

## **COMFORT ONE ANOTHER** **(1 Thessalonians 4:18)**

### **1.The sense of the word “comfort”.**

- a. In English, comfort as a verb is defined as “to soothe, console, or reassure; bring cheer to”.
- b. As a noun, “relief in affliction; consolation; solace”.
- c. Comfort is something we seek in times of grief or sadness.
- d. The word translated comfort in our verse is an interesting word.
  - i. It is the same word used by our Lord to describe the Holy Spirit to the apostles.
  - ii. There it is translated “Comforter”
  - iii. This word is used 107 times and it is translated in several different ways.
  - iv. To beseech, to exhort, to comfort, to entreat, besought.
- e. As you can see, it is a word that has a lot of different uses.
  - i. In the Greek, it literally means “to call to one’s side”.
  - ii. When translated “comfort”, it carries the meaning of “to call to one, call near, to call for; every kind of speaking to, which is meant to produce a particular effect, for example, exhortation, encouragement, comfort”.
- f. The last part is the main idea for us as brethren.
  - i. Every kind of speaking to, which is meant to produce a particular effect.
  - ii. There is something we are trying to accomplish when we are obeying this command.
- g. We are seeking to have an effect on our brethren who are in need of comfort, we are striving to help or aid them in their time of need.
- h. Remember, all of this is tied to loving one another.
  - i. When one of us is in a difficult situation, whatever kind it may be, because we love that brother or sister, we are seeking to aid them by coming to his or her side.
  - ii. Love moves us to have an effect for good in the life of the one in need of aid.

### **2.The source of comfort.**

- a. 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 is the definitive text on comfort.
- b. It plainly tells us that God is the God of all comfort.
  - i. If we are ever aided in our difficult times, it comes from God.
  - ii. There is not any comfort at all, that is real and lasting, that is not from God.
- c. The entire Godhead is involved in this:
  - i. God the Father, here in 2 Corinthians and Romans 15:5 - consolation is a form of our word we’ve been noticing.
  - ii. Jesus (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17).
  - iii. The Holy Spirit (Acts 9:31).
- d. Some seek comfort from the wrong source.
  - i. If you’ve ever drunk to drown your sorrows, what is the result?
  - ii. If you’ve ever resorted to fornication to help aid you in difficult times, what is the result?

- iii.If you've ever used drugs to aid you, what is the result?
- iv.If you've ever turned to any type sin in your search for comfort, you quickly realize that the pain remains even after the sin is over.
- v.Then, you have to deal with the pain of knowing you've committed sin.
- e.If one wants to obtain real, lasting comfort, it can only come from God.
- f.Paul usually started his letters with thanks for the grace of God and praise for the brethren to whom he was inspired to write.
  - i.He then normally would request prayer as he mentioned his prayers for them.
  - ii.However, in 2 Corinthians, Paul started with praise for God for comforting and aiding him and only later does he ask for their prayers for himself.
- g.What this shows us is how heavily the weight of the circumstances in Asia fell on Paul.
  - i.Notice 2 Corinthians 1:8-10.
  - ii.Paul thought he was going to die there.
  - iii.The only place to which Paul would turn was God and God ultimately delivered him and his group from death.
- h.It was this that Paul had in mind in verses 3-7.
  - i.Any comfort that is gotten is from God.
  - ii.A form of the word translated "comfort" is found in various forms in these verses.
  - iii.It is found in the words comfort, consolation, and comforted.
  - iv.Paul reminds them that troubles will come and if there are going to be troubles, there will be aid, comfort, from God to help us through them.
- i.Back to verse 4.
  - i.In every trouble, God can and will comfort the Christian.
  - ii.Every tribulation that comes, God is there for the Christian as the source of comfort.
- j.Because of the love God has for His children, God wants to comfort us when trouble arises.

### **3.Serving God's comfort to one another.**

- a.Notice again 2 Corinthians 1:4.
  - i.God comforts us in our trials, struggles, whatever you want to call difficult times.
  - ii.He does this with the expectation that we will then comfort others who are in any trouble.
  - iii.We do this by giving the comfort we received from God.
- b.The Godhead is involved in the giving of comfort and it is given to us in various ways.
- c.Our original text of 1 Thessalonians 4:18 tells us that we can comfort one another with God's words.
  - i.The brethren in Thessalonika were concerned about those who died before the Lord returned.
  - ii.Paul revealed the truth of God's word to them and said that it was to be used to comfort them.
  - iii.Romans 15:4.
  - iv.How many times has the words of some Psalm brought us comfort?

- v.Or, when death has visited a loved one, have we not thought of John 14:1-3 or this passage in 1 Thessalonians 4?
- vi.God's word brings comfort in difficult times.
- d.The presence of God's people brings comfort.
  - i.1 Thessalonians 5:11.
  - ii.We can only bring edification to one another when we are present with one another.
  - iii.A little girl came home from a neighbor's house where her little friend had died. "Why did you go?" questioned her father. "To comfort her mother," said the child. "What could you do to comfort her?" "I climbed into her lap and cried with her."
  - iv.Sometimes it is just our presence, without saying anything that is comforting.
  - v.One of the things I love about this congregation is that when a death has occurred, the one grieving usually has a number of us present to help bring comfort at the funeral home.
  - vi.We can make calls and send cards and all of those things bring comfort.
- e.Remember that we comfort people with the same comfort we've received.
  - i.We've been through some traumatic experiences and come out of them with our faith intact.
  - ii.We can then use those circumstances to help a brother or sister who is going through something similar.
- f.Death has taken the loved ones of many of you.
  - i.You can help others when this happens to them.
  - ii.You can't tell them how they feel because everyone handles things differently but you can help.
- g.Some of you have been laid off or had a child sick or any number of other things.
  - i.When that happens to a fellow Christian, you can fulfill 1 Thessalonians 4:18.
  - ii.You can carry out 2 Corinthians 1:4 - comforting brethren with the comfort you've received from God.
- h.You and I will want to do comfort one another because we love one another.