

If There Be Any Consolation

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Philippians 2:1-5 If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

- I. Consolation is a great need of our life.
 - A. Even for saved people.
 1. Problems and complications of life will put us into places where we will need consolation.
 - B. Consolation – comfort; alleviation of misery, or distress of mind; refreshment of mind or spirits; whatever seems to abate the evil, or supports and strengthens the mind, as hope, joy, courage and the like.
 - C. When you are in misery you need consolation.
 - D. When you are in distress of mind you need consolation.
 - E. When you are discouraged you need consolation.
 - F. When evil attacks you, you need consolation.

- II. If there is any consolation these things are always offered.
 - A. Hope
 1. Consolation will point to some point in the future when the present circumstances will be forgotten, or at least unimportant anymore.
 2. Consolation will point to a time in the future when there will be rest from the present distress of mind and heart.
 - B. Courage
 1. Whatever is real consolation will work to fan the flames of courage to face the present difficulty.
 2. Consolation will summon up strength that has apparently disappeared.
 - C. Love – “comfort of love”
 1. Love is a comfort in any circumstance;
 - a) That is why a child runs to its mother, comfort is what he is looking for.
 - b) He finds it there because there is love there.
 - D. Fellowship – “fellowship of the Spirit”
 1. Fellowship works as consolation to remove that “all alone” feeling you experience when you are in misery, distress, or under attack from evil.
 2. Just to know someone else is there lessens the fear and calms the heart and mind.
 - E. Bowels and mercy
 1. Just to know that someone else really does hurt because you are hurting somehow brings comfort to a mind in distress or a heart that is broken.
 2. Just to know there is help available from another’s hand when yours is empty somehow takes the edge off the trying circumstances.

- III. If there be therefore any consolation in Christ.
- A. There is always consolation in Christ for those who seek Him.
 - B. He always brings consolation to someone the same way we do to others.
 - C. He offers hope – a better day, a better place, a home in heaven, an incorruptible body, etc.
 - D. He gives courage – He encourages with the hope offered and the love given.
 - E. He loves ME – The greatest thing that will change any state of misery, any distress of mind, any attack by the enemy into something bearable – is to know for a certainty, and understand well, that Jesus loves ME.
 - F. He offers fellowship – He REALLY IS a very present help in time of trouble.
 - 1. When you walk with Him you will find out that in times when you can't stand by yourself He WILL stand WITH you.

2 Timothy 4:16-17 At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge. Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.

- G. He offers mercy and compassion to those who will simply go to Him in humility.

Lamentations 3:21-26 This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. *It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him. It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD.*

Psalm 112:4 Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: *he is* gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous.