

THE FUTURE OUTLOOK

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THE FUTURE OUTLOOK

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REGISTRATION FOR VOTING

The books are open for the Spring Primary election which will take place in May. May we suggest that all of our citizens and especially the college students go from door to door and request all other citizens to qualify themselves on the registration books for voting in the primary election and also the general election.

Members of the N.A.A.C.P. Voting Campaign Committee are going all out seeking to get non-registered citizens on the book.

Many of the citizens have moved from their old precincts since the last election. Therefore, they cannot vote unless they notify their registrar and transfer their names to their new precinct. This will have to be done before the May Primary. The General Election comes off in November, the college students as well as interested citizens can follow through with the house to house campaign for registering citizens and to see that they vote in the November general election for candidates of their choice.

The General Election consists of the Democrats and Republican government officials, namely, Senators, Congressmen, House of Representatives, County Board of Commissioners, Clerk of Court.

The non-registered citizens can qualify themselves to vote by making an appointment with their registrar in their precinct or go by the County Board of Elections office, 323 W. Market Street from 9:00 until 5:00 P.M.

Before a voter votes, he should go to various Democratic and Republican headquarters and talk with the officials and secure literature about the candidate and know their platforms before casting a vote.

It is customary when one is a member of the Democratic party to vote a straight democratic ticket and if he is a member of the Republican party vote a straight Republican ticket. If you are a member of either party, you may vote your choice whether Democratic or Republican.

One may vote for a Republican or Democratic candidate on the same ticket or one may vote a straight Democratic ticket or a straight Republican ticket.

The citizens of Guilford County, especially the Negro, should exercise their franchise at the polls due to the fact that many Negroes are denied the rights to vote in many of the southern states. In order to vote in some southern states, the Negro has to go through a long procedure of schooling, and will have to answer certain questions selected by the registrar taken from the constitution of the United States. If he is unable to answer the questions, he cannot vote.

Again, we urge our citizens to register and help others to qualify themselves to vote soon.

Poet's Corner

I shall have peace, when I go home."
 "When I go home may quiet reign
 And nothing will I say or do —
 To cause regret or needless pain
 In those I love when I go home.
 When I go home, my glory Crown
 When heaven's host to Him bow down,
 Will be that Christ is there enthroned;

DRIVE SANELY**This Week's Sunday School Lesson****PROMISE OF THE SPIRIT
Beginning Where You Are**

Persons who have no faith in God and are not concerned to know and obey his will may have no interest in this lesson. But those who believe man's welfare depends upon obedience to God's command will find it of great importance.

We must do more than affirm that God exists and has a purpose for mankind. The questions remain: How do we know his will? How does he make his will effective? Christians answer these questions with the doctrine of the Holy Spirit.

In John's Gospel the account of the Last Supper includes a long discourse in which Jesus prepared the disciples for his death and departure from them. In these chapters he covered many topics. Last week we studied his prayer for unity in Chapter 17. In this lesson we are to read Chapters 14 through 16. As we shall note later, these three chapters have five different passages in which the Holy Spirit is discussed. Two of these passages are part of our printed Scripture for this lesson.

Searching The Scriptures

The Scripture for this lesson is John 14 through 16; Luke 24: 44-49; Isaiah 61:1-2; Galatians 5:22-25. Selected verses are printed below.
 John 14:15-29

15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, to be with you for ever, 17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him; you know him, for he dwells with you, and will be in you.

18 "I will not leave you desolate; 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 will live also. 20 In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 21 He who has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me; and he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him." 22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" 23 Jesus answered him, "If a man loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. 24 He who does not love me does not keep words; and the word which you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

25 "These things I have spoken to you, while I am still with you. 26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let him be afraid. 28 'You heard me say to you, 'I go away, and

I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I go to the Father; for the Father is greater than I. 29 And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place, you may believe."

