

THE GOD OF ALL COMFORT

2 Cor.1:3,4

Beloved of the Lord:

How precious to read that the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is called "THE GOD OF ALL COMFORT, Who comforteth us in all our tribulation". In the present universal distress and perplexity (Lu.21:25,26), in the multiplied evils (2Tim.3:1-5) and the increasing sufferings of the saints, the ministry of divine comfort is greatly needed. There are various channels our Father uses for comfort, but let us consider three special ones that are found in His Word -

1 - THE COMFORT OF THE SCRIPTURES - "For whatsoever things were written aforetime, were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope"-Rom. 15:4. The written Word of God contains many sources of divine comfort, abundantly. God wrote - "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people" - Isa.40:1. He also assured them that "the word of our God endureth for ever"-Isa.40:8. The Psalmist knew the Comfort of the Scriptures when he wrote - "In the multitude of my thoughts within me Thy comforts delight my soul" - Psalm 94:19. Conscious of danger and trouble, perhaps sleepless, yet he found God's thoughts were comforting. Read Psalm 139:17,18. Note the incomparable value of God's thoughts - "PRECIOUS". Their inconceivable direction - "unto me". Their incomprehensible number - "MORE IN NUMBER THAN THE SAND". Beloved, let us enjoy THE COMFORT OF THE SCRIPTURES!

2 - THE COMFORT OF THE SAINTS - The great apostle Paul experienced this comfort, writing - "Nevertheless God, that comforteth those that are cast down, comforted us by the coming of Titus"-2 Cor.7:6. Surrounded by troubles on all sides, fears within and cast down, it was a fellow saint who brought him encouraging news, producing divine comfort.

Nearing his departure from life, Paul writes of another saint called Onesiphorus, of whom he states - "He oft refreshed me" - 2 Tim.1:16. Other times this saint refreshed the great apostle, but especially he appreciated him when he was imprisoned in Rome and awaiting execution. He writes of him - "he was not ashamed of my chain, but when he was in Rome he sought me out very diligently and found me" - 2 Tim.1:17. Here was a refreshing saint who ministered comfort to the great apostle to the Gentiles. May you and I enjoy the comfort of the saints in our need; better still may we be a comforting saint to others!

3 - THE COMFORT OF THE BLESSED HOPE - 1 Thess.4:13-18. Best of all, the final comfort! The last one needed! THE RAPTURE OF THE SAINTS! When "the dead in Christ shall rise first. THEN we which are alive and remain shall be caught up TOGETHER with them in the clouds to MEET THE LORD IN THE AIR, and so shall we ever be with the Lord. WHEREFORE COMFORT ONE ANOTHER - WITH THESE WORDS".

Beyond our human comprehension and imagination will this event take place for you and me! In ALL of God's wondrous dealings with His people heretofore, this blessed event will be the greatest display of divine power and glory and blessing. UNTOLD MILLIONS of redeemed and glorified saints will rise together in celestial and heavenly bodies of glory! See 1 Cor. 15:47-49. Filling the skies in brilliant splendor, with enraptured eyes and bursts of heavenly HALLELUJAHS, in worship and praise, with adoration they will behold their precious Lord and Saviour face to face! What a meeting that will be! Then we shall indeed see Him in all His glory, face to face; be like Him and be With Him for ever! Then we shall be COMFORTED FOR EVER!

"HE and I in that bright glory,  
One deep joy shall share;  
MINE to be for ever with HIM,  
HIS that I am THERE!"

"Even so, COME, LORD JESUS" - God surely is THE GOD OF ALL COMFORT!

Faithfully yours in the blessed hope,

*J. W. Bramhall*