

The Day of Pentecost (2018)

John 15:26–27; 16:4b–15 26“But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. 27And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning. 4But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you. “I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. 5But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ 6But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. 7Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. **But if I go, I will send him to you. 8And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: 9concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; 10concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; 11concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.** 12“ I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. 14He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. 15All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

In the Name of Jesus.

Waitamminute Waitamminute Waitamminute! The Lord Jesus laid down His Life for the world, picked it up again, gives His flesh as Bread of Life for the world, and this is all God's LOVE to—the WORLD!—and now, He ascends IN ORDER to send The Paraclete, the Helper, the Counselor, the Comforter—and what is The Holy Spirit's job?

He will CONVICT the WORLD!

What about LOVE?

What about all that dying and rising for the world?

And what about the John chapter one THEME of: The LAW came through Moses, GRACE AND TRUTH came through Jesus Christ!?

HOW, then, is the Holy Spirit's job any different from Moses' job!

Haha! There you go, my dear ones! The rest of the

world's religions—and all the warped forms of OUR religion!—say that there IS NO DIFFERENCE! Just in DEGREE, or some such nonsense. And so our CHRISTIAN religion is DEMOTED to any ol' religion that any man of the world can conceive: “There's something WRONG with you; HERE is the program to SCOLD yourself into being less and less WRONG; and, let's hope for the BEST! At LEAST you know a whole lot of people who could be dressed down more easily than YOU! Why do you think the devil invented Facebook? And the telephone? And so on?”

Pontius Pilate pulled the trigger; but the Lord's own people loaded the gun. ‘Go JUDGE HIM—Pilate said!—JUDGE HIM yourselves!’ ‘We WOULD if we COULD; but you ROMANS are the big bosses now; and only Y'ALL can EXECUTE! Let's be FRIENDS, just for today!’

Satan is God's ape; a pathetic wannabe Living God. But everything to which God's monkey sets his hand is lying and murder: it all ends by making a kingdom of the dead!

But he's a clever chimp, our ruler Satan! And his go-to set of tricks is THIS: Improve on God's LAW—and, then, improve on the GOSPEL!

So, as we see increasingly in our own ‘In God we trust’ country, every basic element of the LAW is mocked. Since our goal—our ruler’s goal—is NOT to be rational, reasonable, but to keep us in chains, in guilt, in death, we even murder our REASON, which we usually love so much, and prove a negative: There...is...no...God! Ask any first year university logic student; and if he follow his logic book, that sort of talk is nonsense.

But nonsense is baboon-god’s job!

So, though there IS no god—our ruler lies, and we get in line—let’s ALL turn into GOD! And push and shove and lie and kill until OUR power dominates all the space we need! To the point of denying our action, denying our promises, denying our God-given GENDER, bleh, bleh, bleh....

But there remains—by God’s mercy—some tiny spark of conscience in the tiniest minority of men. And when the Law of Moses is heard, and our conscience has to admit grudgingly that WE is NOT GOD—and WE is IN IMPENDING TROUBLE—then our MOCK-god is ready for that too:

‘PRETEND that you, and your little group, can

DISTINGUISH itself from some other person, or group—
STAND OUT in this WORLD—and all will be well!’

And so, the people in history who tried hardest to keep the Law of Moses could not stand to let live the One Whom Moses pledged would come! For Moses himself knew what Luther later taught the Church: that the ONLY and GODLY and PROFITABLE use of the Law, is to beat it into and out of men that WE CANNOT KEEP THE LAW! And thus, we yearn for a new world, a new God, a new Kingdom!

He has come!

And He SENT His Spirit to the apostles, and SENDS Him into every wailing little terrific sinner the day that baby is baptized at Christ’s authority. Young, old, awake or asleep—doesn’t much matter! For the NEW testament, the NEW deal God makes with us, with the WORLD—as if He’s a TOTALLY DIFFERENT GOD ALTOGETHER!—is that the Living God is NOT going to WAIT to add up OUR pluses and minuses, credits and debits, to figure out HIS rewards and punishments, how HE is going to BE toward us!

