



FAMILY LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH

“The Last Year of the Life of Christ, Part 59”

August 30th, 2009

Pastor Darryl R. Curtis

Family Life Baptist Church

909 West Saginaw Street

Lansing, Michigan 48915

Phone: (517) 393-9399

Email: info@familylifebc.com

Website: <http://www.familylifebc.com>

Informed. Insightful. Intelligent.



The Last Year of the Life of Christ, Part 59

John 16:1-4

- 1 **“These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble.**
- 2 **They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service.**
- 3 **And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me.**
- 4 **But these things I have told you, that when the time comes, you may remember that I told you of them. “And these things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you.**

Thank you very much for coming to hear the message for today. Before we begin our next lesson, let us reiterate our reason for attending Church.

We attend Church to obtain the mind of Christ, meaning, to have the Bible illuminated in our minds so that we can clearly understand the principles that Jesus taught and base our daily personal decisions on those principles.

We come to Church because we want to be obedient to the Bible, which is the doctrine of Jesus Christ, in an informed, insightful and intelligent manner.

We have reached Jesus' last discourse to His disciples. The birth of the church is going to come at the cost of Christ's crucifixion, which will be precipitated by the Jewish establishment, and also at the expense of the lives of the disciples, who are going to be persecuted and killed by that same Jewish establishment. Jesus does not want the disciples to be under any misapprehension about the cost or the rewards of being His followers, as He tells them in **Luke 22:28-30**:

- 28 **“But you are those who have continued with Me in My trials.**
- 29 **And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me,**
- 30 **that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”**

To receive great glory with God requires great participation with God. But everyone that thinks that they are participating with God is not necessarily godly.

It is interesting that the moral law of Judaism and the moral law of Christianity are exactly the same. Those that worship in churches revere the same Ten Commandments as those that worship in the temple. But the difference between the Church and the Temple has to do with the ministry of the Holy Spirit, as the Apostle Paul explains to the Corinthian church, in **2Corinthians 3:2-6**:



FAMILY LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH

**2 You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men;
3 clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.**

4 And we have such trust through Christ toward God.

5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God,

6 who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

The difference between the old covenant of Judaism and the new covenant of Christianity is one of letter versus spirit. In order to understand this perspective, let us first define spirit. The dictionary definition of spirit is the principle of conscious life; the vital principle in humans, animating the body or mediating between body and soul. Our spirit is that part of our mental faculties that enables us to speak and make decisions. John explains this to us, in **1John 4:1-3**:

1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

In this verse, John equates spirits with prophets, as both spirits and prophets are charged to speak to us about the things of God. So, our spirit enables us to develop ideas about which we can speak. The lection continues:

2 By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God,

3 and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

God, by definition, is the one that tells us how we should live. Some people have the perspective of the spirit of Antichrist, believing that Jesus of Nazareth is neither the Christ nor God, and that the New Testament record is the untrue product of the imagination of the men that wrote it. These people believe that we do not have to follow the instructions of Jesus of Nazareth. This is why John says that they have the spirit of Antichrist.

Other people have the perspective of the Spirit of God, and have made the decision to believe the Biblical history that tells us that Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ, and have come to the conclusion that He is God and we should follow His instructions. In **John 14:23-24**:

23 Jesus said, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

24 He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me.

Interestingly, a person can have the perspective of the spirit of Antichrist and still believe that Jesus of Nazareth was a real person. Someone with the



FAMILY LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH

spirit of Antichrist may believe that Jesus of Nazareth was a prophet, an orator and/or a miracle worker, but the spirit of Antichrist keeps them from acknowledging that Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ and is God.

The Jewish leadership falls in this category. They knew about the miracles of Jesus Christ. After the resurrection of Lazarus, **John 11:45-48** records:

45 Then many of the Jews who had come to Mary, and had seen the things Jesus did, believed in Him.

46 But some of them went away to the Pharisees and told them the things Jesus did.

47 Then the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered a council and said, "What shall we do? For this Man works many signs.

48 If we let Him alone like this, everyone will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and nation."

John 11:47 makes it clear that the Pharisees believed that Jesus of Nazareth was just a man. The Pharisees did not doubt that Jesus, having raised a man from the grave, could work miracles, but this fact did not dissuade them from plotting Jesus' death, as **John 11:49-53** records:

49 And one of them, Caiaphas, being high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all,

50 nor do you consider that it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish."

