

open them without any noise. It is a comfort to ~~Christians~~ Christ's disciples when their solemn assemblies are reduced to privacy that no doors can shut out Christ's presence from them. He came in spite of closed doors. There was first of all that familiar (salutation), "Peace be unto you". It was peculiar and appropriate at this moment. Fear of being misled in so vital a matter would have been tragedy. It was a word never to be forgotten full of love and authority, a word from heaven as truly as from earth. He meant to say as much as "All good be to you, all peace, always by all means."

Christ had left them His peace for their legacy in John 14:27. By the death of the (testator) the testament was become of force and He was now risen from the dead to prove the will and to be Himself the executor. Accordingly He here makes prompt payment of the legacy, "Peace ~~be~~ unto you." His speaking peace makes peace, creates the fruit of the lips of Jesus.

(Peace with God), peace in your own conscience, peace with one another; all this peace be unto you. Not peace with the world but peace in Christ. His sudden appearance ~~occurred~~ in the midst of them when they were full of doubt concerning Him full of fear concerning themselves, could not but put Him into some disorder and consternation. In the second place He bid them a clear manifestation of Himself (verse 20.) Now we come to see the method that He took to convince them

INTRODUCTION: The infallible proof of Christ's resurrection, was His showing Himself alive, Acts 1:3. His first appearance to the disciples on the day on which He arose, He had sent them tidings of His resurrection by Custy and messengers. He came Himself and gave them all the assurances they could desire of the truth of it that they might not have it by heresy only but by eyewitness account.

The sadness of the last three days had brought gloom which had settled over the whole company of the disciples and we consider how they had parted from the dark night on Gethesemane in confusion and everyone perhaps was thinking of His own safety.

I. The (first day) of the week, verse 19. It was the same day that He arose being the first day of the week, the day after the Jewish Sabbath at a private meeting of the disciples and at the very outset we would like to point out that Jesus honored the solemn assemblies of His disciples on that Lord's day.

Here is a Christian sabbath observed by the disciples and owned by our Lord Jesus. The visit Christ made to His disciples on the first day of the week and the first day of the week is I think the only day of the week or the month or the year that is never mentioned by number in all the New Testament and this is spoken of several times, that

Christ arose on the first day of the week in verse 1 and then in verse 19 He appeared the same day and evening yet to put the honor upon the day it is repeated being the first day of the week not that the apostles designated and put the honor upon the day but God designed to put honor upon ~~by~~ it by ordering it that they should be together to receive Christ's first visit on that day.

By that day John points with emphasis today of Christ's resurrection. It was a day of days to those who had truly believed in Jesus. It was late in the evening or the day was far spent that He came to visit with them.

Here is a Christian assembly solemnized by the disciples and also owned by the Lord Jesus. Other of the disciples met here for some religious exercise perhaps to pray together perhaps they met to compare notes and consider whether they had sufficiency of their Master's resurrection or maybe they were here to consult as to what was to be done whether they should keep together now or whether they should shatter. They met to know one another's minds and to strengthen one another's hands and heart.

This meeting was private because they dare not appear publicly ~~if~~ especially in a body. They (met in a house) but they kept the doors shut that they might not be seen together and that none might come among them but such as they knew

for they feared the Jews that would persecute the disciples as criminals that they might seem to believe the lie that they would go forth and deceive the world so concerning the story that was put out that the disciples came by night and stole His body away. The disciples of Christ even in difficult times must (not forsake) the assembling of themselves together, Hebrews 10:25. We know that they must come together and it was ~~ab~~ new thing for the assembling of Christ's disciples to come together because they had been forced into the wilderness, Revelation 12:14, Proverbs 18:12.

God's people have been (often obliged) to enter into their chambers and shut their doors as here for fear of the Jews. Persecution is allotted them and retirement from persecution is allowed because we read back in the ages past that Christians were living in dens and caves in the earth. II. What took place in this meeting of the disciples, Now what was said and done on this visit of Christ as He made His entrance Jesus came among them in His own likeness and it seems that Christ came as a performance of His promise that where (two or three are gathered together) in His name He will be in the midst of them.

He came though the doors were shut. This does not at all weaken the evidence of His having a real human body after His resurrection. Though the doors were shut He knew how to

He had a power to send them equal to that which the father had sent Him. By the same authority and the same Father He says I send you to do this work. The commission of Peter and John by the plain word of Christ are as good as those of Isaiah and Ezekial, sent by the Lord sitting on His throne, may equal with that which was given to the mediator Himself for His work.

Now in the next place we see Him qualifying them that He had commission, verse 22. The sign He used to assure them of and affect them with the gift was now about to bestow upon. He breathed on them.

Not only to show them but that breathe of life that He himself was exalted really alive but it signified to them the spiritual life and power which they should receive from Him for all the services that lay before them. Though Thomas was not with them yet the Spirit of the Lord knew where to find Him.

Christ here seems to refer to the creation of man at first by the breathing of the breathe of life into Him, Genesis 2:7 and to intimate that He Himself was the author of that work and that the spiritual life and strength administers to Christians are derived from Him, as much as the natural of Adam and his seed so the breath of the Almighty gave life to man and began the whole world so the breathe of the Mighty Saviour gave life to His ministry and set forth the beginning

of the truth of the ressurection, they now saw Him alive whom multitudes had seen dead two or three days before.

First the marks of the wounds and the very deep marks though without any pain or soreness remained in the body of the Lord Jesus even after His resurrection that they might be demonstrations of the truth of it. He assended with them and appeared in the midst of the the throne a Lamb as it had been slain and bleeding fresh, Revelation 5:6. That they may look on Him whom they pierced.

These marks He showed to His disciples for their conviction. The satisfaction of seeing them. The satisfaction of hearing Him speak with the same voice. The satisfaction of witnessing the same gestures with His eyes and hands but they had the further evidence of these peculiar marks. He opened His hands to them that they might see the marks of the wounds, the exalted Redeemer will ever show Himself openhanded and openhearted to all His faithful friends and followers. Here is love to believers by the comforts of the Holy Spirit through them because He lives they shall live also then He shows them His hands and His side.

To convince them beyond the reach of doubt that He was with them alive in the very body that He had been nailed to the cross and pierced with the soldiers' spear.

This impression that was made upon them was good. They were convinced that they saw the Lord so was their faith confirmed. At first no doubt, they had doubts and afterwards they find that this grace was real and substantial. They asked not, is it the Lord.

(They were glad.) They were strengthened with faith raised with joy, believing they rejoiced.

John seems to write here then then, were the disciples glad when they saw the Lord but it seems that He writes as the spirit of Jacob was revived when he heard the good news that Joseph was yet alive. How would it revive the heart of the disciples to hear that Jesus is alive again. Why are you trouble-hearted? Why are you disturbed?

This we see that wipes away the tears from their eyes. A sight of Christ will gladden the heart of a disciple at any time. The more we see of Christ the more we are rejoicing in Him and our joy will never be perfect till we come to where we shall see Him as He is. Then in the third place

we see that He gives them (a commission) in verse 21. Peace be unto you. This was intended to either raise their attention to the commission or to soothe their fears that they might calmly attend to the proofs of the resurrection to encourage them to accept the commission He was giving them. Though it would involve them in a great deal of trouble, yet He designed

their honor and comfort in it and in the issue it would be peace to them. Gideon receiving his commission with the words, "Peace be unto you," Judges 6:22-23. Christ is our peace, Christ ~~was~~ was now sending the disciples to publish peace to the world as in Isaiah. He here not only confires it upon them for their own satisfaction but commits it to them as a trust.

We see that the commission here itself is, it is not easy for us to understand and yet it is simple as my FATHER has sent me even so send I you. It is easy to understand how Christ sent them. He pointed them to go on with His work upon earth, spreading of the gospel, the setting up of His kingdom. He sent them authorized them with divine One armed with the divine power as ambassadors of peace to proclaim it. Hence they were called apostles, sent ones.

But how Christ sent them (as the Father sent Him) is not so easily understood. Certainly their commission and powers were infinitely inferior to His but first we see that their work was of the same kind with His and they were to go on where He had left off. They were not sent to be priests and kings like Him but (only prophets), as He was sent to bear witness of the truth, they were sent to be mediators of the reconciliation but only preachers and publishers of it. They were sent not to be ministered to but to minister.

might have had in mind. First by sound doctrine they are commissioned to tell the world that salvation is to be had upon gospel terms. Second by a strict discipline applying the general rule of the gospel to particular person, as you cast out from your communion those that are scandalous and filled with sin.

~~This~~ scripture is taking literally by a Bible school student would ~~lead~~ lead one to believe that they were to be judges of men's hearts and judges of the kingdom of God with a power to forgive or to condemn with infallible judgment and wisdom all who might appear before them. Like Ananias and

or Simon and Magus Paul furnishes clear evidence that unworthy members were sometimes received in to the church. Notwithstanding the presence of apostles.

Alford has given us this interpretation. He says that with the gift and real participation of the Holy Spirit comes the conviction and therefore the knowledge of sin, righteousness and judgement. This knowledge becomes more perfect the more men are filled with the Holy Ghost.

Since this is so they are preeminently filled with His presence and are preeminently gifted with the discernment of sin and repentance in other people. The apostles had this in ~~an~~ a special manner and by the full indwelling of the Spirit were enable d to discern the hearts of men and to given sentence on the discernment. See Acts 5:1-11, Acts 8:21

of a new world, Job 33:4.

The (Spirit is the breath) of Christ proceeding from the Son. The Spirit in the Old Testament is compared to breath in (Ezeckial 37:9) Come O Breath. But in the New Testament tells us that it is Christ's breath, the breath of God is put for the power of His wrath in Isaiah 11:4 but the death of Christ signifies the power of His grave, the breathing and the threatening has changed into the breathing of love. That the (Spirit is the gift) of Christ the apostles communicated the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands. Those hands being first lifted up in prayer but Christ confired the Holy Ghost by breathing for He is the author of the gift and from Him it comes originally.

We know that very few days later they were to receive the fullness of the Holy Ghost as He came down at Pentecost. Now that Jesus began to be glorified more of the Spirit began to be given. Christ hereby gives them assurance of this Spirit's ~~add~~ in the future work. I send you and you shall have the spirit to go along with you. Now the spirit of God ~~rested~~ rested upon them to qualify them for all the services that lay before them.

He hereby gives them experience of the Spirit influence in their present case. He has shown them His hands and His side to convince them of the truth of His resurrection.

Therefore they would receive the Holy Spirit as a work of faith in them and He was to open their understanding. They knew that they were in danger by the Jews but their spirit was to give courage and in (Ephesians 1:13) all believers receive ye the Holy Ghost. What Christ gives, we must receive. We must submit ourselves and our whole souls to the quickening sanctifying influence of the blessed Spirit. Those who would thus obey each word and every precept shall have the benefit of it as a promise. They shall receive the Holy Ghost as the Guide of their way and the earnest of their inhabitation.

Dr. James Allen Francis has helped us in the understanding of God the Father, the Son, and the Spirit. All there is of God is in the Father. All that was ever seen of God is in the Son. All that was ever felt of God is in the Holy Spirit. What the statement says is the Father, is God, The Son in God revealed, the Spirit is God in the act of revealing. This helps us. This I believe we do well to think of the Holy Spirit even around Christmas time and the New Year. He has a large place in human history and we should understand His ministry and His activity, for we should remember that the Holy Spirit is spoken of as coming upon Mary in the power of the Highest to overshadow her and that which was to be born of her was to be from God. So let me repeat again this symbolizes the fact that the Holy Spirit was to be imparted to them

by Him just as the giving of life to man at first represented by the act of God when He breathed into His nostrils the breath of life and in Genesis 2:7.

When we consider all this took place on that Lord's day, it is difficult for us to consider everything because in a moment we want to come back to the fact that Jesus came in thought the doors were shut but this last consideration here we must not pass by.

In verse 23, we see a particular power it seems attached to this commission whosoever sins you remit in the due ~~apostolic~~ execution of the powers you are entrusted with they were remitted unto them and whosoever's are not pardoned, are retained.

By virtue of this power Peter struck Ananias and Sapphira dead and Paul struck Elymas blind. Yet it must be understood as a general charter to church and her ministers not securing and infallibility of judgment to any man or company of men in the world but it encourages the faithful steward of the mysteries of God to stand to the gospel. They were sent to preach for that God Himself will stand to it. The apostles in preaching remission must begin at Jerusalem though lately His blood has been shed there.

Very simply now you could take this scripture here which could involve a great deal of argument and also of research and still not be able to uncover just exactly what the apostle

and still wondering and doubting with fear in their hearts at just what is going to take place. We see young people and strong young men ebbing away and we watch the wrinkles and the gray hair and the stopped shoulders and stiff joints and all of these things are failing their interest and many things but it ought to be a pleasant thing to contemplate old age.

This is no ground for hopelessness. These doors are no barrier to Jesus, to the Master. I've seen numbers of those who have been cheerful because Jesus was present.

The door of health, shuts but also the door of death sometimes comes in upon us and there is the ~~lock~~ phase that is found in history of every human family regardless of rank or wealth and he died. In the scriptures sometimes we find a whole chapter devoted to the giving of the family tree of a certain man and almost every other sentence and he died is repeated. Yes, we live in a universe of death. Death is such an awful event. We die but we die alone. Think for a moment of life. First of all it is birth, there are persons on hand who think of that great occasion. We come to graduation to marriage, and there are a few people who gather but when we come to death that door swings shut and then we face

eternity alone. *Lonely home yesterday - good lady but her Brother was to wait up for him to come home from work late. But thing when it was said "He gone & is never coming back"*
 This door does not perturb the Master. Jesus talks of death as being ~~asleep~~ asleep when He talked to Lazarus, in *we had been & as came out, I thought of Lazarus - Many* & Martha, *They thought they was gone & would not come back -*

Acts 13:9.

It should be repeated that in proportion as any disciple shall have been filled with the Holy Spirit of wisdom that the practice of giving a positive decision as to the Spiritual state of individuals was infrequent with the apostles.

Even the Roman Catholic priesthood virtually disclaimed a knowledge of human hearts they really do little more than solemnly declare the conditions of pardon and the certainty of judgement if those conditions are not fulfilled.

Chaff said, "We do not believe that Jesus referred in these words to any formal Judicial action of the disciples to what then did He refer? To the work of His disciples as qualified by the Holy Spirit to declare without error the conditions of forgiveness or condemnation under the reign of Christ.

Men were to learn from their lips that heaven-appointed terms of life and death. What our Lord here commits to His disciples, to His church is the right of authority to declare in His name that there is forgiveness for man's sin and on what conditions he will forgive His.

So beloved, we are sent as He sent the disciples into this world with the gospel which has the power to condemn as well as to bring about the confession of sins. Isn't it simply marvelous that took place in that room where the

door was shut? Here on the Christian sabbath observed by the disciples, the first day of the week, (ten disciples) were present one had deserted and one was absent. It was a time of storm which indicated that in such a time the disciples of Jesus must not forsake the assembling of themselves together. They were thinking about their own safety.

The closed door. No doubt they felt secure in this closed room but in spite of this closed door the Master stands in the midst.

This was a startling fact. The closed door did not deter or prevent or hinder or stop or keep out the Master. It was miraculous how He entered. We must remember that it is the same Jesus who refused to give a sign to the scribe and the pharisees who refused to ~~xxxx~~ yeild to the suggestions of Satan in the wilderness and yet He just comes into the room where the windows and doors are closed.

Did you ever stop to think of how (many different kinds) of doors and windows are closed upon us and that do not deter or hinder the Master. Let me mention a few of those in closing tonight that do not shut Him out. They would have been only too glad to open the door for Jesus to let Him in, in fact their ~~xxx~~ whole thought at that time was upon Jesus. The door was not closed upon Him that night, my friends, because they wanted to

shut Jesus out. But tonight there are lots of doors closed that ought to be open and they ought to let Jesus come in.

First there is the door of trouble. No doubt the Devil made this door. Were you ever on the inside when this awful door swung shut, possible there was sickness or a child had gone wrong or something had been stirred up there had been unfaithfulness or the neighbors had started (a lie) and we imagine all the troubles that that dreadful door holds when it closes upon us but that door was never made too strong for Jesus. He entered the door behind the troubles of a woman (at the well). When the doors on the old Phillipi jail were locked and everything was secured Jesus came and even the windows were broken ssunder. The second door of poverty sometimes closes upon people when they have little to get along on and yet we know that that door does not deter Jesus. The (blind beggar) found Jesus right in the midst of His blindness and his night and he was healed. Third, the door of wealth closes upon some people and they just lock Jesus out but others my friends let Him come in. Many think that Jesus cannot get through this door but this is no hindrance to Him, when it is used for His purpose.

There is also another door of failing health and old age. Time wears on and we fear this door closing upon us. People fight to keep it open. We see people 70 years old

the tomb. Yes, He came from behind the curtain of death.

Stephen told us that He saw Jesus on the right hand of the Throne seated in Glory and even this door does not shut out the Master but He comes in. However, friends, tonight

there is one door that deters the Master, that is the human heart. You can lock the door to your heart and unless you invite Him in, He will not enter. He will not come as He visited the disciples on that Lord's day. Behold, I stand at the door and knock, and that is the human heart. He merely stands outside and knocks and pleads for an entrance. I want Him with me behind the closed door of death, don't you?