

9 September 2018: Preached by Brother Samuel Joseph

Topic: The Holy Spirit, Our Comforter

Scripture text: John 15:26-27

1. We need to have a firm understanding of the doctrine of the Holy Spirit because it is both emphasised and neglected in Christianity today. The world hates and persecutes believers. The Lord Jesus Christ explains this to His disciples to prepare them as He will leave them soon. He has promised the Holy Spirit in Jn14:16, 26 and repeats the promise here.

2. The Holy Spirit has two names. He is the Comforter, which refers to a legal counsellor, who stands beside us to be our advocate. It is great comfort to have someone helping and guiding us (Lk 12:11-12). He is also the Spirit of truth and He will guide us to the truth of God's Word. Even though the work of the Holy Spirit is mysterious, the effects are powerful and undeniable (Jn 3:8).

3. We also see two statements regarding the Holy Spirit. It is regarding the mystery of the Trinity. The Holy Spirit is sent by the Father and Son. He eternally proceeds from the Father and Son (Rom 8:9, Gal 4:6). This is an eternal description of who the Spirit is. He can therefore reveal God to us (1 Cor 2:9-12).

4. There are also two descriptions of the Holy Spirit's ministry. The Holy Spirit will testify to the world of Christ (Jn 16:8). The disciples will do the same with His enabling (Acts 1:22). The Holy Spirit will witness for Christ and likewise, He will help us in our witness for Christ in the midst of a hostile world. In this spiritual battle, it is easy to be discouraged and disheartened so we need the Comforter. We can fight this spiritual battle with His help.