

Text: Zech 1:1-6

Title: The condition for Divine comfort.

Thesis: In order to receive the comfort of God's promises one must heed the warnings of God and return unto Him in repentance and faith.

Intro: What is necessary in order to be comforted by the promises of God?

- I. Examination of the text.
 - A. Historical context:
 1. 605 BC Exile to Babylon
 2. 539 BC Return to the promised land under the Decree of Cyrus lead by Zerubbabel and Joshua the High Priest. Time of Ezra-Nehemiah.
 3. Sept 520 BC preaching of Haggai
 4. Nov 520 BC preaching of Zechariah
 - B. Context of the Book of Zechariah: Intro, Book of Dreams containing hope/comfort, prophecies leading to the coming of Messiah.
 - C. Explanation of verses 1-6
 - D. The people had returned to the land of promise but had not returned to the Lord of the promise whole-heartedly.
 - E. If the people returned to the Lord whole-heartedly they would receive comfort from the promises of God because they would be reconciled to Him.
- II. The point of the text: In order to receive the comfort of God's promises one must heed the warnings of God and return unto Him in repentance and faith.
 - A. Returning to the Lord has 2 aspects: repentance and faith.
 1. WSC Answer 87: Repentance Unto Life is a Saving Grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavour after, new obedience.
 2. WSC Answer 86: Faith in Jesus Christ is a Saving Grace, whereby we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the gospel.
 - B. All of the promises of God are found in Christ.
- III. Applications of the point.
 - A. If you would be comforted by the promises of God you must be reconciled to God by repentance and faith.
 - B. If you refuse to return to the Lord the promises of God instead of comforting you will terrify you reminding you of your assured doom under the curse of God.