

Eternal Consolation

(Thoughts on scriptures concerning suffering)

Our weakness is working to press us into Christ's measure. We will not put ourselves outside of our own measure, but God will allow us to be put in situations that are above our strength, where we despair of our own life. During these times we will lay ourselves into the hands of God Who will deliver us from so great a death, knowing that He will reveal His Son within as our sufficiency. The Christ that we have so desired to know and share as Life will be accessed as our faith reaches into His resources that are beyond our own abilities. We will lean and cleave into His strength in deeper measure than we ever could have just learning the teachings. Through these many afflictions we become cornered into experiencing Christ beyond mere learning. We reckon that these present sufferings are not worthy to be compared to experientially knowing Christ in the power of His resurrection. We are coming to an end of ourselves, no longer striving to perform the things of God. Christ is becoming our all, and our souls are entering into His rest.

Our strengths and abilities have been sentenced to death, knowing that our measure would never be sufficient for the trials that come upon us. Yet our hope and trust is not in ourselves, but in God who brings out from our barrenness the endless capacities of His Son. Our consolation abounds in us, even where the sufferings abound, for we have found Christ in a way that passes knowledge and sustains us in the face of impossible odds. We have a comfort that can reach the weakest soul, and console the most desperate of persons. Though we are utterly weak in ourselves, we stand as living proof that Christ can be the life of the believer, and therefore make manifest the sweet savor of His sacrifice in every place we go.

The Father of mercies and the God of all comfort has sent His eternal consolation, Christ as our indwelling fullness. We have not just read the facts about this great salvation, but we have been pressed beyond measure time and again, and know that God does deliver us and will always deliver us as He raises His Son out from our inability to overcome.

Who is sufficient to perform what only the Son can be? We represent a living Christ, and therefore our flesh remains sentenced to death. We know that time and again God will demonstrate this glorious gospel through us as we remain in weakness, even glorying in weakness knowing that therein His strength is made perfect. Rather than living in fear and feeling bound by our circumstances and human frailties, we have received the Spirit of the Son and our hearts cry out Abba Father. Our hearts are abounding with consolation by Christ. Be comforted and know that the heart of your Father is to send forth the Spirit of His Son into your heart. Do not trust in yourself but believe in God Who raises the dead. He will bring forth His Son in you and Christ alone will be your strength.

Divine Comfort

God lifts our gaze beyond the temporal to see the far more glorious and eternal end that is ours. In this moment we feel the affliction, but it becomes light, even a tool when we consider the glory that God will bring from it. For those who love God and are called according to the purposes of His heart, there is no greater end or glory than Christ Himself being increased in His Church. For this cause we consider our lives as a means of sacrifice, seeking not physical comfort or gain, but rather desiring to bear in our bodies the dying of the Lord Jesus that His life may work in others. Once again, we are not sufficient for such things and that is why we have become partakers of the Divine Nature, so that by Christ Jesus we might bring glory to God.

Therefore our comfort is not in the things of this life, but in seeing you grow in the Lord and mature by His life. Our consolation is not that our afflictions are removed, but that you are edified, encouraged and strengthened. We seek not our own, neither do we preach ourselves for we consider ourselves to be your servants. We know that, together as one new man, we will bring glory to God through the abundance of His Son within. Therein, all these things will redound to His pleasure and in this we can rest and find divine comfort.

A Broken Reed

Weary, tired, poured out like water...

lead like sheep to the slaughter.

A smoking flax, a broken reed ...

Just weak little vessels, not highly esteemed.

God's choosing confounds the wisdom of men

For our weakness reveals His strength within.

So take no thought for the state of the vessel

The excellency of the power is Christ, our treasure.