51 Now this he did not say on his own authority; but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation,

52 and not for that nation only, but also that [Jesus] would gather together in one the children of God who were scattered abroad.

53 Then, from that day on, they plotted to put [Jesus] to death.

If the Pharisees had the Spirit of God and actually believed in the Lordship of Jesus Christ, they would not have been concerned about Rome. They would simply depend upon Jesus Christ to safeguard the nation of Israel. God brought the nation of Israel out of Egyptian slavery, and could equally easily deliver Israel from the domination of Rome. However, since the Pharisees, and Caiaphas in particular, had the perspective of the spirit of Antichrist and did not believe in the Lordship of Jesus of Nazareth, they developed an alternative plan for dealing with Rome which involved the execution of Jesus Christ.

The spirit of Antichrist rejects the authority and power of God. God tells us, in the "a" part of **Romans 6:23**:

23 For the wages of sin is death.

Back in the Garden, the spirit of Antichrist first spoke to the woman, in **Genesis 3:4-5**:

4 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.

5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."



FAMILY LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH

In these verses, the serpent, who is actually the Antichrist, does not try to convince the woman that there is no God, but rather that God is incorrect. God says that *“the wages of sin is death”*, but the Antichrist says, *“You will not surely die.”*

Interestingly, even though the spirit of Antichrist contradicts the warning of God that the wages of sin is death, killing and murder is the Antichrist’s number one tool. **John 11:53** records:

53 Then, from that day on, they plotted to put [Jesus] to death.

Going back to the lection of **2Corinthians 3:5-6**, the Bible says:

**5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God,
6 who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.**

The spirit of Antichrist rejoices when he sees the chance to kill, and he rejoices all the more when he can do so in the name of God. God, as the Divine Supreme Being, is the arbiter of life and death. God gave us life in the first place, and tells us, in **Hebrews 9:27**

27 It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.

But the spirit of Antichrist desires to usurp the power of God, especially as it pertains to death. The Antichrist loves the portion of the law of God that gives the judgment of death, and is always looking for the chance to put someone to death because of the law, which is why Paul tells us that the letter kills. But the Spirit of God through the ministry of Jesus Christ brought a different perspective, as **John 10:10** tells us:

10 The thief [Antichrist] does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

The spirit of the Antichrist is the spirit of death. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of life. We can see differing perspectives of the two spirits, Christ and the Antichrist, in **John chapter 8**. **John 8:1-6** tells us:

1 But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

2 Now early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him; and [Jesus] sat down and taught them.

3 Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to [Jesus] a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst,

4 they said to [Jesus], “Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act.

5 Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?”

6 This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger, as though He did not hear.



FAMILY LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH

The spirit of Antichrist has captured a woman that has broken the law of God, and the wages of her sin is death. **Deuteronomy 22:22** clearly says: **22 “If a man is found lying with a woman married to a husband, then both of them shall die—the man that lay with the woman, and the woman; so you shall put away the evil from Israel.**

The woman has broken the law of God and is eligible for execution. The spirit of Antichrist holds her up before Jesus and asks Him whether or not to carry out the sentence given in the Law of God. In His answer, Jesus does not contradict the law, but rather points out that if the law is universally applied, the woman will not be the only one dead, as we are all eligible for execution. **John 8:7-8** says:

7 So when they continued asking [Jesus], He raised Himself up and said to them, “He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first.”
8 And again [Jesus] stooped down and wrote on the ground.

The reaction of those that wanted to stone the woman showed that they received Jesus’ message, as **John 8:9-11** tells us:

9 Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

10 When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, “Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?”

11 She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”

I would dare say that this episode inspired that Pharisee, the Apostle Paul, to write the words of **2Corinthians 3:5-6**:

5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God,

6 who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

Paul could have been one of the Pharisees listening to Jesus that day. While the perspective of the spirit of Antichrist in the Pharisees was one of self-righteousness and death, the perspective of the Holy Spirit is one of restoration and life, as **Romans 6:23** tells us:

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is the intelligence of God that is always looking for ways to bring reconciliation, meaning life, to man from God. When we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit we are given the perspective of God, as recorded in **John 3:16-17**:

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.



17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Those filled with the Spirit of God focus on salvation and reconciliation, just as Jesus brought salvation to reconcile us to God, not condemnation to the world for sin. Paul tells us, in **Romans 8:1-4**:

1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh,

4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

The woman taken in adultery in **John 8** knew the Law of Moses concerning adultery as well as did the Pharisees that asked Jesus whether or not she should be stoned, but the knowledge of the Law of Moses did not stop the woman in from committing adultery. The knowledge of the law is powerless to keep us from sin because, as **Romans 8:3** tells us, we live in sinful flesh.

If we look back of the example given in **John 8**, we can see that which Paul is saying in the next verses, **Romans 8:5-6**:

5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

The Holy Spirit of God is the power that can redirect our thinking away from the things of the sinful flesh. The physical and emotional urges that led that woman into sin can be controlled by yielding to the Holy Spirit. The physical and emotional urges that lead us into sin and be controlled by our yielding to the Holy Spirit, which will change the way that we think.

As I said earlier in this sermon, if you have the Spirit of God, you believe that Jesus Christ is God, meaning the Divine Supreme Being, the architect of the Universe and the one that defines how we should live. Believing that Jesus Christ is God and having the Spirit of God changes the way that you think. But the Holy Spirit did not only change the way that the woman thought.

The Holy Spirit also changed the way that Paul the Pharisee thought and made him into a Christian that would not propose that the woman be stoned. The Holy Spirit caused Paul the Pharisee to recognize that there is no condemnation to those that are in Christ Jesus, who walk, not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

The ministry of the Holy Spirit does not focus on the penalties in the letter of the law. The ministry of the Holy Spirit gives us the ability to focus past the penalties in the law to the reconciliation of one another to God, just as Jesus



FAMILY LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH

Christ did not come to condemn the world, but to save it. The Holy Spirit knows that we do not always keep the letter of the law. He tells us, in **1John 1:8-9**:

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, [Jesus Christ] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The Holy Spirit prompts us to be active in the reconciliation of the world to Christ. Let me give you a concrete example of reconciled relationships based on the Spirit of God versus a relationship based on letter of the law. Listen to your wedding vows.

‘Will you have this person to be your wedded spouse, to live together after God’s ordinance in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love them, comfort them, honor and keep them in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, keep only unto them, so long as you both shall live?’

The vow lists five responsibilities, those being, to love, to comfort, to honor, to keep, meaning to minister to your spouse in sickness and in health, and to forsake all others, which means to maintain your marital fidelity. But listen to that which Jesus says, in **Matthew 5:32**

32 But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.

Out of the five responsibilities given in the marriage vows, only the one about forsaking all others gives us permission to divorce our spouses. So what happens if one partner fails to love? Or to comfort? Or to honor? Or to keep? The law does not speak to those eventualities. If I do not commit adultery, I am keeping the letter of the law, even if I do not show my wife that I love her. But, how do I stand with the Holy Spirit, which tells us, through the lips of Jesus Christ, in **John 13:34-35**:

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

If I only do the things in the moral law of God, I find, once again, that the letter kills, as the marriage will die if I don’t show my wife love, whether I commit adultery or not. If I show love, as the Spirit instructs me in **John 13:34-35**, our marriage will not only live, but flourish. As I have already noted, whether you keep the letter of the moral law of God or not is not the main focus of the Holy Spirit, but rather it is whether or not you are active in the reconciliation of the world to Christ. So, although the admonishment keep the law by not committing



FAMILY LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH

adultery is important, it is more important to the Holy Spirit that we love one another. Why? Because of our witness to others.

When Jesus showed love to the woman taken in adultery, He made a much greater impression than those that condemned her. The letter of the law would have killed the woman, but showing love gave her life, and another change to influence the world for Christ. **Romans 3:23** tells us:

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

John 8:7 tells us:

7 “He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first.”

These scriptures tell us that however well we maintain the letter of the law, the day will come when we will sin.

If we condemn others for their sins, we will be condemned ourselves, like the Pharisees that wanted to stone the woman. The Holy Spirit, on the other hand, leads us to make a much greater impression on those in our sphere of influence by showing love to one another, because Christian love draws people to Christ, as **John 13:35** says:

35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

In our text for today, **John 16:1-4**, Jesus says:

1 “These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble.

2 They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service.

3 And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me.

4 But these things I have told you, that when the time comes, you may remember that I told you of them. “And these things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you.

Jesus is warning the Apostles of the cost of being Christians. The Spirit of Antichrist is dominating the thinking of those that enforce the law in the synagogue. God’s chosen people, the Nation of Israel, have devolved into self-absorbed, self-focused, self-righteous sinners that have completely forsaken the things of God. When the pagan Roman Procurator Pontius Pilate looked at the record of Jesus Christ, he could find no fault with Jesus, and was rather impressed with Jesus’ personality during their interaction. But God’s chosen people showed that the Antichrist had so taken over their thinking that they testified that they esteemed Caesar over God, as the Bible says in **John 19:12-16**:

12 From then on Pilate sought to release [Jesus], but the Jews cried out, saying, “If you let this Man go, you are not Caesar’s friend. Whoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar.”



FAMILY LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH

Not against God, but against Caesar. Jesus has not broken the law of God, and the Jews cannot give Pilate any justification for condemning Jesus. The spirit of Antichrist leads them to just say anything, so they call upon Caesar. The lection continues:

13 When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus out and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called The Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha.

14 Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, "Behold your King!"

15 But they cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!"

16 Then [Pilate] delivered [Jesus] to them to be crucified. Then they took Jesus and led Him away.

The chief priests confess that they have no king but Caesar. Not God, but Caesar. God is no longer part of the conversation in the Temple because the Jews have been given over to the Antichrist, whose only goal is to kill, to steal and to destroy. God's involvement in the worship in the Temple will soon be ended, at the death of Jesus Christ.

Jesus reiterates His warning to His disciples that He is going to be killed, but informs them that He is not leaving them without a counselor, but is sending His Holy Spirit to them. God's plan is that Jesus Christ die as the sacrifice for sins and the Holy Spirit takes over Jesus' teaching ministry to the disciples, as **John 16:7, 13-15** tells us:

7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.

15 All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.

Jesus talks of His passion and death, as He says, in **John 16:20-22**:

20 Most assuredly, I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy.

21 A woman, when she is in labor, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world.

22 Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you.



FAMILY LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH

The labor spoken of in **John 16:21** is Jesus' passion experience. The birth is Jesus' resurrection from the dead. Once Jesus rises and sends the disciples the Holy Spirit, the disciples will have joy that cannot be taken from them, but they will also have a responsibility to minister the Gospel to the world. They will have the power to do so, as Jesus tells them in **John 16:23-24**:

23 "And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you.

24 Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

Just as Jesus prayed and God moved, the disciples will be able to see God move as they pray for that which will increase the influence of the name of Jesus Christ. Just as Jesus brought joy to the world by his miraculous power, the disciples will fill the measure of their own joy by their personal interaction with God.

As Jesus anticipates His passion and death, He also anticipates His resurrection and reunion with the disciples, as He tells them in **John 16:25-28, 32-33**:

25 "These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; but the time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but I will tell you plainly about the Father.

26 In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you;

27 for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God.

28 I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father."

32 Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me.

33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

The disciples are about to undergo trials, tribulations and failures, yet all of their failures are anticipated, all their sins are forgiven, and there is a remedy prepared for all their deficiencies. Jesus is prepared for His lonesome journey, and has prepared His Holy Spirit to minister to His disciples that they might carry on His salvific work once His journey is completed. Paul describes the New Testament Church of Jesus Christ, in **Ephesians 2:19-22**:

19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,



FAMILY LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH

**21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,
22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.**

Jesus has laid the foundation of the Church in the minds and hearts of the disciples. He has taught the disciples and given them examples to prepare them for the work of ministry and is sending them the Holy Spirit to empower them to do the works that He has given them to do. As we prepare to listen to the lessons on the sacrifice of Christ, let us also prepare to recognize the ministry of reconciliation through the Holy Spirit in our own lives, and to love one another as He has loved us.

Pastor Darryl R. Curtis
Family Life Baptist Church