



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC The Ultimate Comfort

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THEME Contending for Your Faith

DATE 22 & 23 Sep 2018

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

This is the last sermon in a series of four messages focussing on the book of Jude, and its relevance to us in the world today. In the last three weeks, Ps Darren and DSP have taught on the compromise, corruption and warnings given against these things:

The Unnoticed Compromise (v1-7): Compromises of unbelief, rebellion and sexual immorality

The Unheard Corruption (v8-16): Discerning the voice of corruption *within* the Church.

The Unchanging Call (v17-21): Heed warnings! Build faith, pray, keep yourselves, and wait.

As God's "beloved" (vv.1,3,7,17,20), we have the ultimate comfort – one that is given by God Himself. It is a true comfort that transcends the reassurances and consolations that man brings, which comes with a sense of restedness found in Christ.

COMFORT FOR ALL WHO SIN

DSP divides this text into two sections:

1. COMFORT FOR SINNERS, THROUGH SINNERS (vv.22-23)

Here, a comfort given to others is described. But to understand *who* dispenses this comfort, DSP directs us back to v.17-21 from the previous week's sermon.

The last section of Jude addresses the relationships that believers have: with self (vv.17-21), with others around us (vv.22-23), and with our Saviour (vv.24-25). Thus, v22-23 is a continuation of the conduct expected of Christians. *Comfort to others must come from us.*

Three categories of sinners are described in the text, and accordingly, three ways that we, as sinners saved by grace, must bring the ultimate comfort of God.

1. For those "who are doubting", we must "have mercy".
2. For others who are dying a spiritual death, we are to snatch them "out of the fire".
3. For the defiled, whose garments are "polluted by the flesh", we are to "have mercy with fear, hating even the garment".

2. COMFORT FOR SINNERS, FROM OUR SAVIOUR (vv.24-25)

These verses mean two things:

(A) God qualifies us to end well (v24).

Specifically, these are the actions that He can, and will do, and has done, for us:

- He is able to "keep you from stumbling"
- He is able to "make you stand in the presence of His glory"
- And in our standing, "blameless, *with great joy*".

(B) Through His qualities that enable us to end well (v25).

The attributes related to His actions for us is similar to that style of a doxology that starts with detailing the actions, followed by the attributes that make those actions possible. (A comparison to the doxology in Rev 1:5b-6)

In this case, DSP notes that in our limited human capacity, we may never fully understand how the attributes of "glory, majesty, dominion and authority" are at work in this world, to "keep" us (v.24).

CONCLUSION

God wants to provide comfort for sinners, but He also wants to reveal the comfort that we have in Christ, our Saviour. At the end of the day, it is not about how hard we work, but it is all about what Christ has already done for us! What we can accomplish on our own will never amount to much. It is only with the hand of our Master that our life's work can be made beautiful.

QUESTIONS

1. How does comfort from God compare to comfort from people?

2. We tend to think about what we have done for Jesus, instead of what Christ has done for us. Consider how a change in perspective will affect the way we serve (*in our motivations, endurance, attitude, emotional capacity, etc*)?

3. Consider the work of Jesus Christ and His role in our salvation. Discuss how the attributes of God's "glory, majesty, dominion, and authority" are at work in our salvation. How have you seen these attributes of God at work in your life?