

COMFORT FOR TROUBLED HEARTS

Text: 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

Introduction:

1. When our lives are falling apart and our hearts are writhing in pain, the thing we seek most is **COMFORT**.
 2. To much of the world the search for comfort in times of grief and pain is futile.
 - a. It constitutes a never-ending exploration for that which does not exist.
 3. Our hurts are seen as something that can be lessened only by the passing of time.
 4. But no amount of time can erase the scars that have been inflicted.
 - a. Children of God cannot subscribe to such a bleak outlook.
 - b. The God we serve is the *“God of all comfort; who comforteth us in all our affliction, that we may be able to comfort them who are in any affliction, through the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God” (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)*.
 - c. The basic idea behind the word *“comfort”* in the New Testament is *“to be at one’s side for the express purpose of providing assistance, encouragement, or consolation.”*
 5. Our *basis of comfort* comes from **TRUSTING** the Lord.
- I. TRUST IN CHRIST’S PRESENCE...**
- A. Jesus told his disciples, *“Let not your heart be troubled: believe in God, believe also in me” (John 14:1)*.
 - B. He will never leave us or forsake us (**Hebrews 13:5; Matthew 28:20**).
 1. We can deal with all of our difficulties due to our inherent trust in the presence of the God whom we cannot see.
 2. David said, *“I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living” (Psalm 27:13)*.
 - (a) We know God is by our side to comfort us.
 - (b) In the dark hours of life, how we need to cling to this precious truth!
 3. The Psalmist penned: *“Mine eyes are unto thee, O God, the Lord; in thee is my trust” (Psalm 141:8)*.
 - C. For every storm in life that rages, for every battle that is fought, and for every heart that is wounded we may be assured that Jesus, the Still of storms, the Captain of our salvation, and Physician for our souls will be there to help, encourage, and console us (**1 Peter 5:7**).
 - D. Now, that is **REAL** comfort!

II. TRUST IN CHRIST’S PROMISES...

- A. Lying and half-truths are contrary to the very nature of God (**Hebrews 6:18-19**), so when God gives us a promise, we can know that it is **SURE**.
- B. When we are assailed by times of trouble, it is far too easy to allow our trust in the precious promises of God to waver.
 1. We may ask, *“Why is all this happening to me?”*
 - (a) Perhaps the question we should ask is not *“Why?”* but rather *“What?”*
 - (b) What promises has God provided for us in his Word?

(c) How can we better lay hold on them?

(d) Notice the explanation given by Peter in **2 Peter 1:3-4**. He states that Jesus our Lord... *According to his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hat called us to glory and virtue:*

C. Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises; that by these ye might be partakers of the *divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

D. We should always remember, *“Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering: for he is faithful that promised”* (**Hebrews 10:23**).

1. During times of struggle we must strive to remember the promises of God regarding comfort, help, consolation, peace, redemption, forgiveness, and heaven.

III. TRUST IN CHRIST’S PERSON...

A. Jesus said, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life”* (**John 14:6**).

1. He is the way that leads to the Father and a heavenly home.

2. He is the picture of truth in a world full of cheap fiction.

3. Jesus is the life in a world where death runs rampant.

B. For this corruptible must put on in-corruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin: and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (**1 Corinthians 15:53-57**).

C. No matter how bad our troubles and sorrows may become, we have **COMFORT** because we can trust in Jesus our Lord.

D. The sense of comfort Jesus provides goes far beyond this world.

1. The Psalmist expressed what our attitude should be when he penned, *“In the multitude of thoughts within me, thy comforts delight my soul”* (*Psalm 94:19*).

2. Truly we can say, *“This is my comfort in my affliction; for thy word hath quickened my soul”* (**Psalm 119:50**).

Conclusion:

A. Where can we find help when we are hurting?

1. That’s the question of the ages!

2. The Christian has the blessed assurance that God is constantly by our side to provide strength, hope, and encouragement (**2 Corinthians 1:3-4; Romans 5:3-5**).

B. Our basis of comfort comes from **TRUSTING** the Lord who not only **KNOWS** what is best, but who will also **DO** what is best!