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Comfort In John Fourteen
John 14:21-31

INTRO: Comfort, how we need it in this crazy mixed up world we live in. Comfort, we can only find it in our Lord Jesus Christ. Comfort, in spite of the threats of war and the presence of terrorists.

Comfort is what John chapter fourteen is all about. Look with me at a few of the verses that speak of comfort in this great chapter:

1. Vs 1, "Let not your heart be troubled, ye believe in God, believe also in me."
2. Vs 2, "In my Father's house are many mansions...."
3. Vs 2b, "I go to prepare a place for you....."
4. Vs 3, "I will come again...."
5. Vs 6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life....."
6. Vs 12, "He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also....."
7. Vs 14, "If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it."
8. Vs 16, "I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another comforter...."
9. Vs 18, "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you...."

And now as we look at the closing verses of this chapter, we again find words of comfort. Comfort to those who love Him and keep His commandments. Comfort in the work of the Holy Spirit in bringing peace to His own.

- 1) VSS 21-25, THE TESTING OF AND THE EVIDENCE OF A DISCIPLE'S LOVE
 - a) Vs 21, There is a major theme in this verse, and that theme is the everlasting love of God the Father and God the Son for the elect.
 - i) First, let us see that those who know the Lord, those who are saved, keep His commandments (8:51).
 - (1) The first part of this verse can rightly be seen in this way. "The man who loves me, is the man who has my commandments and keeps them."
 - (2) "Apart from the Spirit, no keeping of precepts is possible. Note that the mere possession of these precepts is not enough. One must have them and keep them (Mt 7:24; James 2:14-26)" (Hendriksen 281).
 - (3) The word "loveth" is very important for it means, "the one who constantly keeps my commandments, which he has in him, is the one that is loving me."
 - (4) We are not perfect, but the true believer will always desire to and seek to and will abide by the commandments of the one who abides within him.
 - ii) The last part of this verse reminds us that we are His, and He is ours.
 - (1) The love of the Father both precedes and follows our love for Him. This is comforting.
 - (2) I John 4:19: "We love him because he first loved us." His love precedes ours

thus creating in us a desire to keep the commandments. When we keep His commandments, we please God; and He rewards us by showing us things others do not see. In this, we have a blessed love triangle: the Father loves us; the Son loves us; we love the Father and the Son. This love triangle started out in eternity past (Rom 8:28-33).

- iii) Then note the phrase: "I will love him." The Lord will be with us; He will strengthen us (II Tim 4:17-18).
 - iv) "I... will manifest myself to him." Note Psalm 25:14.
 - b) Vs 22, Ross says: "Observe here the peculiar care with which the Spirit of the Lord distinguishes this honored servant from the traitor" (100). Not only is what Charles Ross says true, but the clarification also let's us know that Judas Iscariot did not return to the upper room (13:30).
 - i) Jesus was speaking of a spiritual manifestation in verses 19 and 21.
 - ii) Judas was thinking of a public manifestation. Could Judas have desired that Jesus seek to win the world by miracles?
 - iii) Keep in mind that the teachings of Christ are for believers only and are shown to us by the one who brings us comfort and truth (14:16-18).
 - c) Vs 23, The question to Judas, not Iscariot, is do you personally love me?
 - i) The one who loves the Lord will love the Words of God and seek to keep them.
 - ii) Jesus says that He and the Father will "make their home with him."
 - (1) This is a close intimate relationship. What a comfort!
 - (2) Through the Spirit, God the Father and God the Son bring help, comfort, and joy.
 - d) Vs 24, As we think back on what Jesus has already said in light of what He is saying here, we can see a pattern.
 - i) Note the pattern:
 - (1) He who loves me keeps my words.
 - (2) He who keeps my words is one who loves me.
 - (3) He who does not love me does not and will not keep my words.
 - ii) To reject the words of Christ is to reject what God the Father and God the Son says.
 - (1) The word is the doctrine, the principles of life set forth by the Son.
 - (2) The rejecter of the Word will not know the love of Christ.
 - e) Vs 25, "These things have I spoken unto you...." speaks of all the teaching He had shared with them while on earth.
 - i) "Being yet present with you." Jesus knows He is about to leave them.
 - ii) Again He answers the faithful of His love by telling them of the coming Comforter (vs 26).
- 2) VS 26, THE COMFORTING WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
- a) The one who comes along side to help the believer will:
 - b) Will teach you everything that is necessary.
 - i) We have been given all things that pertain unto life and godliness (II Pet 1:3), and the Holy Spirit teaches us of these things.
 - ii) The Holy Spirit does not speak of Himself; He speaks of Jesus.
 - c) He, the Holy Spirit, brings things to remembrance. In John 2:22, we see how the Spirit caused them to remember the Gospel preaching of Jesus (Note also Mt 10:19).

3) VSS 28-31, COMFORT AND PEACE GIVEN IN THE MIDST OF THE STORM

- a) Vs 27, Jesus gives to them His peace, and this is the only true peace for He is the Prince of Peace.
 - i) Peace+ His personal peace He leaves with them. His peace will keep us calm in the midst of the storm of life.
 - (1) "Sometimes He calms the storm, sometimes He calms me. Sometimes the storms rage on but I feel the sweetest peace."
 - (2) What comfort+ His peace in us!
 - ii) The peace that the world gives is not true peace for it will not, it cannot last....The UN will always fail because it is a worldly organization.
 - iii) "Let not your heart be troubled...." Keep on believing, trusting, leaning on Jesus (Isa 26:3).
- b) Vs 28, The believers should have been rejoicing that Jesus would be going home to His Father.
 - i) Listen to the words of Ivor Powell: "After thirty years on a foreign field, He was going home! Having known the filth of the grimy swamps of sin, the smoke and smog of living where unbelief was so commonplace" (311).
 - ii) As the Mediator between God and man, He, being a man, sees God as greater. But not John 10:30.
- c) Vs 29, "When it is come to pass" refers to the death, burial, resurrection, and ascension. Jesus wanted them to be ready.
- d) Vs 30, The Devil has nothing in the pure, sinless Son of God. He had a few more things to share in the upper room and Gethesemane.
- e) Vs 31, School is over for this session. Jesus is headed for Gethesemane and then to the cross.

CONCLUSION: The child of God has comfort that this world knows not of for He has the Holy Spirit teaching him about Jesus.