

II Thess. 2:16

SUBJECT: Everlasting  
Consolation

GT

II Thess. 2: 16 παρράκλησιν αἰωνίαν

Everlasting Consolation (Eternal Encouragement)

I. The context: the occasion of Paul's prayer for them.

II Thess. 1:7-2:12 the dark prospect of the end-time. The anti-Christ, human anarchy, persecution. Eschatology an awe-inspiring subject. Christ's coming is the blessed hope but terrible events precede it.

II Thess. 2:13ff. He moves out of the great events of the holocaust into the consoling ministry of God to those who suffer.

He is optimistic as well as realistic. He deals with realities of evil, the mystery of iniquity, the facts of judgment, hell, damnation. There is confidence in Christ's work.

This is the mark of the true Christian.

Confidence, hope, encouragement... 2:16, 17.

(a) John Wesley returning to England from America; across ship, the terrible storm in the N. Atlantic. All despairing of life; fear; the calm trust of the men; Wesley says "I am out. Committed."

(b) The story I heard, Memphis times; the night sky filled with comets, falling stars, the cry the end of the world was near. The panic, crying; an old colored saint gathered his family to meet the Lord... to him, the end, the world. Day of fear, damnation. "Meet with the Lord."

II. The need for encouragement is universal.  
of the recording of Dr. Truett, "The Need for Encouragement"  
No man goes far in life without it: heart, buffeted,  
battered, bruised. Need to be loved up in the comfort of God.  
(4) The hymn, "Come ye desolate" [297]

So Paul's prayer of thanksgiving (2:16) and intercession (3:17) for his  
The Lord was delighted to see his people with their heads  
hanging down like bulrushes, depressed, discouraged. When  
the spirits begin to sink, the waters have come in, run  
into the soul. We distress the weak ones in the family of God.  
God cannot use us, cast down, defeated, discouraged.

(a) Elijah I K. 19:1-18

(b) Jesus' appearance to Peter M. 28:34; John 21:1ff.

Jm 14:16 "Let not your heart be troubled"  
Job. 1: "Be strong in the Lord; fear not"  
Psalm. "Rejoice in the Lord always"

Faith upholds the heart. Lift up the hands that hang down;  
strengthen the feeble knees. Rejoice in the Lord, do not give  
depression. When not happy in the Lord, do not give  
ourselves heed to his voice. When our hearts miss, our  
hands fail.

III. The source of the consolation.  
A succession to the work of the Cross? new election? legislation?  
No. Rather, the election purpose of God Himself.  
[Notice the doctrine of the Trinity here: 2: 13, 14 God. Spirit-Jesus  
Notice the emphasis: 2: 16 "himself" "even our Father"]

The eternal purpose of God to save a people for his glory.  
Rom. 8: 29, 30; Eph. 1: 4, 5. God has decreed a redeemed  
people to be exalted above the angels, partakers of the  
divine nature.

Predestination dignified the position of the little flock  
in a world that opposed them.  
John 13: 1-5 Christ able to do many things in  
humiliation because he knew where he came, whither he went.  
So the little flock, secure presentation, glorification, -

Here an object lesson in hope, confidence  
The very witness of the little flock of faithful believers  
in our age like that of the Roman Empire - decay, brutality,  
wickedness, atheism, gullibility, heathenism, corruption. Yet  
here the little flock, a heritage of what was to come.

God - come, join the people of God, whose hearts are lifted  
beyond the noise, that death, to the life of God.