Memory Selection: The Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

—John 14:26

Exploring The Questions

When the disciples finally understood what Jesus was telling them — namely, that he must die and leave them — they were naturally filled with concern. Who would lead them and who would give them counsel and comfort in the dark days that must lie ahead? It is against the background of these questions that we must read John 14, 15, and 16.

Luke closes his Gospel with the story of an appearance of Jesus to his disciples on Easter evening. On that occasion Jesus gave them an interpretation of the Old Testament Scriptures to help them understand the necessity of his death and resurrection. He then told them that he would send "the promise of my Father" — namely, the Holy Spirit — upon them. (Luke 24:44-49)

One of the passages to which Jesus may have referred in his Easter night conversation is Isaiah 61:1-2. This is one of the Scripture passages from which the early church derived its conception of a servant, rather than a conquering, Messiah. Instead of afflicting, he would comfort the afflicted; instead of making captives, he would release the captives. You will recall that Jesus used these verses as the text of his sermon at Nazareth, near the beginning of his ministry. (Luke 4:16-21) "The Spirit of the Lord God," who spoke through the prophet and animated Jesus, was now promised to the disciples.

Not all spirits are holy. Men are moved by evil spirits as well as by the Holy Spirit. Paul met many men who did evil things, claiming they were doing good. It is important to distinguish between them. In Galatians 5: 22-25 Paul gave us a helpful test. Here is a beautiful description of the Christian character that results from following the leadership of the Holy Spirit. "You will know them by their fruits." (Matthew 7:16)

From these passages we can seek light on our questions about the Holy Spirit. What do we mean by the term the Holy Spirit? What is the work of the Holy Spirit? What does the Holy Spirit do for us?

Finding Help**With Your Questions**

Few doctrines have caused more controversy in the church than this doctrine of the Holy Spirit. In the early centuries Christians were concerned to define the relationship of the Spirit to the Father and the Son. Was he equal to them or subordinate to them?

According to the Articles of

Religion of The Methodist Church, "The Holy Ghost (the Spirit), proceeding from the Father and the Son, is of one substance, majesty, and glory with the Father and the Son, very and eternal God."

However, many persons ("unitarians") have felt that belief in the Holy Spirit diluted the teaching of one God. Others have asserted that what some call "the Spirit" is really the presence of the resurrected Christ at work in the world.

From time to time small Christian groups or sects have arisen who made such extreme claims of receiving the Holy Spirit's guidance that they have caused the doctrine to be discredited in the eyes of many persons. In the first century Paul faced this problem at Corinth. (See 1 Corinthians 12 through 14.)

At the opposite extreme, some persons have denied the possibility of Spirit-led lives, thus making the doctrine meaningless.

Perhaps the great majority of present-day Christians sing about "God in three persons" but make no clear distinction in their thinking between "Father, Son, and Holy Ghost."

Later in this series we will have a lesson on the action of Spirit in the life of the church. In this lesson we shall try to clarify our personal relationship to Him.

**What Do We Mean by
The Holy Spirit?**

Christians assert that the Lord our God is one. However, we find it helpful to distinguish certain aspects of God's work. When we wish to center on his creative action in forming and sustaining the universe, we speak of the Father. When we think of God's act of self-revelation in Christ, we speak of the Son. When we think of God as presently active in the affairs of men, we speak of the Holy Spirit.

The Greek word used in our passages from John is *parakletos*. No one word in English accurately expresses its full meaning. The King James translators used the word *Comforter*. The Revised Standard Version reads *Counselor*. The New English Bible has *Advocate*. James Moffatt in his modern language translation uses *Helper*. Each of these translations carries part of the word's meaning but fails to suggest its full richness.

William Barclay, famed New Testament scholar of the University of Glasgow, has an illuminating discussion of this word:

"The word *parakletos* really means someone who is called in; but it is the reason why the person is called in which gives the word its distinctive associations. The Greeks used the word in a wide variety of ways. A *parakletos* might be a person called in to give witness in a law court in someone's favour; he might be an advocate called in to plead someone's cause when someone was under a charge which would issue in serious penalty; he might be an expert called in to give advice in some difficult situation. He

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