

**"THE COMFORT OF CHRIST'S LOVE"****Introduction**

1. Women are among the best Christians
2. None more loyal than Mary Magdalene
3. God's ways are sometimes perplexing: v.1-10  
**OBSERVE**: The real problem is our unbelief.

**1. GOD'S PEOPLE OFTEN WEEP IN THIS WORLD:** v.11, 13

- 1) Mary weeping: a lovely sight
  - (i) her Lord now "dead" – angels no substitute
  - (ii) even the body "gone" – love is so willing: v.15  
**APPLICATION**: A lovely example of devotion – if also mixed with some ignorance too.
- 2) God's people weep when
  - they do not feel Christ near: "desertions"
  - they see His cause weak and low
  - few seeking conversion
  - Christ's enemies seeming to triumph  
**APPLICATION**: No wonder we weep today in this land!

**2. WE NEVER KNOW HOW NEAR COMFORT IS:** v.16

- 1) A strange confession! v.14-15. It is like the two on the way to Emmaus!
- 2) Comfort was at hand – but unrecognized:  
**Q.** Why did Christ let Mary weep?  
**A.** (i) to show her love – which He delights in  
(ii) to comfort her – no comfort like this!  
**OBSERVE**: Christ loves to draw out our love.  
So Peter: "Lovest thou me?"

- 3) No comfort is like Christ's presence to those who value him:  
"Rabboni"  
**APPLICATION**: Does your soul say "Rabboni" to Christ? It is proof that you love Him.

**3. THE BEST IS YET TO BE FOR GOD'S PEOPLE:** v.17

- 1) "Touch me not...":v.17. Explain
  - (i) a point of doctrine
  - (ii) of practice
- 2) Christ's work was not yet complete:
  - (i) His humiliation – now over
  - (ii) His exaltation – also needed
- 3) What is Christ doing for us now?
  - (i) as prophet: "Go, teach all nations..."
  - (ii) as priest: "sprinkle many nations"
  - (iii) as King: "the kingdoms of the world..."
- 4) The climax at last: "to prepare a place"  
**APPLICATION**: Believer, He is in heaven preparing you for glory and glory for you!

**4. WOMEN TOO MUST SPREAD THE GOSPEL:** v.18

- 1) See Mary's mission here: v.18
  - her excitement: "Not dead!"
  - "He is going to God – for us!"
- 2) Do not discourage women from lawful service to Christ:
  - the case of Apollos
  - the case of Phoebe
- 3) What is not allowed is public preaching to a mixed congregation (1 Tim. 2)  
But they must witness privately: e.g. The woman of Samaria.

## **CONCLUSION**

We need more witnessing today to Christ:  
"Go to my brethren..."  
We have the best message in all the world."

### **PSALM**

**145<sup>2</sup>: 9 – 16**

**34: 17 – 22**

**66: 16 – 20**