

Comfort in Colossians

In the New Testament, the word “comfort” is used multiple times. The apostle Paul uses the word “comfort” twice in the book of Colossians. Although they are only three verses apart, Paul used a different Greek word for each.

Col 4:7 All my state shall Tychicus declare unto you, *who is* a beloved brother, and a faithful minister and fellowservant in the Lord:

Col 4:8 Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that he might know your estate, and **comfort** your hearts;

Col 4:9 With Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is *one* of you. They shall make known unto you all things which *are done* here.

Col 4:10 Aristarchus my fellowprisoner saluteth you, and Marcus, sister's son to Barnabas, (touching whom ye received commandments: if he come unto you, receive him;)

Col 4:11 And Jesus, which is called Justus, who are of the circumcision. These only *are my* fellowworkers unto the kingdom of God, which have been a **comfort** unto me.

The word “comfort” in verse 8, *parakaleō* is different than in verse 11, *parēgoria*. In the KJV, the former is used 108 times; the latter is used only 1 time. It is used here by Paul, the imprisoned.

According to Thayer's Greek Definitions, the word *parakaleō* means:

- 1) to call to one's side, call for, summon
- 2) to address, speak to, (call to, call upon), which may be done in the way of exhortation, entreaty, comfort, instruction, etc.

According to Thayer's Greek Definitions, the word *parēgoria* means:

1) addressing, address

1a) exhortation

1b) comfort, solace, relief, alleviation, consolation

Comfort comes when someone comes along and comes beside you to lend support by their presence. The apostle made note that there were some who went beyond *parakaleō* and gave him *parēgoria*; they were not only present, but they actually brought relief. They alleviated some of the pain.

We get the English word “paregoric” from that word. Paregoric, used by grandmas and moms of yesteryear, is now a prescribed medicine that settles the stomach, slows the intestines down, and helps one to sleep. It gives relief by alleviating pain.

Paul mentioned the names of the brethren that really made a difference to him while imprisoned. Although comfort comes most often by just someone being present with us, so we are not alone, there are times that someone really speaks the right word or makes a kind gesture that makes relief tangible.

Like Paul, you don't forget those folks.

-RWT