

*"... pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart"*  
2 Timothy 2:22

## December 20th, 2020 - The Comfort of Israel

God's message in the book of Isaiah is "I save!" (It's easy to remember because "Isaiah" and "I save" sound similar). The Israelites constantly looked to the wrong saviors. When the cruel Assyrians threatened the world, Israel trusted their alliances with foreign nations to save them. *"Woe to the rebellious children," declares the LORD, 'who execute a plan, but not Mine, and make an alliance, but not of My Spirit, in order to add sin to sin. They proceed down to Egypt without consulting Me, to take refuge in the safety of Pharaoh and to seek shelter in the shadow of Egypt!' (Isaiah 30:1-2).* Even worse, they trusted in false gods to save them! Isaiah mocks them for cutting down a tree, burning half of it in the fire to keep them warm, then falling down before the other half to worship it. *"The rest he makes into a god, his graven image. He falls down before it and worships; he also prays to it and says, 'Deliver me, for you are my god.'"* (Isaiah 44:17). How absurd to look for deliverance from a tree which couldn't even deliver itself from being chopped in half and burned!



God assures them there is no other God! He is the one who will save and comfort His people! *"Comfort, O comfort My people," says your God.*" (Isaiah 40:1). *"Indeed, the LORD will comfort Zion; He will comfort all her waste places. And her wilderness He will make like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the sound of melody."* (51:3). *"As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; and you will be comforted in Jerusalem."* (66:13). God promised when their true Savior came, it would be a time of great comfort for Israel.

With that background in mind, fast-forward almost 700 years later to the time Jesus is born. When He was only weeks old, His parents brought Him to the temple where we meet a righteous and devout man named Simeon. Simeon was promised by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he saw the Lord's Savior (Luke 2:26). Now watch this — before he saw Jesus, Luke says Simeon was *"looking for the Comfort of Israel."* (2:25) and when he saw him, he said, *"Now Lord, You are releasing You bond-servant to depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation."* (2:29-30). How amazing! The comfort and salvation God promised through Isaiah hundreds of years before were all wrapped up in this child!

The greatest source of comfort we have is what Jesus did for us on the cross. No matter how hard life gets, how much pain and sadness we face, and how many things change for the worse, the fact that we've been forgiven by a Savior who loves us will never change. Sadly, like the Israelites, sometimes in our pain we rely on false sources of comfort, like food and entertainment or even sinful things. Sin never satisfies for long, and only brings more pain in the long run. Even good comforting things God gives us to enjoy like warm blankets and hot cocoa can only ever offer us temporary comfort. True, eternal comfort, is only found in Jesus our Lord, the Comfort of Israel.

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### Sunday Worship Services

9 a.m. Lord's Supper Service  
9:45 a.m. Bible Class  
10:45 a.m. Praise & Preaching

Wednesday Bible Classes 7:30 p.m.

### Elders

Herb Hinely 407-339-4805  
Jeff Hunt 407-739-5266  
Joe Rimmer 407-414-7393  
Dave Weaver 407-782-1112  
Tim Welsh 407-670-8279

### Deacons

Matt Hinely, Terry Petty  
Erik Quist, Rory Salimbene  
Jack Thomas, Terry Tokash  
Emory VanCleaf

### Evangelist

Brian Messerli 407-300-2517  
  
620 Palm Springs Drive  
Altamonte Springs  
407-831-3230

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12/20/20

God's comfort gives us the \_\_\_\_\_ to move forward.

### 1. He's Always the \_\_\_\_\_

#### ▪ **2 Corinthians 1:8; Acts 20:18-19**

- *Our life circumstances and feelings may change, but God never \_\_\_\_\_!*
- **Psalms 102:25-27; 71:3, 5-6** - We long for anchors that don't change.
- **1 Corinthians 1:9-10**
  - \* God is our unchanging \_\_\_\_\_.

### 2. He's Always There For Us

- **2 Corinthians 1:3** - Comfort = paraklesis. Para = close \_\_\_\_\_ Klesis = to call/ask
- **Psalms 34:17-18**
  - **2 Corinthians 1:3** - "Father of mercies/compassion"
  - **2 Corinthians 7:5-6** - "Depressed" = not rising far from the \_\_\_\_\_
    - **Exodus 3:7-8**
    - **Deuteronomy 33:26-29**
  - \* *Things may fall apart **around** us, we may have turmoil **within** us, but never forget what's \_\_\_\_\_ us — His everlasting arms.*

### 3. He's Always There to Help us \_\_\_\_\_

- The goal of God's comfort isn't just to make us feel better, but to help us move forward.
- **Deuteronomy 33:26-29 leads to Joshua 1:9**
- **John 14:16-17**
  - \* God's comfort won't take away all problems, but will give us \_\_\_\_\_ to face whatever problems come our way.
  - \* Paul moved forward by sharing his comfort with others. (**2 Corinthians 1:4**)
  - \* God often uses "wounded healers" to bring us comfort
    - \* *What does moving forward look like for you?*

#### Questions for Self Reflection

1. What are some sad or hard things from this year that make you long for God's comfort?
2. Do you ever shame yourself for feeling down or sad? If so, what's a more healthy way to view sadness?
3. What's one small step forward you can take to start moving forward for the Lord after the pain of this year?

# Announcements

December 20, 2020

**Please email all new announcements to [announcements@psd.church](mailto:announcements@psd.church) by Saturday evening so we can print them.**

## SICK/HEALTH ISSUES:

- Surgery for a benign facial tumor is pending for **Mary Burns' 5-month-old grandson Julian McGee**. Updates will be provided once we have more information.

## FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF PSD:

- Sadly, **Cindy Vanlandingham's friend Henry** passed away on Thursday from COVID-19. Please be in prayer for his wife and his sister Angie.
- **Mary Burns' neighbor Terry Maze** died unexpectedly from two strokes. Please keep his wife Debbie and college-aged daughter Jackie, as well as other family members, in your prayers.

## TRAVELING:

- **Herb & Tricia Hinely** are out of town for a week. They plan to return next Sunday.
- **Connor and Alexa McClenny** are in Kentucky for the holidays.

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- As we consider whether to invite Dwane Gandy to work with us, **the shepherds are seeking your feedback** from his visit last weekend. By Saturday night, December 26th, please let the shepherds know whether you feel like Dwayne would be effective in the work here. You may contact them by email ([elders@psd.church](mailto:elders@psd.church)), by phone, or in person.

## SHUT-IN:


















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|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • <b>Anne Dickson</b>        | • <b>Thurman and Lynna Davis</b> |
| • <b>Geny Harrison</b>       | • <b>Patsy Holt</b>              |
| • <b>Dave and Peggy Hunt</b> | • <b>Pat Steele</b>              |

## SPECIAL CONCERNS ABOUT GETTING COVID:

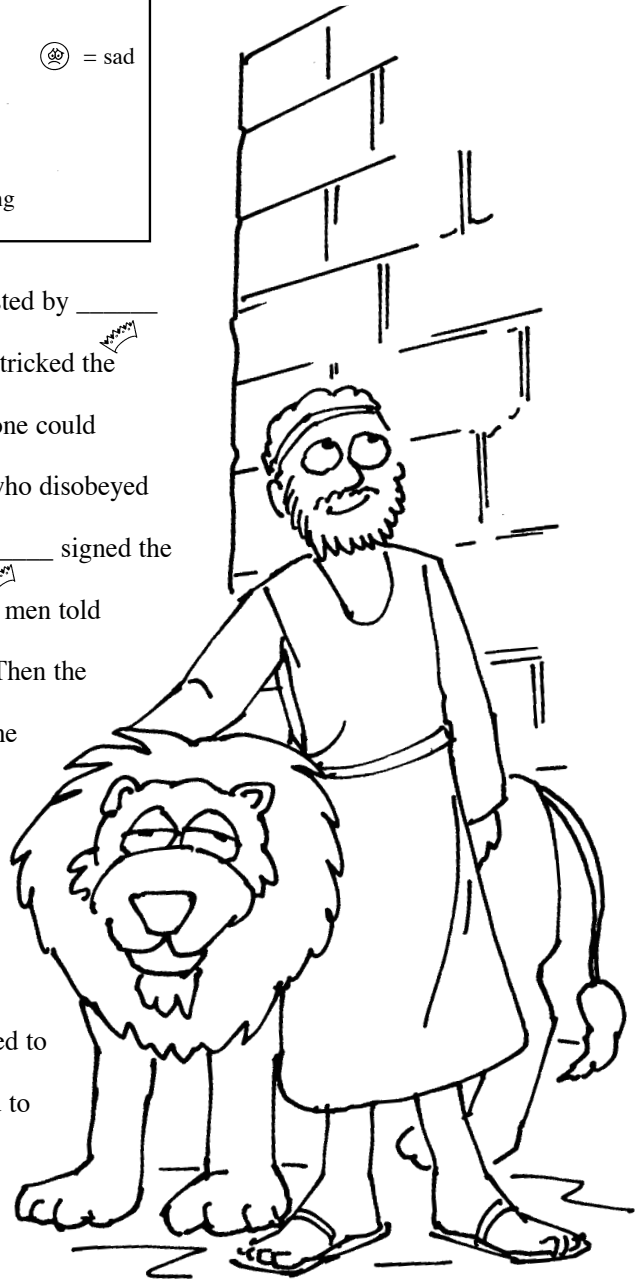
- **Carol Van Cleef**
- **Diane Thyben**



**D**aniel always worshiped God. Then something happened.

Code				
 = plan	 = serve	 = law	 = lions	 = sad
 = pray	 = Daniel	 = angel	 = night	
 = worship	 = king	 = alive	 = rescue	
 = see	 = den	 = Darius	 = morning	

\_\_\_\_\_ was a good man in the kingdom of Babylon, trusted by \_\_\_\_\_.  
 \_\_\_\_\_. Some other administrators grew jealous! They tricked the  
 \_\_\_\_\_ and presented him a \_\_\_\_\_ that for 30 days, no one could  
 \_\_\_\_\_ any god or man, only the \_\_\_\_\_. Those who disobeyed  
 \_\_\_\_\_ would be thrown into the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_. So the \_\_\_\_\_ signed the  
 \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ continued to \_\_\_\_\_. The jealous men told  
 \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ had broken the \_\_\_\_\_. Then the  
 \_\_\_\_\_ knew he'd been tricked. But he couldn't change the  
 \_\_\_\_\_, and he was very \_\_\_\_\_. As \_\_\_\_\_ was sent  
 to the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ said, "May  
 your God, whom you \_\_\_\_\_ continually,  
 \_\_\_\_\_ you!" \_\_\_\_\_ stayed up all  
 \_\_\_\_\_ worrying. When \_\_\_\_\_ came, he hurried to  
 the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ what had happened to  
 \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ found  
 \_\_\_\_\_ and well. The \_\_\_\_\_ had  
 not hurt him. The Lord had sent an \_\_\_\_\_ to protect \_\_\_\_\_.  
 \_\_\_\_\_



Name \_\_\_\_\_