



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – December 25, 2022

To Know Christ...

This season (or any season) of the year, can leave us looking for genuine solace. Do you hear a personal invitation when you read about God being the God of ALL Comfort? If there is a comfort to be found in any circumstance (and with the Lord there certainly is), how do we often miserably miss it? **"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort."** (2 Corinthians 1:3) The one who governs over all comfort, also rules over mercy. Sometimes we need comfort because we have made unrighteous decisions. [Examples: Rotten words, unforgiving hearts, or even showing partiality toward some.] We NEED mercy, and that mercy brings comfort with it. Do we ever think to Bless God when we need comfort? No wonder we can have full access to comfort, and never find it.

This Greek word for "comfort" (used in 2 Corinthians 1:3-5; 6 times) means someone is "being called to your side" (aka "a helper"). When someone shows up during a rough time, we find comfort in just having them by our side. But notice the context, when going through afflictions, who do you want by your side to comfort you? God Himself! Bless the Lord God, He is near. **"... who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."** (v4) When we take on a mindset like the Lord's, God stands with us ("called to your side") as we endure the affliction(s). We can share that same invitation with others. The Lord will comfort them as well, but only if they will stand with Him in what is righteous and holy. God always stands with those made righteous by faith in Jesus. In addition, the only way for us to be holy is

by the mercies of God, offered through the blood of His Son. He has endured every possible difficulty; He knows the way to find all comfort. Are we ready to let Him lead? Or will we be left in distress?

God's comfort is limitless and not restricted by circumstances as we walk by His side. **"For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ."** (v5) When the difficulties overflow in life, so also the comfort grows more abundant toward us through Christ. How can we be "more" by His side? The Lord actually draws us even closer to His side, we CLING to HIM! We even find a GREATER comfort as we continue to Bless Him through the most difficult times in our lives, and He responds by clutching us tightly in His powerful and almighty arms. Even when you cannot see what is coming. Even when you do not know what the outcome will be ... He knows the end of the matter before the beginning. Can you rest safely by His side in the comfort of His arms? That is where we find all the abundant comfort we need ... and more. Don't reject comfort by focusing on the afflictions, focus on the God of All Comfort. And you will be right by His side!

- Carey Terry