

The Promises of God - Lesson 27

Introduction:

1. According to 2 Peter 1:4, God's promises are "*exceeding great and precious.*"
2. By studying God's promises we are able to learn:
 - a. information that God wants us to know about many important subjects
 - b. about many special blessings that God provides.
3. In this lesson we are concentrating on "God's promise to provide comfort."
4. This promise is especially meaningful because there is "*a time to mourn,*" as Solomon stated in Ecclesiastes 3:4.
 - a. Mourn: to feel or to express sorrow or grief
 - b. Mourning is caused by the loss of someone or something that is loved or cherished.
5. Thankfully, comfort is available when we mourn (Matthew 5:4).
6. Let us examine several Bible principles that relate to "comfort."

Discussion:

- I. GOD IS THE PRIMARY SOURCE OF COMFORT (2 Corinthians 1:3-4a)
- II. GOD PROVIDES COMFORT IN VARIOUS WAYS
 - A. God sent Jesus to provide comfort.
 1. This was prophesied in Isaiah 61:1-2.
 2. Jesus fulfilled this prophecy (Luke 4:16-21).
 - B. God provides comfort through His Word (Romans 15:4).
 - C. God provides comfort through His rod and staff (Psalm 23:4).
 - D. God provides comfort through family members (Job 42:11).
 - E. God provides comfort through friends (John 11:19, 31)
 - F. God provides comfort through good news (Proverbs 25:25; 2 Corinthians 7:5-7).
- III. GOD HAS GIVEN HIS PEOPLE CERTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES THAT RELATE TO COMFORT
 - A. Each person mourns differently; however, we must allow ourselves to be comforted.
 1. Jacob "*refused to be comforted*" when he thought Joseph died (Genesis 37:34-35).
 2. We are taught in 2 Corinthians 13:11 to "*be of good comfort.*"
 - B. God wants His people to provide comfort to others.
 1. 2 Corinthians 1:4
 2. 1 Thessalonians 4:18; 5:11
 - C. Caution must be exercised to avoid making matters worse for those who mourn.
 1. Job's friends visited him "*to mourn with him and to comfort him*" (Job 2:11).
 2. Unfortunately, they turned out to be "*miserable comforters*" (Job 16:1-2).