

Dear all,

The Study Service topic for Sunday at 7pm is PENTECOST AND THE UNVEILING OF JESUS. Jesus preached "the kingdom of God is near" (Mk 1.15) but for several reasons he could not reveal himself as the king of the kingdom:

- (1) He was so different from the king expected that people could not have understood him or why it had to be that way.
- (2) He had to **be** and **do** what he was first, for only when he had finished his mission could he be proclaimed as king.
- (3) He could therefore reveal himself only slowly, by word & deed together, obliquely, raising questions as to who he was.
- (4) He knew that after his resurrection, even his disciples (let alone anyone else) could not understand him until he sent his Spirit as his witness to open their hearts and minds to full remembrance & understanding of all he had said and done.

And so Jesus preached the kingdom of God, not himself as its king (though he forgave sins as only God could) ; he said he could give living water, not that he himself was that living water; that his flesh was the bread of life, not that this is what he was and would be in his risen humanity.

Pentecost changed all that, for then Jesus sent his Spirit to now work in his disciples, revealing him in his glory, bringing them to comprehension, uniting them to him that in union with him they could participate in all he was for them.

As Christ's "other self", the Spirit's role is to reveal & connect us to Christ, "the way, the truth, & the life", "the Author of life" (Acts 3.15) as Peter called him. And so the New Testament never calls the Spirit *the Spirit of life* but "the Spirit of Christ" or "the Spirit of truth", for it is Jesus in his risen humanity who is the life, who through his Spirit, never without him, continues to speak his word, work in us and give us the power of his own risen life as the life by which we live.

**Readings:**

John 15.26-27; John 16.5-16

Acts 2 1-12

Acts 2 22-25, 29-33, 36

7-8.30pm by Zoom meet (details on request)

Best wishes - Bob