

## *Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript*

### **The Truth, The Whole Truth And Nothing But The Truth John 14:25-26**

This Tuesday many of us will be voting in California's general election. We will be voting for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Controller, Treasurer, Attorney General, Insurance Commissioner, United States Senator, various congressional representatives and judges as well as on various state measures.

And I would like to think that that all of us have spent some time preparing ourselves for this election, which would mean that we have actually considered which candidate or state measures might best serve ourselves and the State of California.

But unfortunately we will only be able to do this in direct proportion to the accuracy of the information that we being provided.

For instance, let me give you the argument in favor of Proposition 1A supplied for us in our official voter registration guide. This is what it says, "A YES on 1A dedicates taxes we already pay at the pump for transportation improvements like building roads, congestion relief, and safety repairs. 1A closes a loophole in the law to prevent politicians from spending gas taxes on other programs. Rebuild California: YES on 1A – safer roads, reduced congestion."

This sounds good doesn't it? But now let me read for you the argument against Proposition 1A, which is also supplied for us in our official registration guide. This is what it says, "Vote 'NO' on Proposition 1A! Keep Education, health care, and disaster relief our State's top priorities. In hard economic times 'autopilot' budgeting causes massive unnecessary cuts to schools, firefighters, trauma centers, and health care. The Governor and legislature must have flexibility to meet the needs of Californians. Vote 'NO' on Proposition 1A."

Well there it is. One proposition, two different opinions but who is telling the truth? Is it the person writing the PRO argument for proposition 1A or is it the person who is writing the CON argument for proposition 1A? I really don't know! I think I know and I will vote according to what I think, but the truth is I really don't know. And the truth is that there is no human opinion, no matter whose opinion it might be, that we can absolutely trust.

But even though this is true, there is a source of truth that not only we should trust but we need to trust if we are going to actually live life and live it abundantly.

This leads us back to our study of the Gospel of John and Christ's farewell discourse. So, what again is Jesus trying to do in this discourse? Jesus, in His farewell discourse, is attempting to prepare His disciples for His departure. And this is exactly what Jesus will once again be seeking to do **John 14:25-31**.

This weekend as we begin to examine John 14:25-31 we will see how Christ prepared His disciples for His departure by outlining certain benefits. So, what is the first benefit of His departure that Christ mentions to His disciples?

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The first benefit of Christ's departure in respect to His disciples was that the Holy Spirit would be sent to them (John 14:25-26).

Let me read this verses for you "**These things I have spoken to you, while abiding with you** [In other words, this is the way things have been in the past, but then He goes on to say] **(26) But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send on My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.**"

Though Christ might be leaving them, He would not cease speaking to them. In other words, He would continue to speak to them through the Holy Spirit who would be sent to them. So, let us look more carefully at this promise.

This promise that the Spirit would be sent to them in John 14:26 is the second time that Christ promised His disciples that the Spirit would be sent (John 14:16-17). So, if this was the second time, when was the first time? Let me read for you **John 14:16-17. "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; (17) that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you."** So, how are these two promises similar or dissimilar from each other?

This second promise is similar to the first promise in that the teaching role of the Holy Spirit is emphasized. And yet the second promise is different in the fact that the second promise gives us greater detail in respect to the future teaching role of the Spirit.

So, what is this greater detail that Jesus shared with His disciples in **John 14:26**? Jesus, in John 14:26, shared with His disciples that the Holy Spirit, when He came, would perform two different tasks on their behalf. So, what were those two tasks?

The first task that Jesus promised His disciples the Holy Spirit would perform on their behalf after He came was the Holy Spirit would teach them "all things." Let me read for you the first part of **John 14:26. "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things."** If this was the first task, what was the second task that Christ mentioned?

The second task that Jesus promised His disciples that the Holy Spirit would perform on their behalf after He came was the Spirit would remind them of all the things that He had told them. Let us once again look at **John 14:26** but this time let me read the whole verse. "**But the helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring you to remembrance all that I said to you.**"

So, how did these two tasks complement one another? The first task that Christ mentioned, "teaching all things," would logically be subsequent to the second task. In other words, the first task would logically flow out from the second task, just like the white of an egg would flow out from the yoke when placed in a frying pan. In other words, they are connected but separate.

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Therefore let us first of all consider the second task that Christ mentioned, or the "yolk," which represents all the truth that Jesus had given to His disciples while He was with them and which the Spirit after His departure would later need to remind them of.

Let me ask you this question. How much of what Christ shared with His disciples while He was with them on earth could we have expected His disciples to remember after He left them to return back to His Father if they did not receive any other help? I believe the answer, based upon our own human experience, would be very little!

Lynn and I were married August 24, 1968. I would like to tell you I have a very vivid memory of everything that happened and everything that she said to me on that day, but I don't. I can remember various tidbits but to be honest with you I cannot remember one single conversation that I had with Lynn that day. In fact, I cannot remember one single conversation that I had with Lynn just a few months ago as we celebrated 38th wedding anniversary. Now I know that my memory might be particularly bad compared to yours but I think that we all can concede the difficulty of recalling specific details of various conversations from weeks, months and even years before.

This is why after Jesus left this earth it was so important for His disciples to be given another helper so that they would be able to bring to their remembrance everything that Jesus had said to them while He was with them. And this is exactly what Christ is promising His disciples in the latter half of **John 14:26**.

And where would the fulfillment of this work, as promised by Christ, be most clearly seen in the New Testament Scriptures?

