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These Things  
John 16:1-15

INTRO: Five times in John 16:1-15 the phrase “these things” appears. There are several very important things that we need to pay close attention to in this passage. These things instruct, warn, and encourage.

1) VSS 1-7, CHRISTIANS DO NOT HAVE TO BE DOWNHEARTED WHEN PERSECUTION COMES

- a) Vs 1, “These things” in verse one points us back to the last verses of chapter 15.
  - i) Jesus forewarned His friends that persecution would come. He did not want them to be caught unawares.
  - ii) Jesus did not want them to stumble when trouble came. He did not want them to be disheartened. “Offended” is the Greek word *skandalizo* meaning to scandalize or cause to stumble.
    - (1) Jesus wanted them to know that it was not going to be easy. There were some tough times ahead, and they needed to know it.
    - (2) Jesus did not want them to lose hope or faith. The Christian life is not a bed of roses. It is tough at times, and Jesus does not promise health and wealth in this world.
    - (3) Jesus wanted them to realize that in the midst of “these things”: “All things work together for good...” (Rom 8:28).
- b) Vs 2, To the Jew, the worst thing that could happen to him was excommunication from the synagogue.
  - i) It was going to cost them something to be a Christian, to stand for the Lord Jesus. It would cost them dearly.
  - ii) The religious Jews would kick them out of the synagogue, remove their name from the roll.
  - iii) Their social life would be changed; they would lose their worldly friends. They would be cut off from the social life of Israel.
  - iv) They would lose their jobs. They would be discriminated against.
  - v) The day would come when they would lose their lives. Their enemies would think it a good and even meritorious thing to kill them. Saul of Tarsus thought he was doing a good thing by persecuting the church (Acts 26:9).
- c) Vs 3, The world persecutes the believer because the world is not acquainted with God the Father or the Son.
  - i) “Hatred and persecution are both the consequences and the proof of the spiritual ignorance of their enemies” (Pink 44).

- ii) The Jews did not know God because they refused to accept the one sent by Him, the Lord Jesus, the Messiah.
    - iii) When you reject the Son, you reject the Father (I Jn 5:1, 12).
  - d) Vs 4, The Lord in love prepares His disciples for what is ahead. He prepared them because they had gotten used to the security they had with Him being with them. We all have a need of being kept, of being held, of having someone near who cares. In the future, the Holy Spirit would come along side them and bring security.
    - i) Jesus had told his disciples many things, but there were some things that He had not told them.
      - (1) He had never told the disciples about the hatred the world would have for them and the things the world would do to them.
      - (2) He had not told them that those who would persecute them would believe they were doing a good thing.
    - ii) Jesus had not told them earlier because it would have been too heavy a load for them to carry. But now they must know.
  - e) Vs 5, Jesus tells the church that He is about to go to heaven, to the Father's house.
    - i) Yes, they had said: "Whither goest thou?" But they did not do so in the sense that Jesus is now thinking of.
    - ii) Each time the disciples asked about where Jesus was going, they were thinking about a earthly journey.
    - iii) Jesus was not going on a earthly journey. He was going on a heavenly one. With Jesus gone, they would have to draw on the Spirit's power.
  - f) Vs 6, The fact that Jesus was about to leave them overwhelmed the disciples. They were downright downhearted.
    - i) The disciples concentrated on the fact of the Lord's departure. They let this one thing consume them.
      - (1) They thought about what His departure would mean to them.
      - (2) They should have been thinking about what it would mean for the Lord and for them. He would go to the Father; they would receive the Holy Spirit.
    - ii) Many Christians do what these disciples did; they let some experience embitter them. They think about it all the time.
      - (1) They let one disappointment in a person or church turn them sour.
      - (2) Some let the loss of a loved one keep them mourning.
      - (3) We are not to be in constant sorrow. We are to rejoice in the Lord. We are to look to Jesus.
- 2) VSS 7-11, THE CONVICTING WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.
- a) Vs 7, The disciples wanted the physical presence of Jesus. They wanted Him to stay with them, but this was not God's eternal plan.
    - i) Jesus came to earth to die; He had to die, to be buried, and to rise again the third day, then ascend to the Father in heaven. He could not stay (Mark 10:45).

- ii) If Jesus had stayed, the work would have been limited. Jesus had voluntarily limited Himself by taking on the robe of flesh. He could not be everywhere.
  - iii) By sending the Holy Spirit, He is everywhere the believer is. He's with me and with you, and with our missionaries around the globe.
  - iv) "Expedient" means "profitable." It is profitable that each believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit.
- b) Vss 8-11, These verses tell us about the reproofing ministry of the Holy Spirit.
- i) Vs 8, The reproofing ministry of the Holy Spirit is here declared.
    - (1) In John 3, we read about the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit (see also Eph 2:1).
    - (2) In 2 Thessalonians, we learn about the restraining work of the Holy Spirit.
    - (3) Here we learn about the reproofing or convicting work of the Holy Spirit. Conviction and regeneration are the work of the Spirit (Titus 3:5).
  - ii) Vs 9, This is the sin that dooms and damns a soul to hell. This sin is unbelief. The world is condemned!
    - (1) The greatest sin a person can commit is to not believe on the Lord Jesus.
    - (2) The sin of sins is unbelief. The ultimate sin is unbelief. The damning sin is unbelief.
    - (3) Those who do not believe in God's Son go into a Christless eternity. Those who believe are not condemned (Rom 8:1).
    - (4) God has provided the remedy for sin. If you don't take it, you have no one to blame but yourself.
  - iii) Vs 10, Jesus Christ is the only sinless man that ever lived.
    - (1) Because of the sinless life of Christ, the righteous one, we can be made righteous by accepting Him as Savior.
    - (2) When we trust Christ, God subtracts our sin and adds Christ's righteousness (I Cor 5:21).
  - iv) Vs 11, Satan has been judged, and he is a defeated foe. Satan is condemned to the lake of fire, and all of those who reject Christ are going to go there too (Rev 20:10).
    - (1) All unbelievers will share in Satan's doom because all are guilty; all are declared to be sinners (Rom 3:10, 23).
    - (2) The only way to heaven is Jesus. Your sin will send you to hell, but Jesus can take you to heaven (Rom 6:23).
- 3) VSS 12-15, THE HOLY SPIRIT'S WORK IN THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER.
- a) Vs 12, There were some things that the disciples could not carry at this point in their spiritual life. The things that Christ would show them later by the work of the Spirit were pure gold. But for now, they could not carry it.
  - b) Vs 13-14, The Spirit of God is the Spirit of Truth, and He will lead you and guide you into all truth (John 17:17). The key of these verses is the fact that whatever

the Holy Spirit does it will glorify Christ. The Holy Spirit never leads us to do things that bring shame to the name of Christ. The Holy Spirit does not lead a man to leave his wife for another woman, etc. Whatever the Holy Spirit does will bring glory to the name of Christ.

- i) The Holy Spirit puts the spotlight on Christ, not on Himself.
- ii) The Holy Spirit always brings glory to Christ.
- c) Vs 15, The Holy Spirit is the one who searches the deep things of God and shows them to us (I Cor 2:9-10). Lost people cannot receive spiritual things (I Cor 2:14).

**CONCLUSION:** There are things that we need to know about the Lord, and the Holy Spirit is the teacher. Lost person, the thing that you need to know is that you are a sinner in need of a Savior.