

THE SEVEN CONSOLATIONS OF CHRIST

Beloved of the Lord:

In John 14:1-27, beginning with the words "Let not your heart be troubled" and ending with the words "Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid", the Saviour gives seven consolations for "HIS OWN" left in the world. They are words of greatest comfort for us until He comes to take us all home above!

CONSOLATION ONE: OUR RE-UNION WITH HIM IN THE FATHER'S HOME ABOVE - v1-3. He reveals six facts about the home. (1) Its Reality-v1,2. This is based upon our faith in God, in Christ and in His Word. (2) Its Locality-v2. A definite "place", in distance far beyond our comprehension, but where the Father dwells, the Son, Holy Angels and loved ones now "with Christ". (3) Its Felicity-v1. No troubles there! "Let not your heart be troubled". It is a home of REST (Heb.4:9); JOY (Psa.16:11); LOVE (1Cor.13:13); FELLOWSHIP (Rev.21:3:22:3-5). (4) Its Immensity-v2. "MANY mansions". Multitudes will be there! (Rev.5:11;7:9). The home will be FILLED (Lu.14:23; Isa. 53:11). (5) Its Permanency-v2. "MANSIONS" - the Greek word describes its abiding character. Our permanent HOME! (Heb.11:10;13:14). (6) Its Imminency-v3. "I am coming again"etc. Coming personally (1Thess.4:16); suddenly (1Cor.15:52); and quickly (Rev.22:7,12,20). PERHAPS TODAY ! BLESSED CONSOLATION!

CONSOLATION TWO: WE KNOW THE WAY TO THE FATHER'S HOME - v4-11. (1) The Way is a PERSON. ONE Whom we have trusted. (2) The Way is Sufficient. Why? First, HE IS THE TRUTH, the full and perfect revelation of God His Father (Heb.1:3;Col.1:19). Second, HE IS THE LIFE, the personal embodiment of eternal life (1 John 5:12). (3) The Way is Exclusive. This is of great significance because HE IS THE ONLY WAY! - not one of many ways (John 10:9;Acts 4:12; 1Cor.3:11;1Tim.2:5). To come to the Father one MUST have Christ! The absolute perfection of the way is revealed in verses 7-11, for the Father is fully revealed in and by the Son. We must understand that when we come to the Son we come to the Father! Then with confidence we can say - WE KNOW THE WAY! BLESSED CONSOLATION!

CONSOLATION THREE: THO NOW IN HEAVEN OUR GLORIFIED LORD STILL WORKS ON THE EARTH - v12-14. (1) His Chosen vessel - the believer, v12. (2) The Character of the works - First, similar to His own-v12. His early disciples did them (Acts 3:6-8;9:40;11:13;16:18;20;12etc.) Also, greater works, miracles of a spiritual kind. (Peter-Acts 2:41; Philip-Acts 8:5-12; Paul, on all his missionary travels). Why greater works? "Because I go to my Father". (See Jno. 7:37-39;John 16:7). The exaltation of Christ and the descent of the Spirit has produced these "greater works". (3) How the Work is done-v13,14. Through communication between Christ and the believer. By His Spirit and the Word Christ communicates His will to the believer. Then by prayer to the Father the believer communicates with Him, but the LORD HIMSELF is the real worker. We are only His instruments. HE CONTINUES TO WORK THROUGH US! "Without ME ye can do nothing!" (John 15:5). BLESSED CONSOLATION!

CONSOLATION FOUR: THE PROMISE OF ANOTHER COMFORTER - v15-17. (1) Personal and Divine - One Who is like MYSELF says the Lord. He is equal with the Father and the Son, though HE is distinct from both. (2) The Condition of enjoying HIM - v15. LOVE for the Lord and our OBEDIENCE to His Word. (3) Two blessed facts: First, his permanent presence - "with you for ever" v16. Second, His indwelling presence - "IN YOU". (4) The Spirit of Truth is His name, to reveal all truth. We KNOW Him, but the world knows Him not! Can we ever lose HIM? NEVER! Precious Comforter! A BLESSED CONSOLATION!

CONSOLATION FIVE: THE RETURN OF THE GLORIFIED CHRIST - v18-24. (1) It is spiritual - not His final coming; not His post-resurrection ministry, but a return in the Person of the Holy Spirit. (2) It is personal-- "I will come to you" v18. Note also verse 21 and 23. During our Lord's sojourn on earth the Spirit was personally present with Him. So after His departure, Christ is personally present with us by the Spirit. By faith "Ye see me!" (Heb.2:9). We participate in His risen life-v19b. We apprehend His greatness, His oneness with the Father; our oneness with Him; His oneness with us! v20. He reveals HIMSELF and HIS FATHER! v21,23. ARE WE ENJOYING THIS? IT IS A BLESSED CONSOLATION!