



# THE COMFORTER

## *parakletos*

Written by Randy Kea

No Bible subject is more misunderstood by the religious world than the Holy Spirit and His work. Even in the Lord's church there is a lack of study and knowledge on this vital topic. The Lord said in John 14:16, "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever..." In this passage the word "Comforter" is from the Greek word *parakletos* which means to call to one's side, to aid as a legal assistant or counselor.

Further in this passage, the word "another" is from *allos*. In the original language there are two words translated "another." One of them means "another of a different kind," but the word used in John 14:16 means "another of the same kind." This indicates that although Jesus is returning to His Father, He would send the apostles the Comforter who would take His place as their teacher, guide, counselor, aid and intercessor.

Clearly, these passages on the Comforter in John chapters 14-16 apply exclusively to the apostles.

### THE APOSTLES AND THE COMFORTER

In the conversation recorded only by John (chapters 13-16 ending in the prayer of our Lord for unity in 17), the word "Comforter" applies only to the apostles. The simple wording in these passages demonstrate conclusively that the word "Comforter" has an exclusive

*This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you... (1 John 1:5).*

**VISITORS,  
WELCOME!**

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9:30 a.m. Bible Class

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1:00 p.m. WORSHIP

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application to the apostles of our Lord and was special to them and not general to all Christians for all ages. If you cross examine these passages you will learn that the Holy Spirit is called “the Comforter” or the “Spirit of truth.”

The Lord summarized the Comforter’s work (in and through the apostles) in four points:

1. The Comforter would guide the apostles into all truth (John 16:13).
2. The Comforter would bring to the apostles’ memory all that Jesus had taught them during His earthly ministry (John 14:26).
3. The Comforter would bear witness through the apostles and they would be the Lord’s personal first- hand eyewitnesses. In other words, inspired testimony because they had “been with” Jesus “from the beginning” (John 15:26-27).
4. The Comforter would show them things to come (John 16:13; 2 Thess. 2; 1 Tim. 4; 2 Tim. 4, etc).

This description of the Holy Spirit’s work (through the apostles) demonstrates that His work as the Comforter would be limited to the apostles. These points show that only the apostles were qualified to be in receipt of the Holy Spirit as the Comforter (*parakletos*). Obviously, no one today could be described as such.

If anyone today had the Comforter as the apostles had in the first century, they would not need a New Testament – they could write one! Note also the Lord said concerning the Comforter (the Spirit of truth), “the world cannot receive” (John 14:17). Contextually, Jesus is contrasting the apostles with the world, not Christians and non-Christians, as some assume. In other words, nobody else in the world will receive what the apostles received or do what the first-century apostles did.

## **THE APOSTLES HAD UNIQUE POSITION**

The apostles sustained a unique relationship with Christ and the church. This is seen in the following points:

1. They would have the authority to bind and loose on earth as the Lord’s authoritative representatives as they were guided by the Holy Spirit (Matt. 16:18-19; 18:18).
2. They would sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. Obviously these thrones are not literal but metaphorical and indicate their role to pass apostolic authoritative judgments upon the church (Matt. 19:28; 1 Cor. 2:15).
3. They would have the authority to remit and retain sins (John 20:21- 23). This of course would be accomplished as they set out the terms of remission of sins through their inspired apostolic preaching (Acts 2:38).
4. The apostles, including Paul, would be “ambassadors” for Christ (2 Cor 5:20). An ambassador is a person clothed with delegated authority as a representative to a ...

... government on foreign soil. Christ ascended back to His Father and sat down at His right hand as King of kings and Lord of lords and sent forth His apostles, His ambassadors, who became the “able ministers of the New Testament” (2 Cor. 3:6).

## **THE APOSTLES HAD UNIQUE QUALIFICATIONS**

The apostles of Christ were hand-picked by Jesus: “And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach...” (Mark 3:14). Later, when Judas Iscariot fell by transgression, even Matthias who took his place was selected by the Lord through the lot system. “And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen...and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles” (Acts 1:24-26).

