

## God's Everlasting Comfort for His People - Part 2

Isa 30:19-26 *For the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem; you shall weep no more. He will be very gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when He hears it, He will answer you.* And though the Lord gives you The bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your teachers will not be moved into a corner anymore, but your eyes shall see your teachers. Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it, "Whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left. You will also defile the covering of your images of silver, and the ornament of your molded images of gold. You will throw them away as an unclean thing; you will say to them, "Get away!" Then He will give the rain for your seed with which you sow the ground, and bread of the increase of the earth; it will be fat and plentiful. In that day your cattle will feed in large pastures. Likewise the oxen and the young donkeys that work the ground will eat cured fodder, which has been winnowed with the shovel and fan. There will be on every high mountain and on every high hill rivers and streams of waters, in the day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall. Moreover the light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the Lord bind up the bruise of His people and heals the stroke of their wound.

How God deals with His elect people is the theme of this passage. Last Sunday we noted that God is exalted in His relationship with His people, This morning we shall see that God will be attentive to the cry of His people and will keep a faithful remnant till He comes again. And then the Lord willing we will consider how the blessings of God will always abound upon His people.

A. God will be attentive to the cry of His people - *For the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem; you shall weep no more. He will be very gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when He hears it, He will answer you.*

1. His people shall dwell in Zion

a. For the people of Isaiah's day these are words of comfort

- (1) They have heard that they will be carried away into captivity
- (2) They now hear once again the promise of a return to Zion
- (3) The Remnant have cause for rejoicing in all things

b. For the church of all ages these are words of comfort

- (1) The Zion spoken of here is not to be limited to the land
- (2) The Zion spoken of here is the spiritual dwelling of God's people
- (3) The land where God is always present

c. This is to be contrasted with Mount Sinai

Heb 12:22-24 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.

- (1) In context the above verse spoke of Sinai, the giving of the law which only brought the threat of death

Rom 3:19-20 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

- (2) But the elect of God no longer dwelling on Mt. Sinai but in Mt. Zion where the Messiah provided victory over sin redeeming the lawbreakers from their enslavement.

2. Wiping away all their tears having heard their cry of repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ

*Isa 25:7 He will swallow up death forever, and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces;*

B. And though you will know adversity you will hear God's words of direction and comfort

1. In contrast to the rebellious ones who refused to hear the word of the Lord

2. On the other hand the repentant ones and trusting ones will hear the Word of the Lord - *And though the Lord gives you The bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your teachers will not be moved into a corner anymore, but your eyes shall see your teachers. Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it, "Whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left.*

- a. God will give them faithful teachers
- b. There will always be that voice that cries out to them when they begin to stray
- c. There will always be a Paul to call the Galatian' saints back to the way, that will call the Corinthians to corrective measures
- d. Thankfully there were the Usinuses and the Calvins, and the Knoxes that called the church back to the truth.
- e. May God enable the teachers of His church in this day to guide the church in the right way
- f. This is the responsibility of the church to make sure its teachers are sound in the faith and faithful in their shepherding

*1 Tim 4:16 Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.*

*2 Tim 2:1-4 You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.*

3. The faithful church will always know opposition and hardships but can be assured God's word abides forever.

C. Next we see the evidence of a faithful church - *You will also defile the covering of your images of silver, and the ornament of your molded images of gold. You will throw them away as an unclean thing; you will say to them, "Get away!"*

1. In Isaiah's day the rebellious in their midst were given over to idolatry
2. Calvin points out that in his day the rebellious were given to the worshipful use of images in the church
3. But the faithful church, the Zion of God will always throw them away as an unclean thing and will cry out to any use of images with these words - Get away
4. The true church will always be seen as a people who worship God in Spirit and in truth

#### CONCLUSION:

The faithful church will never be without sin and error but will acknowledge that sin and turn always to God in repentance and faith.

But God will always hear their cry and grant forgiveness and cleansing

*1 John 1:8-9 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us** from all unrighteousness.*

God in the Old Testament was always faithful to send faithful prophets to warn His flock

God Himself has provided in our day for faithful teachers to guard the flock

*Eph 4:11-14 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.*

God has kept a faithful remnant throughout the history of His church

*1 Kings 19:18 Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."*

We know that at the time of the Reformation God brought forth a body in Zion that proclaimed truth to Zion

Even down to this day, there are those such as you dear flock that have refused to bow the knee to Baal

May God ever keep His church faithful and sound

And may God's servants give heed to the faithful instruction of the Apostle Paul

*1 Tim 4:16 Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.*