

Trinity Sunday - John chapter 14, verses 22 – 26:-

These verses are “Trinitarian” in that they speak of the three persons of the Holy Trinity. They are also relevant to the Sunday after Pentecost in that they speak of the ‘Office and Work of the Holy Spirit’ (see book by James Buchanan 1847). Notice the promise in verse 23 – *“If someone loves me, they will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them”*.

So what can we expect if the Holy Spirit is with us and working in our life? Remember that the word ‘comforter’ does not mean ‘someone who gives comfort’ as we do in everyday language. ‘Comforter’ in the old meaning of the word is ‘someone who gives strength’ (from the Latin ‘con-forte’).

Hebrews chapter 4, verse 12:-

“For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”

Here we are reminded that the Word gives us all the power we need to learn the true will of God. See also Philippians chapter 1, verse 9, Romans chapter 12, verse 2.

Hebrews chapter 4, verse 13, will point out that God's judgment is impossible to escape: nobody is beyond His sight (see also 2 Corinthians chapter 5, verse 10). The text goes on to point out that only in Christ do we find a God who truly understands our failures (Hebrews chapter 4, verses 14 - 16).

Our brethren the Wichi of northern Argentina fully understood the implications of this! The reality of the spirit world was (and is) part of their everyday lives; and the need for the presence and indwelling power of the Holy Spirit was needed in their constant resistance to the influence of the witch-doctors.

Read Ephesians chapter 6, verses 10 – 20 -

“We are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Therefore take the whole armour of God verses 12 – 13.

and verses 17 – 20:- ***Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.***

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

As we hear of ‘wars and rumours of wars’ in this world of ours – a world for which Our Lord and Saviour died (Gospel of John chapter 3, verse 6) we need to remember these verses from Paul’s Letter to the Christians at Ephesus facing many of the same problems and fears. They, like us, needed the presence and power of the Holy Spirit directing, uplifting and controlling their lives.

Pray at all times for those with pastoral responsibility for the spiritual lives of the people of God.

*May the mind of Christ my Saviour
Live in me from day to day,
by his love and power controlling
all I do and say.*

*May the Word of God dwell richly
In my heart from hour to hour,
so that all may see I triumph
only through His power.*

Kate B. Wilkinson (1859 – 1928)