

## COMFORTING VERSES IN TIMES OF CRISIS

In some ways, knowing that there are brethren suffering worldwide troubles us more than if this was just an isolated problem. It just reminds us how widespread this problem is and how much harder it will be to find a solution. However, realizing that this pandemic has touched the lives of brethren throughout the world helps us to know that we are not alone in fighting this. It gives us the ability to look to others and see how they are handling it to help us in knowing how to handle it ourselves. The Holy Spirit used the fact that brethren were suffering around the world to offer comfort to the brethren. We are all in this together. That means that we are all fighting this together. Let that thought be a source of comfort.

2 CORINTHIANS 7.6: *“Nevertheless God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus.”* In this passage, Paul was distressed. Where did he find comfort? Paul was comforted by the arrival of Titus. When you keep reading, you will find that it was not just his arrival, though that was a significant part. It was also the news that Titus delivered (2 Cor. 7.7). Do not miss the fact that it was God who did this. God gave comfort to Paul through the arrival of Titus.

Sometimes the best place to find comfort and reassurance is in the company of our friends and loved ones. Social distancing makes it harder to spend time with those who are not part of our household, but with the help of technology, social media, Zoom, and the like, we can still see their face, hear their voice, and enjoy each other’s company. Do not hesitate to send a text, make a phone call, set of a Zoom, Skype, or digital face to face meeting. Let them know you are thinking of them and take comfort in our relationships.

ROMANS 5.3: *“And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance.”* As we go through these times of hardship, worry, and distress, see it as an opportunity to grow. The only way to get stronger is to exercise your muscles. The only way to get stronger spiritually is to exercise your faith, patience, and character. With each challenge we face and each challenge we overcome, take comfort in knowing just how much stronger you are as a result.

For people with God on their side, we can face each day with confidence. Spend time with your Bible and use it keep your mind focused on the One who will always be there. Only through the scriptures can we strengthen our faith (Rom. 10.17). CLP

## NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

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*“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”*  
-Mark 16.15

**August 9, 2020**

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### MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM  
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM  
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM  
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

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### JESUS, OUR BEST FRIEND

We have a special and unique relationship with Christ. The Bible described our relationship with Jesus in a variety of ways.

First of all, Jesus is our High Priest (Heb. 4.15). In the Old Testament, the High Priest would go into the Holiest of All once a year on the day of atonement. There he would offer sacrifices on behalf of the people. The High Priest went into the very presence of God and served as intercessor between God and man. In the same way, Christ is our intercessor (Heb. 7.25). He offered Himself as a sacrifice on the cross of Calvary and now serves as our High Priest always making intercessions for us.

Secondly, Jesus is our teacher and example (1 Pet. 2.21). You and I are going to have troubles in life. Temptation, persecution, and hardship are a part of every Christian’s life. As my teacher and example, I can learn how best to handle my troubles by learning from Jesus and following His example.

Third, Jesus is my brother (Phil. 2.6-8). Jesus came in the flesh. He dwelt among us. He learned obedience by coming to this earth physically in flesh and blood and experiencing what it means to live like you and I.

As our High Priest, our teacher, example, and our brother, Jesus is our dearest of friends (John 15.13-15). CLP

## ARE YOU A THIEF?

### EXODUS 20:15

#### INTRODUCTION:

1. Great measures have been taken in our society to prevent themselves from being robbed.
2. **EXODUS 20:15:** *“You shall not steal.”* This is in a context where laws are given to govern our relationships with one another.

#### I. THE LAW APPLIED TO THE JEWS

- A. One can be guilty of stealing by actively taking what rightly belongs to another.
  1. One could actively take property. (Matt. 6.19)
  2. One could actively take other people. (Ex. 21.16)
  3. One could actively take God’s laws. (Jer. 23.30,31)
- B. One can be guilty of stealing by passively taking what rightly belongs to another.
  1. One could steal by failing to pay wages. (Lev. 19.13)
  2. One could steal by ignoring the needy. (Isa. 10.1,2)
  3. One could steal by not paying a debt. (Ezek. 33.14,15)

#### II. THE LAW APPLIED TO CHRISTIANS

- A. Christians can be guilty of stealing the property of others.
  1. It is not wrong to receive something as a gift or by earning it, but we cannot steal. (2 Thess. 3.10; Eph. 4.28)
  2. We can steal from someone passively by failing to pay a debt that we owe. (Rom. 13.8)
- B. Christians can be guilty of stealing the time of others.
  1. We do so actively by expecting too much from others. People need time for themselves. (Mark 6.31)
  2. We do so passively by wasting time. (Eph. 5.16)
- C. Christians can be guilty of stealing the good name of others.
  1. We do so actively by speaking evil of others. (Titus 3.2)
  2. We do so passively by using the good name of others to legitimize our own beliefs. (1 Cor. 10.12,13)
- D. Christians can be guilty of stealing the faith of another.
  1. We do so actively by teaching false doctrines. (Col. 2.8)
  2. We do so passively by failing to teach others about the gospel. (Matt. 28.19)

**CONCLUSION:** How do we avoid stealing? (Rom. 13.8-10)

## COMFORTING VERSES IN TIMES OF CRISIS

Are you struggling with the challenges associated with Covid-19? We are not living in a time that is unprecedented. According to the CDC, the outbreak of influenza in 1918 was the worst and deadliest virus in our history.

There were as estimated fifty million deaths worldwide and more than 650,000 deaths in the United States. Local, state, and federal governments closed schools, places of worship, business, and required everyone to wear masks. Sound familiar? It was during this time that strict laws were passed which prohibited such things as spitting on the sidewalk.

While we are not living in unprecedented times, it does not make this current pandemic any less frightening. Nor should take it any less seriously. Through it all, do not forget that God is still God. The Bible is still the book we need to go to for strength, comfort, and guidance. Consider the following verses that might help.

HEBREWS 13.5: *“For He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’”* The word “leave” carries the idea of abandoning someone when they are in trouble. Four times in the New Testament, we can find this phrase that the Hebrew writer quotes. In each of their occurrences, it has reference to the threat of Israel’s enemies. Faced with the strength of their enemies, Israel is reassured that God will always be with them.

The hardships that come with this current pandemic can seem overwhelming. There are those who have lost their jobs and struggle to provide for their families. There are those who cannot find the supplies they need though this is getting someone better. There are loved ones we have lost. There is a bitter divide in our country about the best way to handle this crisis. Add to it all the fear that many have of catching this virus. With all this on the forefront of our mind, do not let this thought fall the background: *“I will never leave you nor forsake you.”* God is still there. We still need to lean on His care and be comforted knowing that He will get us through this.

1 PETER 5.9: *“Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.”* It is hard feeling like you are all alone. Though necessary, social distancing has amplified the feelings of isolation. This pandemic is not just affecting a city or a country. It is a global pandemic. Does it help to know that *“the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world?”*

[back]