

PAUL AND HIS EPISTLE TO TITUS

TITUS – KNOWN TO BE A COMFORTER

Comfort (to call to or for, to aid, to exhort, to encourage) the depressed, the afflicted, the fearful and the persecuted missionaries with Paul in Macedonia –

*Great is my confidence in you, great is my boasting on your behalf; I am filled with **comfort**. I am overflowing with joy in all our affliction. ⁵ For even when we came into Macedonia our flesh had no rest, but we were afflicted on every side: conflicts without, fears within. ⁶ But God, who **comforts** the depressed, **comforted** us by the coming of **Titus**; ⁷ and not only by his coming, but also by the **comfort** with which he was **comforted** in you, as he reported to us your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me; so that I rejoiced even more. (2 Corinthians 7:4-7)*

N.B. Titus was also comforted by his brethren. We are God's image bearers and we comfort one another. Here Titus conveys the comfort from others to the missionaries going through affliction, conflicts, fears and depression.

How did God comfort the saints?

- Isaac was comforted by his marriage to Rebekah after the death of his mother Sarah. (Genesis 24:67)
- Joseph was enabled to comfort his repentant brothers by reassuring them of providing for them and their families in Egypt and by speaking kindly to them. (Genesis 50:17)
- Ruth felt comforted by Boaz by his kindness to her, even when she was a Moabitess. He included her at mealtime with his reapers, protected her and provided for her and her mother in law, Naomi. (Ruth 2:13)
- David comforted Bathsheba when her firstborn died. God provided her with another son, Solomon. (2 Samuel 12:24)
- Job comforted the poor and the orphan and made the widow's heart sing for joy. He was eyes to the blind, and feet to the lame, a father to the needy, broke the jaws of the wicked and delivered the prey. He was a comforter to the mourners. (Job 29:12-25).
- Job's brothers and sisters and all his friends came to him, ate bread with him in his house and consoled and comforted him for all his calamities. Each gave him one piece of money, and each a ring of gold. God blessed him with wealth, more children and longevity (Job 42:17).
- God helped and comforted David in all his trials in the midst of his enemies. He came to know God to be merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness and truth. (Psalms 86:15-17)

- God comforted his covenant people (Isaiah 51:3). We are commanded to comfort God's covenant people with the gospel of his salvation and redemption (Isaiah 40:1-2)

IMAGERY OF GOD AND HIS REDEEMED:

*"That you may nurse and be satisfied with her **comforting** breasts, That you may suck and be delighted with her bountiful bosom." ¹² For thus says the LORD, "Behold, I extend peace to her like a river, And the glory of the nations like an overflowing stream; And you shall be nursed, you shall be carried on the hip and fondled on the knees. ¹³ "As one whom his mother **comforts**, so I will **comfort** you; And you shall be **comforted** in Jerusalem." (Isa 66:11-13)*

THE GOD OF ALL COMFORT:

*³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all **comfort**; ⁴ who **comforts** us in all our affliction so that we may be able to **comfort** those who are in any affliction with the **comfort** with which we ourselves are **comforted** by God. ⁵ For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ. ⁶ But if we are afflicted, it is for your **comfort** and salvation; or if we are **comforted**, it is for your **comfort**, which is effective in the patient enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer; ⁷ and our hope for you is firmly grounded, knowing that as you are sharers of our sufferings, so also you are sharers of our **comfort**. (2Co 1:3-7)*

ELDERS TO BE IMAGE BEARERS OF GOD (TITUS 1:6-16)

- be above reproach, (Titus 1:6)
- the husband of one wife, (Titus 1:6)
- having children who believe (Titus 1:6)
- not accused of dissipation or rebellion. (Titus 1:6)
- must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, (Titus 1:7)
- not addicted to wine (Titus 1:7)
- not pugnacious (Titus 1:7)
- not fond of sordid (greedy) gain (Titus 1:7)
- hospitable (Titus 1:8)
- loving what is good (Titus 1:8)
- sensible, just, devout, self-controlled, (Titus 1:8)
- holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, (Titus 1:9)
- he may be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict. (Titus 1:9)
- speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine. (Titus 2:1)
- temperate, dignified, sensible, sound in faith, in love, in perseverance. (Titus 2:2)

- in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, *with* purity in doctrine, dignified, (Titus 2:7)
- sound *in* speech which is beyond reproach, in order that the opponent may be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us. (Titus 2:8)
- *Urge* bond slaves to be subject to their own masters in everything, to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, (Titus 2:9)
- not pilfering, but showing all good faith that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect (Titus 2:10)
- deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, (Titus 2:12)
- Looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus; (Titus 2:13)

UNGODLY BEHAVIOR

- rebellious men, (Titus 1:10)
- empty talkers and deceivers, (Titus 1:10)
- they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not *teach*, for the sake of sordid gain. (Titus 1:11)
- They profess to know God, but by *their* deeds they deny *Him*, being detestable and disobedient, and worthless for any good deed. (Titus 1:16)
- foolish . . . , disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another. (Titus 3:3)

GODLY WOMEN – IMAGE BEARERS OF GOD

- reverent in their behavior, (Titus 2:3)
- not malicious gossips, (Titus 2:3)
- nor enslaved to much wine (Titus 2:3)
- teaching what is good, (Titus 2:3)
- they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, (Titus 2:4)
- sensible, pure, workers at home, (Titus 2:5)
- kind, being subject to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be dishonored. (Titus 2:5)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Look up the following passage and discover how God comforts his people in different ways:

1. 2 Corinthians 7:4-7
 - a. What was the attribute of God that Titus was evidently known for?
 - b. There is a word repeated about 5 times in the passage. Why?
 - c. What was the result of Titus' ministry to the missionaries?
 - d. Who were behind Titus as he ministered to Paul and his missions team?
 - e. What did Titus do?

2. In what ways did God comfort his covenant people? Who and How? How does this inspire you?
 - a. Genesis 24:67
 - b. Genesis 50:17
 - c. Ruth 2:13
 - d. 2 Samuel 12:24
 - e. Job 29:12-25
 - f. Job 42:17
 - g. Psalms 86:15-17

3. What is the graphic imagery of God who comforts his people. Note the number of times the word "comfort" is found in these 3 verses. Does this bring back memories of your mother's comforting care for you? Share those moments with your group.

4. 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 What is God communicating to us in these verses? How are we to be image-bearers of our living God in this respect?

5. Titus 1:6-16; 3:3 - List the qualities to look for in choosing the elders to rule the church? Discuss this among yourselves.

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