

Trinity – Gospel of John chapter 16, verses 12 – 15:-

I would encourage you to read chapter 15, verses 26 – 27 and chapter 16, verses 1 – 15 as context is important. The Gospel reading for Trinity Sunday this year is a very small part of the long section in the Gospel of John devoted to the teaching of the Lord Jesus Christ in the hours before his arrest. (See the Gospel of John, chapters 14 – 17).

Chapter 15, verses 26 – 27:-

Note that the Three Persons of the Trinity are mentioned and named in these verses, as well as in chapter 16, verses 14 – 15! The Lord Jesus Christ promises that He will send the Holy Spirit which will come from the Father. The task of the Holy Spirit is to “*bear witness*” to the Son.

Chapter 16, verses 7 – 15. -

Remember that these words are the teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ himself!

Verse 14: - This is of crucial importance! “*When the Spirit of truth comes He will glorify me*”. The Holy Spirit is **not** given to glorify individuals or even individual churches! When someone says “I did this” without acknowledging the power of the Spirit and giving Christ the glory, it should raise a question mark! **Who** is being glorified? (See Isaiah chapter 48, verse 11). In many of the recent cases of church leaders falling into sin and bringing the gospel into disrepute, we can trace the roots of the problem to this simple fact. If we take away nothing else from these verses remember this, the Holy Spirit will always glorify the Lord Jesus Christ.

Verses 8 – 11 :- “*And when he comes, he will convince (reprove, convict) the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgement:*”. In all our teaching, preaching and outreach it is the work of the Holy Spirit to open hearts and minds. If we declare the truth that in Christ alone is the remission of sins, the Holy Spirit will reach out to open and convince hearts.

“*He will convince the world of righteousness*” - The whole of scripture speaks of the need for the ‘People of God’ to be Holy - “*For the Lord your God is holy*” see for example Leviticus chapter 11, verse 45 and 1 Peter chapter 1, verse 16.

“*He will convince the world of judgement*” - “*because the ruler of this world is judged*”. Because the ‘ruler of this world is judged’ his followers are also judged and condemned along with him.

Those who are “*convinced*” and come to place their trust in the saving work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross of Calvary belong to Him. Their first and full commitment must be to Him.

The power of the Holy Spirit opening hearts and minds to hear the Good News of Salvation brings true revival. For this we pray!

*I bind unto myself today
the strong Name of the Trinity,
by invocation of the same,
the Three in One, and One in Three.
Of whom all nature hath creation,
eternal Father, Spirit, Word:
praise to the Lord of my salvation,
salvation is of Christ the Lord.*

Traditional author – St Patrick 5th Century.