

Lighthouse Beacon

New Mexico Lighthouses - February 2003

Are You A Blessing To Your World?

This year we started a series of studies which reveal how a Lighthouse really becomes a blessing to the world around them. The scriptures referenced for this study come from Matthew 5:1-16. These verses show a gradual, step by step process which culminates with our favorite Lighthouse verse (v. 16), "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

Today we cover the second blessing, found in verse four—that of being comforted. This is the first of several blessings which we not only can receive, but we can also pass on to others. They are God's way of glorifying Himself as He shines in us and works through us to touch our hurting world. Let Him shine! — KC

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

Matthew 5:4 NAS

What is our condition?

Our condition here is that of mourning. The Greek term is *pentheo* which means a deep mourning, like someone whose loved-one or dear friend has died. Some translations show this term as bewailing. Paul also used this term in 2 Corinthians 12:21 to describe his hurt because of unrepented sin. In all cases, it is a condition of great sorrow.

Have you ever had a great, nearly overwhelming sense of sorrow? Have you ever felt like you had experienced a loss that was so overwhelming that you could never recover? Has your heart ever been broken? Have you ever mourned?

What is our blessing?

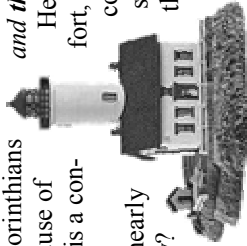
Jesus says in Matthew 5:4 that someone who mourns is blessed because they will be comforted. In what manner? And by whom? Where are we to turn in times like these?

Where does most of the world turn? Some turn to psychiatrists or professional counselors, to recovery groups, to the latest self-help books, or to a favorite drug or alcohol. Some may even seek the help of a church or pastor. But where is the best place to turn when we mourn?

2 Corinthians 1:3 says, "All praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is the source of every mercy and the God who comforts us."

Here is the ultimate source of comfort, because God alone provides the comfort that is guaranteed to be sufficient for the need. Everything else is a temporary bandage just trying to hold the wound together until real healing can take place. Only God's comfort can give us real rest; can provide the peace that passes all understanding.

Even His Holy Spirit is referred to in some translations as being the Comforter—the one who will stand by us, support us, and be with us in every situation. Our blessing of comfort waits for us in the hands of the Comforter.



...you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light — Eph. 5:8

What is our response?

As a Christian it is very important that we recognize the unique opportunity we have in Christ. Our ability to turn to our heavenly Father when we mourn is what makes us different from the world around us. We have direct access to the One who can truly repair a broken heart. From Him we can receive healing and strength and power that not only lifts us above our problems, but that glorifies God and absolutely mystifies the world.

But did you realize that God's wonderful comfort is given to us with an expectation? **2 Corinthians 1:4** tells us that "**He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When others are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.**" *NLT*

God comforts you for two reasons:

- 1) So that you can get through the difficult time and praise Him, and
- 2) So that you will be able to comfort others in the same situation.

The second principle of a Lighthouse is to Care for others as God cares for us. A wonderful way to show someone that you Care is by being available to provide comfort in their time of need. And it is not difficult. Sometimes it's just a matter of sitting there quietly with them. Sometimes it's just a matter of bringing the Kleenex. Sometimes you might even help use the Kleenex. There are limitless ways that you

can bring comfort to others when their world has just been shattered.

But we must realize that the comfort we give is to be the same comfort we have already received from Him. It is not to be a comfort that comes from our own sweet spirit. ;-) It is something much, much more. Something divine in origin. Something that has power. Something that heals and lasts. **We Care for others by sharing a gift we received from God.** Do you see the awesome privilege we are given?

A Lighthouse does not try to represent God, or try to explain God, or even try to imitate Godly behavior. Instead **we take a portion of Him, that He has shared with us, and give it to the next person who needs to be comforted.**

This is the only true source of power in a Lighthouse. **Jesus in us works through us to reveal a light in our world that is completely supernatural.** We become the instrument of divine blessing, delivered from God, through us to them.

But the key here is that we have first been to the source—the source of our comfort and our very existence. Only by receiving from him are we able to give His comfort to someone else.

So the next time you are mourning and hurting and needing His comfort remember; **He will gladly comfort you as He prepares you to comfort others with the same comfort He has given you!**

Billy Graham Telephone Worker Opportunities

The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association will broadcast nationwide during the first week of March and the Albuquerque Telephone Center needs volunteers. Training for new workers will be held on Tuesday, March 4th from 6-9PM at Del Norte Baptist Church (dinner will be served at 5PM). Please call the ABQ Center at 832-6385 if you wish to attend training, or visit www.LightShine.net and click on **BGEA TVTM**.

Share Jesus This Easter

Share the JESUS Video with friends, neighbors, and family this Easter! Call 1-888-29-JESUS, or visit www.jesusvideo.org/ to order, or contact LightShine at 293-0743.

"Let your light shine so that others may see your good works and glorify your father in heaven." Matt 5:16