

**TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
IHOP BIBLE STUDY**

Topic: John 16: 17 to 17: 26 – “The Rationale for death”

NOTE: This is our fifth—and last--major section of the Summary Chart of John's Gospel. This chart is available elsewhere on our website, and it is associated with this study of John's Gospel. This last section is under the larger banner of "Illuminating the Work of Jesus As The Word." Today's session is the third of five studies in this section called "The Rationale for death." The new working title for the whole Gospel of John is "The meaning and significance of Baptism."

I. Read the assigned scriptures in one reading.

The basic question in this section is "What is the rationale for Jesus' death?" The writer records Jesus rationale in two episodes. In the first episode Jesus is speaking to his disciples. In the second episode Jesus is speaking (praying) to God for himself and for his disciples. In both episodes the rationale is the same: I've lived in the human world, and now I'm coming home to live in the spirit world. The disciples now are awake to these two worlds.

The implications for the disciples are that those who are spiritually awake hate people who are blind to it. Those who are stuck in the human world, and they are blind to the spirit world. This hatred is based on their experience of having their life called into question. All along, they have assumed they ARE ALREADY really living. But they are NOT! How do we know?

The spiritually awake live with joy, peace, harmony and at-one with the environment, neighbor, self and God who is the Perfect At-One-Ment. This calls into question the meaning of our human existence that is experienced as pain, sickness, hatred and war.

Only one reality, but our choice is of the way in which we relate to this reality. It is helpful to remember that all humans live before the same reality. The human world is illuminated through the experience of pain, sickness, hatred and war. This is true for all. This is as true for the spiritually blind as it is for the spiritual awakened.

So, what is the difference? There is no difference in the human experience of both groups. The experience is the same, but the relationship the awakened take with their human experience is profoundly different. Through this new relationship the spiritually awakened are transformed. The spiritually blind are victimized by human life. The spiritually awake are not victimized. Instead, the spiritually awake are victors and not victims!

For the spiritually awake, this is both a joy and a burden. The joy of the spiritually awake is they experience life as transformed. They know what Jesus knows! Their burden is to bear the abuse of the spiritually asleep.

This is supported in 16: 33, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart, I have overcome the world."

II. Several Old Code Words to be studied and discussed. (For a more detailed examination of these Old Christian Code Words, see my book by the name. Free copies are available on our website, or you can order one, Postage Paid, for \$10.00 from me.)

Work on these this week, and next week, I'll add our conversation as "comments." Happy Holidays! Pastor Bill

A. Eternal Life 17: 3

B. Sanctification 17: 17, 19a

C. Glorification 17: 24 b

D. Righteous Father 17: 25