

Rev. Paul A. Hottinger

**Sin, Righteousness, Condemnation**    Sixth Week of Easter    Tuesday, May 28, 2019  
Acts 16:22-34;    **Jn 16:5-11**    (The Advocate will convict the world.)

**“But I tell you the truth, it is better for you that I go.”**

So it is a fact of life that we like the way things are; we get used to the status quo, and **the status quo for the disciples was having Jesus with them.** But we can see that as long as Jesus was with them in the flesh, they really did not completely convert to God; **they were depending on him too much.** And when he was arrested, their lives fell apart because they were totally depending on him; and **that is not the will of God for them or for us.** So he says, and this is still at the Last Supper, “It is better for you that I go.” Why? Because the absence created by his departure, created by his death, creates a longing; and this longing is an invitation to the Spirit. But as long as we are satisfied with the status quo, we won’t long. And so he says, “It is better for you that I go.” **It’s better for you that you experience grief because in the grieving the Comforter will come, the Advocate, the Paraclete.**

**Then he says the Paraclete “will convict the world in regard to sin and righteousness and condemnation.”** So everywhere you go in the world, **every culture has standards:** somethings are right; somethings are wrong. Sometimes the standards we meet in foreign places surprise us. Sometimes it seems that people make a big deal about something that might seem to us trivial or vice versa; they might trivialize something we think is very important. **Look at how many people in our society trivialize the life of a child in the womb.** Many Americans are foreign to the Christian sense of life because they think the child in the womb is really not a living person, not a living being, not a human being. I’ve heard them say that: “It’s not a human being.” What kind of being it is, I have no idea, but they say not human. Now this is foreign, strange, odd, peculiar; and it goes on all the time throughout the whole world. **We should have long ago given**

**up the idea that this is a Christian country; it surely isn't in its majority of people,** strands here and there, but not really a solid majority.

So now the Spirit comes to convict the world in regard to sin; and **what is sin really?** **Unbelief.** All other standards are relative. The real sin that the Advocate, the Paraclete convicts the world of is the sin of unbelief, "because they do not believe in me." That's the major moral problem in the world; everything else is relative. **"Righteousness, because I'm going to the Father."** This is a gift to the believers; for the believer to see Christ returning to the Father, although at first the disciples might have grieved at Jesus' departure, nonetheless in time they will see that **this really confirms their faith and is making a home for them.** So Jesus returns to the Father because that's where he comes from. But not only that, **he has promised to take us with him.** Thirdly, **he will convict the world in regard to condemnation.** Why? **"Because the ruler of this world has been condemned."** So again, the standards of the world are completely undermined because the ruler of this world, which is a term for the devil, the ruler of this world, St. Paul says "the god of this world," has been condemned. And along with the ruler, and the god of this world **all those who cling to the ruler of this world, all the allies, all the friends.** This is something the world doesn't even yet suspect.