

Opening Reflections for Committees: June 2017

Witness and Fellowship Ministry Team

The Festival of Pentecost

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” (John 14:26)

If you've ever discussed —or argued — religion with your friends or family, you may have heard the statement, “Well, we all have a bit of the truth and when we get to heaven it will all be sorted out.” That's a nice -sounding sentiment usually used to diffuse a big argument. But it's not what Jesus teaches. He says the Holy Spirit will be sent and teach us “all things” and bring us to remember “all things” that Jesus said to us. In other words, you'll know the whole truth.

But the Holy Spirit doesn't do this by putting a feeling in our hearts in which we get all warm and fuzzy and think, “Now I really know God because I can feel Him.” No, the Spirit teaches us Christ's Word through...the Word. The Word is the Scriptures written by the Apostles and prophets and the preaching that sticks to what the Bible teaches.

And what is that? Jesus. Jesus who is God and man. Jesus who carried our sins and suffered and died to take them away. Jesus who rose from the dead in triumph. Jesus who ascended to the right hand of the Father and will come again in glory. That's what the Bible is about and that's what the Spirit delivers to us and to which He points us by that Word.

Pentecost isn't about a whoosh of warm fuzzes. It's about the preaching of Christ crucified and risen, preaching which saves sinners. The Spirit doesn't come to put the spotlight on Himself. In fact, you can be sure that any preaching that doesn't have Jesus the Savior as its center is NOT the preaching and teaching of the Holy Spirit. On Pentecost, we give thanks because our Lord teaches us “all things” by His Spirit, through His Word and pastors. Therefore, we are rescued from doubt and uncertainty and a half -hearted faith that doesn't know what it confesses. The Spirit teaches us: Jesus is our Savior.

Prayer: O God our merciful Father, who taught the hearts of Your faithful people by sending to them the light of Your Holy Spirit, bring us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things and evermore to rejoice in His holy comfort; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who with You and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever.