

John 14 – Very great and precious promises. (10) The Word of God. (refs for Bible study 28/2/19).

These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. 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. v25-26.

Does God still speak to us today? What should we think when someone says: “*The Lord has told me...*” or: “*I have a word from the Lord*”? Can we ever know the truth? Jesus’ promise in v25-26 is absolutely vital in knowing how to answer such questions.

To whom is the promise given? Many of the promises in John 14 apply to all believers. But some plainly apply only to the Apostles, eg ‘*you will see me*’ v19. Seeing the risen Lord was an essential qualification for an Apostle, Ac.1v22, 1Cor.9v1, which is why there can be no Apostles today. The foundation is only laid once, Eph.2v20. It’s clear that the promise of v25-26 is also for the Apostles. Jesus promises them memory of all the things he said to them. A specific promise to a chosen group: the 12 disciples, then later Paul, and through them to a close inner circle including James, Jude, Mark, Luke and the author of Hebrews. This is how we got our NT – 1 promise, 9 authors, 27 books! We can be confident that we have a full and accurate account of the truth.

Who is promised? The Holy Spirit. God the Father sends God the Holy Spirit in the name of God the Son.

His title: Paraclete, ‘another Helper’, v16-17, the ‘one-called-alongside-to-help’.

His name: The Holy Spirit, reminding us that we should be aware of his holiness even ahead of his power, see Ac.5v1-11. We should keep this in mind when hearing reports of alleged sensational happenings today. The Spirit came to the Apostles as personal replacement for Jesus. The works of the Spirit are Jesus’ works, Ac.1v1. Don’t imagine that the work of the Spirit is somehow disconnected from the work of Christ!

What precisely was promised? ‘*all things that I said to you*’ includes all of his three years spent with them. **Promise of memory:** ‘*He will... bring to your remembrance*’. A promise of perfect recall. Don’t underestimate the power of human memory when suitably focussed. However this is a promise of a divine, miraculous work.

Promise of understanding: ‘*He will teach you all things*’. During those three years they often didn’t understand. But he promises that the Spirit will give them full and true understanding of all his words, including those yet to be spoken, 16v12. The NT is not the Apostles’ thoughts and reflections on Jesus and his words, but a full and accurate account of them.

What does it mean for us today? Christ’s promise guarantees that the Apostolic Word we have is God’s authentic word for us today.

An authoritative Word: a word from God, the Word of God. They realized this 1Ths.2v13, 2Pet.3v16. God speaks to us through it. We cannot, indeed dare not, put human traditions or ‘the church’ on a par with it.

An infallible Word: He is the Spirit of truth, 16v13, therefore the Word of God is free from error, and will not lead you astray.

A final Word: It is complete. The foundation has been laid, nothing else is to be added, Rev.22v18. When the preacher says ‘*Thus says the Lord*’, you have an open book, you can check it out. But when someone claims ‘*God has told me*’ or ‘*I have a word from the Lord*’ it may sound spiritual but how can you check it out? Be wary, and remember Jer.17v9!

A Christ-centred Word: The promise is all about Christ: ‘*the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name*’. The Spirit’s ministry is to glorify Christ, 16v13-15.

What an amazing book we have been given! Read it, believe it, rely on it, treasure it, love it, memorise it, obey it!