

## Episode #2-13 – John 16 Part 4 - A Little While No, A Little While Yes

I. The purpose of the gospel of John is to produce believers in the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the One anointed by God to be the Savior of the world, and that Jesus is the Son of God, God represented in human form.

II. We are continuing the teaching of the Lord on the road from the last supper in the upper room to Gethsemane. He is explaining to them about when the paraclete, sometime after His coming, acts to make the facts known (*elegcho*) to the world.

III. John 16:7-15. The Comforter Part 3: His coming and its results.

1. V.12. This brings up obvious questions. When would He tell them, since He is leaving them? How will they be made able to bear them?
2. V.13. The answer to both questions: the Spirit of truth. He would tell them what He wanted them to know through the Spirit, and the Spirit would make them able to bear these things. The Spirit would hear from Christ the things He had not yet told them. Compare John 14:24. The Lord spoke the Father's words, now the Spirit will speak Christ's words.
3. V.14. He would declare the Lord's knowledge, wisdom, and Divine words. When they displayed these things, Christ would be glorified, for all men would know they were His disciples.
4. V.15. Why His, and not the Father's? Because everything the Father has is His as well! There is complete equality between them regarding ownership.

IV. John 16:16-22. In a little while they will not see Him, then a little while and they will see Him.

- A. V.16. In a little while, He was going to His death. A little after that, He would rise from the dead. The resurrection was crucial. If the Father had not accepted His sacrifice, He never would have been raised. He did accept it, and He was raised to go to Him.
- B. V.17. Imagine how confusing this would be if you didn't know what was coming up with His death, burial, and resurrection! No wonder His disciples are confused.
- A. V.18. They do not get what He is talking about by saying "a little while."
- B. V.19. They were discussing among themselves. They wanted to ask Him, but maybe they didn't dare. The Lord asks this question to show He realizes what they are wondering, and they will see His words are to answer their confusion.
- C. V.20. Most assuredly = truly, truly; for great emphasis. They would weep and lament when He was arrested and crucified. The world (*kosmos*, the wicked leaders of the order that existed in Israel then) would rejoice in their seeming victory. The disciples' sorrow would be turned to joy when He rose from the dead.
- D. V.21. This is like a mother in labor. Similarly, they would forget all their sorrow for joy when the Lord rose. Not that they literally couldn't remember it, but it no longer had power to make them sorrowful. This gives us a clue how our tears will be dried, our sorrows turned to joy, in Revelation 21:4.
- E. V.22. They are about to sorrow at His death. When they see Him in resurrection they will rejoice with a joy that cannot be taken away! The Lord's death was what was needed to make God's new nation of Israel under the new covenant. The birth pains were experienced at His death. Once He rose, all that was necessary for that nation to

exist was complete. Once that nation is born, no one will be able to take away the joy of those who dwell in it!

1. Ezekiel 36:24-28. He cleans Israel with the Holy Spirit. They then walk in His statutes.
2. (Isaiah 32:13-18. These things last forever...until! This shows that “forever” is not a good translation of the Hebrew “for the olam.” Here it means “perpetually...until.” When the Spirit is poured upon them, they will dwell quietly and securely. This will happen in the kingdom of God.)

V. Conclusion: The Paraclete will teach the disciples all the things they could not yet learn while Christ was on earth. He explained they would not see Him for a while, then they would see Him. They would sorrow, but their sorrow would be turned to joy at His resurrection! Their ultimate joy will be when He makes His new Israel in the kingdom. Our sorrows will be turned to joy the same way. May that day come quickly!