The fulfillment of this promised work of the Spirit to bring to the disciples' remembrance everything that Jesus had shared with them is wonderfully displayed for us in the four Gospels.

Clearly, the four Gospels are an amazing work of remembrance. And this amazing work of remembrance, I believe, is most notably manifested here in John's Gospel. Why would I say this? I would say this not only because John's Gospel was the last of the four gospels to be written, which was over 50 years after the death of Christ, but it also contains such long discourses involving such great detail that it would have been impossible for any human to have written this account without the divine help, which of course Christ promised His disciples here in **John 14:26**.

But even though this promise that the Holy Spirit, when sent to them, would help them remember was a spectacular promise, and even though it was spectacularly fulfilled in the writing of the Gospels, it was not in and of itself enough. If they were going to be the apostles of Christ in the New Testament era and the foundation of the church they needed more help. Why?

Though the help of the Spirit in bringing to remembrance all that Jesus told His disciples was critical in writing the Gospels, it was not enough in respect to writing the epistles. Writing the Gospels would have been one thing but writing the epistles would have been a totally different thing since it would have required more than simple remembrance.

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There are a couple of reasons for this.

First of all, the disciples would not have been able to write the epistles without the help of the Spirit because they had not understood much of what Jesus had told them when He was with them.

Isn't this true? And haven't we already seen this repeatedly demonstrated for us here in John's account of the last night of Christ's life, which began at the end of **John 13** and has continued right up to the passage that we are considering this weekend here in **John 14**? What are some examples of their confusion that were demonstrated even on the very last night of Christ's earthly life?

When Christ told His disciples in **John 13:33**, "**Little children, I am with you a little while longer. You shall seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, I now say to you also, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.'**" Did Christ's disciples understand these words? No!

When Christ told His disciples in **John 14:2-4**, "**In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. (3) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. (4) And you know the way where I am going.**" Did Christ's disciples understand these words? No!

When Christ spoke to Thomas in **John 14:6** and told Him that He was the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him, did Christ's disciples understand these words? No!

Why did the disciples of Christ need more help from the Spirit than simply the ability to recall all that Jesus had spoken to them during the course of His earthly ministry in order to write the New Testament epistles? First of all, they needed more help because they were confused about so much of what Christ had said to them and therefore would not have been able to write the epistles without the Spirit's help in providing for them necessary clarification after His departure of all that Jesus had said before His departure.

But this is not the only reason why the disciples of Christ would have needed more help from the Spirit. There was a second reason. What is that second reason?

The disciples would not have been able to write the epistles without the help of the Spirit because Jesus had not shared with them all that He needed to share with them when He was with them (John 16:12-13).

Let me read for you **John 16:7-12**. "**But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. (8) And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment; (9) concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; (10) and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you no longer behold Me; (11) and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged. (12) I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.**

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**(13) But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come."**

Did Christ's disciples need more help from the Spirit than simply the ability to recall all that Jesus had spoken to them during the course of His earthly ministry in order to write the New Testament epistles? Absolutely!

First of all, they needed more help because they were confused about so much of what Christ had said to them and therefore would not have been able to write the epistles without the Spirit's help in providing for them necessary clarification after His departure of all that Jesus had said before His departure. And secondly, they would have needed more help because there was more truth that Christ wanted to share with them that they would not have been able to bear before the death, burial, resurrection of Christ and the coming the Holy Spirit. And did they receive that help? Absolutely? They received that help not only when they were brought into remembrance but even more so when they were subsequently taught all things.

So, what can we conclude from this? This is what we can conclude. Just as the promised work of the Spirit to bring to the disciples' remembrance all of what Jesus had shared with them is wonderfully displayed for us in the four Gospels, we can also conclude that the promised work of the Spirit to teach His disciples "all things" is wonderfully displayed for us in the New Testament epistles.

So, now let me ask you a question. Based on the promise in **John 14:26** to Christ's disciples, are the words of Scripture trustworthy and complete? Absolutely! They are totally trustworthy and they are totally complete. How could New Testament Scriptures not be in light of the fact that the disciples of Christ were not only brought into remembrance of everything that Christ had said to them by the Holy Spirit but they were also, through the Holy Spirit who was sent to them, taught all things?

So, if this is true, that everything that could have been communicated in terms of what is truly important has been communicated, is there any continuing need for the Spirit to continue His work in respect to spiritual truth? Yes! There is still a continuing need for the Spirit.

Is He needed in order to give us new revelation? No! But He certainly is still needed. And how is that?

The same Spirit who gave the Scriptures under divine inspiration to the apostles is still needed to illuminate that Scripture, to lead us into its already settled truth.

Though the Spirit of truth, the Holy Spirit, gave the apostles what they needed in order to write the Scriptures, the same Spirit is still needed in order to make those Scriptures come alive to us otherwise the Scriptures will remain simply words on a page.

This Tuesday many of us will once again be voting in a general election. We will once again for the most part be depending upon the opinions of man to help us to decide who and what we will be voting for. And that is just the way it is.

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But this is not the way it has to be when it comes to us experiencing life and life abundant. There is a source of truth that we can trust. There is a source of truth that we can build our lives upon. And what is that truth? It is the Scriptures. And how do these Scriptures come alive to us? They come alive to us when we by faith and as an expression of love for Christ place our trust in them and therefore seek to live by them.

May God give us the grace not only to view the Scriptures as true and complete but as the Spirit's tool, molding and shaping us into the people that God would have us to be