“It is to Your Advantage that I Go”

Intro: It was with loving care and great concern that Christ Jesus personally ministered to His ________________ ________________ them for what was to come, both in the immediate and distant future.

A. Jesus explained to the disciples that though they would be __________ by the world on account of Christ, the Holy __________ would come and ________________ them by bearing witness of Christ to them and through them.

B. In our present text we read as the ________________ upon the persecution the disciples would face as they bore Him witness and of the reassuring promise of the coming Holy Helper.

I. Jesus ________________ to the disciples by speaking of the coming persecution as well as the coming Helper so that they would __________ ________________ (ultimately) in their faith.

A. Jesus taught the disciples that they could __________ __ __ __ persecuted by being ________________ from the synagogue (and therefore, from the Jewish community and way of life) for testifying of Him.

B. Jesus taught the disciples that they could __________ __ __ __ persecuted unto death, being ________________ for their association with Him and, that those who killed them would think that they were serving God in so doing.

1. The reason for which Jesus said “they” would do such things as put the disciples out of the synagogue and even kill them thinking they are carrying out the will of God is because __________ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ the Father nor God the Son.

II. Jesus reasserted that He spoke of these things in advance so that when the ________________ suffered such persecution (just as He said), that they would ________________ that He told them beforehand and therefore, they would not be surprised or caught off guard by the events, which otherwise might have caused them to stumble. The Lord Jesus in all grace spoke of these things before hand that the disciple’s __________ would ________________.

A. Because the Lord was with the disciples up to that point, they had not needed to know about these things. “But”, Jesus said, “____________ __ __ __________ to Him who sent Me; …”. Emphasizing the nearness or immediacy of His return to the Father, Jesus says that it is important that He speak of such things now, informing them at that precise time of things ________________.
III. __________ ________ the disciples for their misplaced sorrow for they
had taken the things He said negatively and did not see that He spoke and would go
away ______ _______ ________.

A. Jesus’ going away was ______ a _____ advantage to the disciples in any
way, shape or form but to the contrary, as Jesus said, it was to their
______________ that He go away!

B. William Hendriksen wrote, “Here, in __________ __________ Jesus told His
disciples what He had been implying right along. Had He not told His disciples
that His departure would be for the purpose of preparing a place for them (14:2);
enabling them to do greater works (14:12); imparting richer knowledge to them
(14:20 & 26); and, in reality, drawing closer to them, namely, in the Spirit (14:
23, 26 & 28). Was it not very plain then that the Master’s going away would be
an ______________ for the disciples?”

C. Moreover, and this is the point that Christ emphasized to His disciples, it was
to their immediate advantage that _____ _____ _______; for if He did not go
away, the Helper would not come to them; but if He did go, He would send the
_____________ ________.

1. John Calvin wrote, “Far ________ advantageous and far more
_____________ is that ______________ of Christ, by which He
communicates Himself to us through the grace and power of His Spirit,
than if He were present before our eyes.”

Finally: The Scripture of Acts 14:22 tells us that it is “Through many __________
(that) we must enter the kingdom of God.” And, Prov 29:27 says, “… And he who is
upright in the way is abominable to the wicked.” And, 2 Tim 3:12 says, “And indeed, all
who desire to live _________ in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”

Beloved family, the righteous will __________ persecution. Yet, if we will have
a right mind about it, and if instead of unwarranted emotions we will allow His
truth to guide us, then we will find persecution to be a heaven sent opportunity to
_____________ ___________ of Christ.

No matter, if we suffer persecution or not, let us prepare for it so that if and when
it comes, we will ______ ____________ in our faith. And let us remember that
Christ went to the Father and sent us His Holy ____________ to indwell us that
He might bear witness of Christ in us, and through us at all times! Let us rejoice
for Christ has gone and sent His Spirit to empower us to be His witnesses.
Therefore, let us bear ______________ of Christ!

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