

September 3, 2015

The Result of Godly Sorrow

Matthew 5:4 (NASB), **“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”**

We have looked at proper and improper mourning. We have looked at Godly mourning and today we are going to see what the result of Godly mourning or Godly sorrow is. The result is given to us at the end of verse 4, **“for they shall be comforted.”** The result of Godly sorrow, sorrow over our sin, and sorrow over our rebelliousness toward God is comfort. We are blessed when we have Godly sorrow because God comforts us in that sorrow.

The Greek word *autos* is used here for the emphatic pronoun **“they.”** What this indicates then is that *only* those who mourn over sin will be comforted. The blessing of God’s comfort is reserved exclusively then for those who have a contrite heart. It is only those who mourn over their sin who will have their sorrow eased and their tears wiped away by the compassionate hand of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The word **“comforted”** comes from the Greek word *parakaleo*, the same word that, as a noun, is rendered Comforter, or Helper. In John 14:16 we are told that Jesus was the first Helper, and that the Holy Spirit is **“another helper.”**

The Old Testament also speaks of God comforting those who mourn. In Isaiah 61:2-3 it says, **“To proclaim the favorable year of the LORD and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, to grant those who mourn in Zion, giving them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a spirit of fainting.”** Psalm 23:4 says, **“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.”**

So as our mourning rises to the throne of God, His matchless and immeasurable comfort comes down to us from Him by Christ to us. 2 Corinthians 1:3 refers to God as the **“God of all comfort,”** who is always ready to meet our needs, admonishing, sympathizing, encouraging, and strengthening. God is the God of comfort, Christ is the Christ of comfort, and the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of comfort. As believers we have the comfort of the entire Trinity!

The words **“shall be”** do not refer to the end of our lives or the end of the age. Like all of the other blessings of God, this one will be completed only when we see our Lord face-to-face. Revelations 21:4 tells us that in the eternal heavenly state God **“will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”**

The comfort of Matthew 5:4 is in the future only in the sense that the blessing comes after the obedience; the comfort comes after the mourning. As we continually are in mourning over our sin, we **“shall be”** continually comforted – now, in this life here on earth. So God is not only the God of future comfort but is also the God of present comfort. 2 Thessalonians 2:16 says, **“Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace.”**

God’s has also given us His Word as a present comforter. Romans 15:4 says, **“For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we might have hope.”** So as God gives us comfort and as His Word gives us comfort, we are called then to comfort each other with the promises of His Word. Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 1:6, **“But if we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; for if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which is effective in the patient enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer.”**

Happiness comes to sad people because their godly sadness leads to God’s comfort. Jesus said in Matthew 11:28, **“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.”** He will lift the burden from those who mourn over sin, and He will give rest to those who are weary of sin. As often as we confess our sin, He is faithful to forgive, and for as long as we mourn over the sin in our lives God is faithful to comfort us and forgive.