

## Elder Vernon Johnson Animals

### Duties of the Ministry Part 6 Comfort

One of the chief duties of a gospel minister is to comfort the Lord's people as Is. 40:1 plainly tells us: "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. 2 Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the Lord's hand double for all her sins." This was a prophecy of the New Testament age and the instruction is to comfort the Lord's people who are mourning over their sins and fighting a warfare to try to get right with God. The message is that Christ has already accomplished what the Lord's people are trying to do and therefore they can rest in the finished work of salvation.

However, there is more comfort found in the preaching and teaching of the gospel as the following verses attest to:

1. Rom. 15:4 "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." Our knowledge of the scriptures gives us hope both in eternal life, but also in the accomplishment of the promises of God concerning our daily lives.

2. 2 Cor. 1:4 "Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. 5 For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ." Tribulations, trouble, and sufferings are the lot of God's people. The preaching of the gospel brings comfort to the Lord's people in the midst of their tribulations, troubles, and sufferings.

3. 2 Cor. 2:7 "So that contrariwise ye ought rather to forgive him, and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow." This verse is about a man who had committed a grievous sin and then repented and subsequently, the church forgave him and comforted him.

4. Phil. 2:1 "If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, 2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind." This teaches us that with what comfort, consolation, fellowship, inward affections and mercies that we have received in the church and in the preaching and teaching of the gospel, we should strive to comfort, console, have fellowship for, have inward affections for, and be merciful to others as well.

5. 1 Thes. 4:18 “Wherefore comfort one another with these words.” The context of this verse is to comfort those whose loved ones have died.

The gospel ministry have an important duty in comforting the Lord’s people.