In Acts 1:22-26, there are certain prerequisites and qualifications stated that one must possess to even be considered an apostle (ambassador). There were three qualifications that no one today can possess: 1) Baptized of John’s baptism (Paul being the exception – later hand-picked by Jesus when He appeared to him on the road to Damascus to qualify him to be an eyewitness (Acts 26:16). 2) Personal eyewitness of the resurrected Christ. 3) Handpicked by the Lord. Obviously, no one today meets any of these qualifications; therefore, no one today can be in the position of the first-century apostles. There is no need for such. They are still our apostles through the New Testament they gave us (2 Cor. 3:6; Eph. 3:3-5). This further proves that the Comforter was only for the apostles.

## **THE APOSTLES HAD UNIQUE POWERS**

The apostles received their powers directly through Holy Spirit baptism. As you know, the word baptize means to immerse, submerge, or overwhelm. Holy Spirit baptism was immersion in miraculous power. The Lord told the apostles that they would be endued (clothed) with power from on high (Luke 24:49). The outpouring of this power occurred on the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Christ in Jerusalem – the day the church was established (Acts 2:1-11). This power came exclusively on the apostles. Jesus took the promise of John the Baptist in Matthew 3:10-12 and applied it only to the apostles in Acts 1:2-8. The term Comforter therefore in John 14:16,26; 15:26; 16:7 is the same thing as Holy Spirit baptism. The outpouring of this power is the fulfillment of the Lord’s promise that He made to His apostles just prior to His death, burial, and resurrection. Primary among these powers was the ability to lay hands on others in order to impart a wide range of powers – miraculous gifts (Acts 8:14-18; 9:1-6). In the absence of a written New Testament, these gifts and powers would be needed for the church to function as it should and for the Word of God to be confirmed as it was preached (Mark 16:15-20; Eph. 4:7-15).

**Some content removed because of space limitations; feel free to read entire article at [www.seektheoldpaths.com](http://www.seektheoldpaths.com)**

# NEWS & NOTES

## Please Pray

Jan & Seth Daniel; Wiley Tuggle; Terry Davis; Sammy Williams; Inez Neyman; Clarence & Faye Edwards.

## Far East Missions Fishers of Men NetCasters

### Family & Friends

**Several** out of work; **Charles Savage**, Lara's dad, severe back pain, cannot get needed doctor appointments because of pandemic; **Dale Byrum**, missionary to Philippines, made it home to USA; **Richard Neal**, Clifton's neighbor, cancer treatments; **Crutcher Comer**, grandson of Ginger's friends; **Terry Cummings**, friend of Faye Edwards, at DiversaCare where Sherry resides; **Martha Williams**, Amanda Lyon's grandmother, dementia.

### Birthdays

4/1 Joe Owen  
4/20 Aubrey Ratliff  
4/20 Jamie Cagle  
4/27 Janice Dixon

## Get Involved!

**April 26: Zoom Meeting for Worship, 10:30**  
**Link emailed & posted in FB group**

**Southaven Ladies Day Cancelled**  
Was scheduled for May 2

**May 3: Assembling at Building, 10:30 AM**  
More details to come

**Coldwater VBS Cancelled**  
Was Scheduled for May 31 – June 4  
Unfortunately, several factors surrounding the pandemic have led to this decision

## Privileged to Serve

Sunday, April 26

### Morning

Prayer Before Class	
Announcements	Billy Bland
Song Leader	Andy Bayless
Lord's Supper:	
Preside	John Wofford
Assist	

Opening Prayer	Jim Jackson
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Closing Prayer	Tim Wilkes II

### Afternoon

Song Leader	<b>P</b>
Opening Prayer	<b>O</b>
Sermon	<b>S</b>
Lord's Supper	<b>T</b>
Closing Prayer	<b>P</b>

Wednesday, April 29

Song Leader	<b>O</b>
Prayer	<b>N</b>
Invitation	<b>E</b>
Prayer	<b>D</b>

TECH:  
HALL: