

September 17, 2023

Dove-Vine Intervention #3

Pastor Ken Sistrunk

**The Enduring Message**

**John 15:26-27** <sup>26</sup>"When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me.

<sup>27</sup>And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

**John 16:1-4** <sup>1</sup>"All this I have told you so that you will not go astray. <sup>2</sup>They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God. <sup>3</sup>They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me. <sup>4</sup>I have told you this, so that when the time comes you will remember that I warned you. I did not tell you this at first because I was with you.

**Intro:** We have talked about the HS in these past two weeks. Now we look at the permanent message that He has been speaking and that we must continue to speak.

I. Jesus is prophesying about the birth of something new.

A. He is going to **send** us an advocate. (Paraclete) John 15:26

B. This advocate will give **testimony** of Christ. John 15:26

C. Those who were with Christ from the **beginning** will also testify. John 15:27

D. There will be a **separation** from Judaism. John 16:2

E. The protection of **Christ** will be lifted, and persecution will come. John 16:2-4

II. How has this shaped the last 2,000 years.

A. Something **supernatural** has kept the church going. It is as if we have a divine lawyer constantly defending us.

B. We now know **more** about Jesus Christ than even the 12 Disciples knew. We can see the "big picture" of history, and we have so much information available to us.

C. We now have the canonized New Testament which is the written **voice** of the Disciples.

D. Christianity is the world's **largest** religion.

E. **Persecution** is a historical fact and a present reality.

1. From without by other religions and government systems that are **threatened** by us.

2. From within by those who **fear** change and have not experienced Christ firsthand.

III. How does this keep us grounded (stay on message)? John 16:1

A. We have the **security** of past guidance.

B. We have the written **word** to keep our doctrine and practice stable.

C. We know that persecution only **enhances** the cause.