

“You are not alone”

Text: John 14: 15-27 (KJV)

Our text finds Jesus with his disciples in the Upper Room with his disciples, partaking of the Last Supper before he is to be crucified. He speaks of the preparations he is making for those who believe in him, where they will reside after their death, how he will maintain communication with believers until he returns again. His work ethic is magnificent, he knows his crucifixion is near, but he wanted his followers to be sure all would be well with them after his departure. He speaks of the Holy Trinity, God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, the Triune God Head. He comforts them, telling them he has prepared mansions for them and all believers, vs. 14:1-3, the only path to God is through him, vs. 14:6. Jesus makes a timeless promise that if you love me and keep my commandments, I will hear your prayers and answer them, vs. 14:11-15. Then in our text passage he describes how he will maintain communication with us until the Second Coming. He introduces the third person of the God Head, vs. 14:26 “Comforter”; whose purpose is to teach and insure that all he has said is remembered.

In his exegetical discourse regarding “The Comforter”, Dr. W. A. Criswell, notes in The Criswell Study Bibles the following: “The Greek term *parakletos* used of the Holy Spirit is peculiar to John. It is translated. ““comforter” or “advocate,” signifying one who is call alongside “*para*”-; “alongside,” *kletos*- “called” to give help and advice and especially to give counsel for the defense. In order to summarize the biblical teaching on the Holy Spirit, three indispensable facts must be accounted for, namely, 1) He is a person, 2) He is God, and 3) He has specific functions in the economic trinity of God.”

Often, I am approached for counseling and hear from the voice on the other end of the telephone, I am alone, and I need help. My counsel to them is, YOU ARE NOT ALONE”. No matter what the circumstance, whether you are married, single, divorced, widowed, you have a friend in Christ Jesus; vs. 27; “Peace I leave with you, my peace, I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

The “Comforter”, the “Holy Spirit”, is your line of connection with two other beings, God the Father, and God Son. So you can rightfully say, you are four in number, the Trinity and yourself. Satan’s tact is always to isolate you from this powerful connection. We see him at work in the Garden of Eden, where he isolates Eve from her Adam and God and works a theology contrary to the truth....if you eat of the fruit of that tree forbidden by God, and the serpent (satan) said unto the woman, “Ye shall not surely die”:-Gen3:1-4; a half truth, distorted to cause dysfunction. So she ate, and Adam ate and they did not die physical death but spiritual death and separation from God.

When you face challenges, dilemmas, tragedy, and dire circumstances, remember what Jesus said that evening over 2000 years ago, “love me, keep my commandments, “if ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it”-vs. 14. I’m reminded of the picture story of a man who was talking to Jesus, telling him about his walking through the desert, alone, at peril of his life, alone, trying to find the strength to make it, and he exclaimed, Jesus you were not there for me. Jesus answer, why do you say I was there and that

you were alone. The man answered, look, see those footprints in the sand as I trekked through the desert, they were mine alone. Jesus corrected the man, telling him, that is not true, those foot prints were mine as I walked through the desert carrying you safely through.

I close with a hymn written by an unknown 19th Century composer: NEVER ALONE –“I’ve seen the lightning flash-ing And heard the thun-der roll, I’ve felt sin’s break-ers dash-ing , Which tried to con-quer my soul, I’ve heard the voice of my Sav - ior, He bid me still fight on- He prom-ised nev-er to leave me, Nev-er to leave me a-lone....No, ___nev-er a - lone,_____ No,___nev-er a - lone – He prom-ised nev-er to leave me, Nev-er to leave me a-lone”

Yours in Christ

Dempsey Scott Harrison, Jr.