That’s the old, stale, bad breath of our God’s ape, who wants to be the Father AND the Son; and NOW, even the

BREATH of God, though FOUL!

People tell me they like examples: this is the best I could do today. I quote the portion on which I focus today:

But if I go, I will send him to you. 8And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: 9concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; 10concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; 11concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

OK. The best I can come up with is this:

No matter how grand WE think the world is, and our part in it, HEAVEN sees the world this way:

It's a big drain, down, down, down to the sewer. It looks to you and me, swirling down it, that it's a slow drain. But in the eyes of heaven, it's a serious and quick threat.

And as we're all swirling down this drain, instead of crying out our need and desperate condition, we're stabbing at each other, pushing and showing, lying to each other—whatever!—so that the day comes when WE can declare in our little whirlpool of the drain: I AM the King, the Boss, of THIS part of the fetid pool! Remember that those crucified with Jesus, going down the same drain with Him, had nothing better to do at that moment than join in the fun of mocking this strange King!

And, of course, we're just fooling ourselves. For we, in turn, like our ruler, are just ape-ing HIM! HE is the ruler of this place of death that only leads to more death. And when WE push, shove, break the law, or PRETEND that the next man's breaking somehow sets him LOWER down the pipes and thus SECURES us some sort of permanent place—ugh!—WE are just ape-ing God's chief monkey.

I was really tempted, my friends, to speak of this world not just as a simple drain, but as a toilet bowl! I thought that was more appropriate and startling. But then I thought it might not be very polite on the day of Pentecost to place in your minds the thought of this world and all its glory and power and acclaim being just toilet bowl contents after the flush has been pushed. So, please, I will not compare the kingdom of the world, of Satan, to the bowl of a toilet and I suggest that you banish that thought from your mind!

So, the Spirit convicts the world:

Regarding sin: for they do not believe in Me! The best synonym for 'believe' is 'rejoice'! Those swirling down the drain REJOICE when that downward slide is ended, and a NEW life granted! But that means following the one judged by the world.

ERIC THE VIKING STORY! Ha! 'First, you need to go under the water!'

He will judge the world *10concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer.*
Praise the LORD! The LIVING God has NO PERMANENT place in THIS kingdom! 'My kingdom is not of this world,' our King told Pilate.

And so, when the Spirit lives in us, we cannot be robbed, we cannot be defamed, we cannot be killed, my dear disciples of Jesus! For we've died already, in our Baptism; die DAILY, in fact! And the ONLY kingdom the Lord has in THIS DRAIN, are those few who hold hands and give each other heart, and teach one another to count ourselves dead already to sin, but alive to God in Christ. This is what it means to 'love one another' as Christ has loved us!

11 concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

There IS only One True God, the Holy Blessed Trinity, the God our Baptism, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

But from OUR standpoint, view, life, it's ALMOST as if He has made HIMSELF all over again, since there's not much He could do with us in the shape we're in!

The worst of the world, like the Romans, want to BE their own religion. Funny, isn't it, that THAT monkey's-trick is actually less dangerous than the self-righteous one! PILATE is worried, John writes, when he hears that Jesus claims actually to BE God!

But the BEST of the world were not worried about that, at all; at all! And just before the Sabbath fell, the day of rest and of God's mercy and comfort, they wore out their throats with the nasty breath of their master who possessed them: away with Him! Away with Him! Crucify Him! We have no King but Caesar! Who can be saved from that?

School board story;

Paul's story of failure this week:

And so Paul, and all with Paul in this sad state are glad to learn from the liturgy to sing, 'You alone, Lord Jesus, are holy, and most high in the glory of God the Father! And, of course, your Spirit, Holy, Who now breathes even through Me!'

Thank God for our Baptism, my dear saints! For it is Jesus' pledge to us that He will save us from the drain we're in. Amen!