

## Hebrews 6:18

### Strong Consolation

God cannot lie - it would oppose His very nature, it would not be consistent with who He is. As we considered last week, it is this truth which is the foundation of all our faith. God is to be trusted, He is to be believed. And that fact, the reality of His trustworthiness is the grandest source of our hope and of our comfort ever given. God IS to be trusted!

#### I. STRONG CONSOLATION

- A. The writer gives us this simple promise that all that God has done and said about our salvation, is given for our consolation.
- B. He has given us a source of comfort that cannot be overcome. Himself.

*Isaiah 51:12*

*<sup>12</sup> "I, even I, am He who comforts you. Who are you that you should be afraid Of a man*

*who will die, And of the son of a man who  
will be made like grass?*

*Isaiah 66:13*

*As one whom his mother comforts, So I will  
comfort you; And you shall be comforted in  
Jerusalem.”*

*Romans 15:5*

*<sup>5</sup> Now may the God of patience and comfort  
grant you to be like-minded toward one  
another, according to Christ Jesus,*

C. He has allowed us to experience His comfort as we walk through this life and experience suffering, for Christ Himself suffered and thus knows our pain as no one else ever can...

**2 Corinthians 1:5–7**

D. He has also bound us together as the body to share in one another's sorrow and share our own comforts here in this life

## Philippians 2:1–2

1. It is extremely important to note this for it is our fellowship that is one of the primary sources of our understanding about God. It is the body that teaches us truth from the Word and which helps us walk in truth. We learn to trust by walking in obedience and truth, and also by knowing what God has said and taking Him at His word. This requires us to KNOW what He said and it requires us to BELIEVE what He has said. Belief fosters belief. Trust feeds trust. Therefore to help us grow in this grace God has tied our consolation to the declaration of His own nature...

## II. TWO IMMUTABLE THINGS

- A. His nature

*Numbers 23:19*

*<sup>19</sup> “God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?”*

*John 14:6*

*<sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*

*2 Timothy 2:13*

*<sup>13</sup> If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.*

## **B. His oath**

*Matthew 24:35*

*<sup>35</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.*

*Romans 3:3–4*

*<sup>3</sup> For what if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect? <sup>4</sup> Certainly not! Indeed, let*

*God be true but every man a liar. As it is written: "That You may be justified in Your words, And may overcome when You are judged."*

### **III. GOD CAN BE TRUSTED**

This reality gives us absolute confidence that God can be trusted with our lives, our needs, our souls

- A. He is the one Rock upon whom we can fling ourselves and be saved.

*Psalm 62:8*

*<sup>8</sup> Trust in Him at all times, you people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. Selah*

- B. If we do not trust God we cannot be saved. We must trust Him to be
1. Who He says He is
  2. Who He says WE are - this is crucial for it is the hinge that turns good theology into garbage when it is ignored...

## 1 John 1:8–10

3. How He says He is - holy, true, full of mercy and full of pity, but also full of wrath and hatred for all sin.
4. To do what He says He will do

### *1 John 5:10*

*<sup>10</sup> He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son.*

- C. This is crucial for us to understand for there is NO other path to God and there never will be any other path to God. Remember what Jesus said in John 14.6? "No one comes to the Father except through ME"

## IV. COMFORT ONLY IN CHRIST

This confidence and comfort is reserved for those who have fled for refuge to Christ

A. Refuge from the wrath of God

1. In the law there was a provision made to allow someone to flee from the avenger of blood. The person assigned to avenge the accidental death of a family member...

**Numbers 35:11–15**

2. These cities of refuge are a type of Christ. They were a place for the guilty to hide and avoid the punishment which was deserved. They were a safe haven which would last until the death of the High Priest who was in office at the time of their fleeing. We have been given a refuge in Christ who is our High Priest and who has died and been raised and will never die again for He has conquered death... thus, our refuge is eternal. It will never end!

3. Consider the words of Isaiah

*Isaiah 32:1–2*

*<sup>1</sup> Behold, a king will reign in righteousness, And princes will rule with justice. <sup>2</sup> A man will be as a hiding place from the wind, And a cover from the tempest, As rivers of water in a dry place, As the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.*

B. Refuge from the reality of hell

1. And we NEED that refuge, for we are guilty and deserve the wrath of God. There is no doubt that God would be completely just, holy and righteous if every single man woman and child who ever lived were cast into hell...
2. But God who's wrath we are fleeing is also the refuge to whom we run...

*Psalm 46:1*



*God is our refuge and strength, A very  
present help in trouble.*

*Thessalonians 1:10*

*<sup>10</sup> and to wait for His Son from heaven,  
whom He raised from the dead, even  
Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to  
come.*

- C. Refuge from the ongoing specter of failure  
and despair, sorrow and pain

*Psalm 62:8*

*<sup>8</sup> Trust in Him at all times, you people; Pour  
out your heart before Him; God is a refuge  
for us. Selah*

1. It doesn't matter what you are facing,  
God in Christ is the hope to which we flee!

**2 Corinthians 5:18–21**

## **V. CHRIST ALONE**

The way into this refuge is to lay hold of the hope promised in Christ. Nothing else will ever be sufficient.

A. Laying hold

**Philippians 3:12–14**

*1 Timothy 6:12*

*Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.*

*1 John 2:24–25*

*Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father. <sup>25</sup> And this is the promise that He has promised us— eternal life.*

B. Hope is laid up

*Colossians 1:5*

*<sup>5</sup> because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel,*

*Colossians 1:23*

*<sup>23</sup> if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.*

*Colossians 1:27*

*<sup>27</sup> To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

*1 Timothy 1:1*

*<sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the commandment of God our Savior and the Lord Jesus Christ, our hope,*