Christmas Comfort

**1. The Explanation of the text**

A. The *comfort* of Jerusalem (v. 1)

B. The *discipline* of Jerusalem (v. 2)

C. The *ministry* of John the Baptist (vv. 3-4)

Luke 3:1-6

D. The *glory* of Christ (v.5)

E. The *fading frailty* of man (vv. 6-8)

F. The *preaching* of the gospel (v. 9)

G. The *reward* of the divine Conqueror (v. 10)

H. The *gentleness* of the Shepherd (v. 11)

**2. An Exhortation from the text: Prepare to receive the comfort of Christ—**

A. By *repenting* of sin (vv.2-4)

B. By *depending* on His word (vv. 5-8)

C. By *looking* for His reward (v. 10)

D. By *trusting* in the Shepherd (v. 11)

**3. Some Encouragements from the text**

A. God’s discipline is never His *final word*

B. Don’t give up in the middle of a *trial*

C. Seek Christ’s comfort for your *heart*

**For Private Meditation or Family Discussion**

1. How did the Lord speak to you through the message? Did He put His finger on any habits or attitudes that you need to change? Did He encourage you regarding some difficulty, move you to undertake some new challenge, or open your heart to some truth you hadn’t seen before?

2. It seems natural to us that the Lord would spare His elect and beloved children from suffering, but what does the Scripture say?

Amos 3:3

Hebrews 5:5-10

Hebrews 12:3-13

1 Peter 4:12-19

3. Does the amount of suffering or earthly blessing we experience correlate directly with how wicked or righteous we are?

Psalm 73

4. How does the Lord come afresh to our hearts in the midst of tribulation?

Romans 5:1-5

Romans 8:23-27

5. What titles does the apostle Paul give God in 2 Corinthians 1:3? How do verses 4-7 explain those titles? What hinders or helps you to experience God’s comfort in the midst of tribulation?