**Everlasting Consolation and Good Hope**

*2 Thessalonians 2:16-17*

**Introduction**

1. Paul wrote to a people in Thessalonica who were troubled by false messages – **2 Thessalonians 2:2**
2. As he straightened things out for them through the revelation of truth, he included a prayer for their comfort and establishment – **2 Thessalonians 2:16-17**
   1. God had gifted them, and all Christians, everlasting consolation, and good hope.
   2. These gifts could sustain the brethren in great comfort and faithfulness.
3. We exist in a world whose inhabitants struggle with affliction of the mind (anxiety, depression, doubt, fear, etc.), body (sickness, disease, injury, etc.), and soul (sin), but we Christians have ***“everlasting consolation”*** (constant, unending, consistent, ever-present), and ***“good hope.”***
4. The Gift Giver
5. Our Lord Jesus Christ, and Our God and Father
   1. Everything good comes from the Father – **James 1:17**
      1. He is not the cause of hard times, but the answer to them – **James 1:2-5, 13**
      2. Trial/tribulation, temptation, adversity of any kind should immediately turn us to Him.
   2. Every spiritual gift from the Father comes through Christ – **Ephesians 1:3**
      1. He is the only way – **John 14:6**
      2. Complete in Him – **Colossians 2:6-7, 9-10**
      3. The answer God provides to hard times is found in Jesus who is the way.
   3. **The giving and receiving of gifts are in connection with our relationship to them:**
      1. Children of God the Father – **1 Peter 1:13-16** – obedient children.
      2. Subjects in the Kingdom of our Lord – **Colossians 1:13-14; 3:1-4, 17**
6. The Ground of Expectation
   1. **Love** – ***“who has loved us”*** – after mentioning both, proceeds with the singular ***(“I and My Father are one.” – John 10:30***).
      1. **Romans 5:5-11** – love takes away all doubt and possibility for disappointment.
      2. God’s love – **John 3:16**
      3. Jesus’ love – **Mark 6:34** (Before feeding of 5,000); **Mark 10:20-21** (counseling rich young ruler); **John 15:13** (laid down life)
      4. KEEP SELF IN LOVE – **Jude 21**
         1. ***“Beloved by the Lord”*** – **2 Thessalonians 2:13-15** (evidence, and encouragement to remain)
   2. **Grace** – ***“by grace”*** – *en* – in connection with, or in the sphere of.
      1. **Romans 5:20-21** – grace abounds much more – than sin, but anything else (**cf. Romans 8:32**).
         1. ***“grace might reign through righteousness”***
         2. The righteousness of God in the gospel – **Romans 1:16-17; 10:3-4**
      2. God’s grace – **Titus 2:11-14** – saves, teaches, purifies, grants confidence, cultivates zealous work.
         1. Opposite is evidence of lacking God’s grace.
      3. BE STRONG IN GRACE – **2 Timothy 2:1**
7. The Gift
8. Everlasting Consolation
   1. ***“eternal comfort” (ASV, NASB, ESV); “comfort age-during” (YLT)***
      1. The comfort/consolation is never-ending.
      2. It is not exhausted by time or circumstance.
   2. By the word – **2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 14; 1 Thessalonians 2:3, 13** – in contrast to the trouble brought on by error, the word of God brings comfort – do not be ***“soon shaken in mind or troubled”***
   3. Comfort of the scriptures from the God of comfort – **Romans 15:4-5**
      1. Word of God brings comfort/exhortation to men – **1 Corinthians 14:3** (when it is understood)
      2. Edification resulting in comfort provided by the Holy Spirit – **Acts 9:31**
      3. As promised by Jesus – **John 14:16-17, 25-27; 16:33** ***(“Comforter,” ASV, KJV***) (Not as the world gives – such is not substantive, nor lasting).
      4. **God’s word always has what is necessary to provide comfort in any situation, if we just turn to it – precept, promise, example, etc.**
9. Good Hope
   1. This is closely connected with the everlasting consolation – **cf. 1 Thessalonians 4:13, 18** – we have hope, comfort each other with these words.
   2. It is good as opposed to hope that would disappoint (**cf. Romans 5:5**).
   3. Good because of:
      1. **Its Author** – **Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:13-18**
         1. God cannot lie, and He promised.
         2. **(vv. 13-15)** – promised, and swore (took an oath).
         3. **(v. 16)** – oath and end of all dispute.
         4. **(v. 17)** – God is determined to show us how trustworthy He is, and how unchangeable His counsel is – so confirmed the promise by an oath.
         5. **(v. 18)** – resulting from God’s offering of 2 immutable things (promise and oath), with God’s immutable counsel, we have strong consolation.
      2. **Its Content** – **1 Corinthians 15:19** (not hope in this life only); **1 Peter 1:3-5** (incorruptible, undefiled, does not fade away, reserved in heaven); **Matthew 6:20-21**
10. The Effects of the Gift
11. Hearts Comforted
    1. **Hebrews 6:18-20** – God’s word of promise grants us hope, results in strong consolation, acts as an anchor of our soul.
    2. We have received ***“consolation in Christ, [and] comfort of love” (Philippians 2:1)***.
12. Established in Every Good Word and Work
    1. **2 Thessalonians 2:16-17** – everlasting consolation and good hope establish us in obedient faith in Christ.
    2. **1 Corinthians 15:32-34, 58** – knowing Christ has been raised, and we have assurance of our own resurrection, we live for righteousness knowing it isn’t in vain.
    3. **Hebrews 6:11-15** – Knowing God’s promise is trustworthy, Abraham was able to patiently endure.
    4. **Without this everlasting comfort and good hope through the word and promise of God we will be unable to endure in bearing fruit to God’s glory.**

**Conclusion**

1. We are blessed to have a Father and Savior who supply us with all we need by their love and grace.
2. Because we have been given comfort unending, and superior, true hope in fellowship with our God and Savior we can face whatever may come and remain faithful through it.