commandments if God the Holy Ghost – another Comforter – did not enable us to do so. It's as 1 John 4:19 tells us in regards to loving the Lord, "We love him, because he first loved us."

Verse 21, ----- (John 14:21)

In the closing verse of our sermon text, Jesus says: *He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.*

Note the importance of both having and keeping Jesus' commandments, as the way to show one's love for the Lord Jesus is sincere and genuine.

To have the Lord's commandments one must have the Lord's Holy Word, for Psalm 119:104-105 relates, "Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Additionally, 2 Timothy 3:15-17 declares, "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works." Therefore, those who truly love the Lord Jesus Christ HAVE HIS PURE PRESERVED HOLY WORD, the genuine Holy Bible, and strive to live in full accord with that very Word of God.

Realize it's not enough to simply have God's Word; no, the Word of God must be regularly and rightly used: the Law showing us our sin; the Gospel showing us our only Savior from sin, the Lord Jesus Christ; and, the Law also being used as a guide for Christian living, by which we show we truly love our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Fellow Christians, 1 John 3:18 says to each and every one of us, "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth." Oh, it's not enough to simply say we love

the Lord; we must show we love the Lord by striving to keep His commandments, "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." — declares 1 John 5:3.

There is a great benefit to each of us if we show our love to the Lord Jesus by endeavoring to keep His commandments, for He promises in the closing words of our sermon text: *he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.*

Oh, its true that God the Father already loves us, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16) However, God the Father and God the Son, Jesus Christ, will love us further if we show our love to Him in keeping His commandments.

My friends, the Holy Ghost, another Comforter, is who enables us, empowers us, to keep the Lord's commandments, for Romans 8:11-15 informs us, "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father."

Fellow Christians, let us be grateful to God the Holy Ghost – another Comforter – for all that He has done and still does for us. Let us daily and sincerely repent of our sins; let us keep our full trust and confidence in Christ Jesus as our personal Savior and Lord; and, let us go forward endeavoring to be fruitful in the faith, with the help of the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth. Amen.

m.e.l.