

The Spirit of God
Week 9
The Believer is not an orphan

LBC 2/12/03

“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.”

John 14:16-18

Introduction:

One of the great tragedies in this world is a child losing his parents.

ILLUSTRATION – Due to the AIDS epidemic, Botswana will have about 200,000 orphans in 2010 if the current situation is not reversed. This is an extraordinary number for a country of **less than 2 million people**. Speaking at the official opening of the House of Hope Day Care Centre in Palapye, an official said there are about 60,000 registered orphans in Botswana, and there are indications that the number could go up if the current trend is maintained. "The House of Hope cannot replace the love and care of a family but it can provide assistance and extension to Botswana's culture of the extended family already stretched to the limits by the ravages of the HIV/AIDS epidemic," said Korte.

Most of the orphans have no access to basic necessities such as food, clothing and shelter. Their poor backgrounds may render them have no opportunities to develop both their life and well being. Sometimes they have no access to both basic and primary education, as there's no one to take the burden of the costs. The growing number of underprivileged children is less likely to attend school contributing to rising crimes, school failure and dropouts, and destitution. What a pitiful group of children!

How sad for a child to be without its parents! How lonely, poor and vulnerable is such a creature!

For three years the disciples had depended upon Christ as a child depends upon his parents:

- They depended upon Christ to teach and instruct them.
- They looked to Christ for strength and courage.
- They turned to Christ in their difficulties and distresses.
- They depended upon Christ for protection and security.

But suddenly He was to be taken from them. What would they do? How would they survive? Who would care for them as Christ did? They would be as helpless and defenceless as little orphans! But, look at what Christ said to them concerning His departure:

John 14:18 “I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.”

What does the word “**comfortless**” mean? [ask students]

“Comfortless” = *orphanos* = bereaved; parentless; orphaned; comfortless; fatherless; neglected and in the dark; disciples without a master.

In other words, Jesus said that He would not leave the disciples as orphans. You see, the truth is that although Christ is no longer here with us in **person**, we are **not** orphans.

**** Let me teach you tonight how the believer is not an orphan:**

1. What is an orphan?

If we are to understand what it means that the Christian is not an orphan, then we first understand what it means to be an orphan.

A. An orphan is one whose parents are dead.

The cause of an orphan's predicament is the sad fact that his parents are dead and departed. The orphan no longer has the love, affection and care of his parents because they are dead.

ILLUSTRATION – Donna and her brothers grew up in orphanages and foster homes because her dad died.

However, we are not orphans because our Saviour is not **dead**! Of course, He did die - but **He is risen**!

Matthew 28:5-8 “And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you. And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.”

Hebrews 7:25 “Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

B. An orphan is one who is left alone.

The sad predicament of an orphan is that he is left alone without the warm company of the family unit.

ILLUSTRATION – I thank God for my family. How lonely I was when I moved to Wyong.

However, we have **not** been left alone – praise the Lord!

Isaiah 41:10 “Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.”

C. An orphan has lost the care and provision of his parents.

A child depends upon his parents to care for him and provide for him. The orphan can no longer depend upon his parents to provide for him because they are gone. He must depend upon charity and government welfare for his needs. How sad!

So, too, the disciples depended upon Jesus to care for them and meet their needs:

ILLUSTRATION – Feeding of the 5,000.

Jesus Christ has now ascended up to Heaven. Are we left without care and provision? NO! God still cares for us and provides our every need, even though Jesus Christ is not here in person to do so.

Philippians 4:19 “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

1 Peter 5:7 “Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”

D. An orphan is left without instruction and training.

ILLUSTRATION – My parents trained and instructed me to prepare me for adulthood. Eg. My first job mowing lawns taught me to work and to have initiative.

A poor orphan has no mum or dad to train and instruct him. How will he learn? How will he grow into a mature adult?

Are we left as orphans with no one to train and instruct us? Now that Christ is ascended up to Heaven, are we left to fend for ourselves and teach ourselves? Of course not!

John 14:25, 26 “These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”

E. An orphan has lost his defender.

A child looks to his parents to protect him from those that would hurt him.

ILLUSTRATION – Dad protecting me from the man who threatened me.

Who will protect a poor orphan?

Are we without protection now that Jesus is gone? Who will protect us from Satan, his demons, and his false prophets?

1 John 4:4 “Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.”

2. Why are we not orphans?

Has Christ left and ascended up into Heaven? Yes. Then are we not orphans? No. Why not?

A. We are not orphans because Christ is with us by His Spirit.

John 14:16-18 “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: **I will come to you.**”

Christ is with us in the Person of His Spirit. Not only is He with us, but He dwells in us.

Romans 8:9 “...Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”

Spirit of God = Spirit of Christ

B. We are not orphans because Christ is with us always.

The disciples lost the presence of Christ when He ascended up into Heaven – and they were devastated. But, we shall **never** lose His blessed presence in the person of the Holy Spirit.

Hebrews 13:5 “Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”

Matthew 28:20 “...and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

C. We are not orphans because Christ is with every believer.

If Christ were here with us physically, we would lose His presence if He were to travel to another city or country to preach. We would lose His presence if we were to travel away for some reason. Not everyone on earth could enjoy His presence at once. But, Christ is with every believer because His Spirit is with every believer!

Review / Discussion: THANK GOD that we are not orphans! Review.