

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 help 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!