

"GOD'S COMFORT FOR AGING SAINTS"**Introduction**

1. As you get older you get weaker.
2. You cannot walk so fast...This God knows
3. God has comforts for His people in old age.

1. GOD WILL BE THE SAME TO HIS SAINTS WHEN OLD

- 1) So much alters in old age:
 - (i) failings in the body / memory / constitution
 - (ii) new things now needed: stick / chair / hearing...
APPLICATION: But God does not alter towards His own.
- 2) The face changes – hair goes grey...
ILLUSTRATION: an old friend in America
All this is a message from heaven that we must quit this earthly home shortly.
- 3) In age things of this life matter less:
The house – garden – clothes – the news.
"Man goeth to his long home".
APPLICATION: But God does not change.
ILLUSTRATION: John Newton remembered only 2 things at the end of life.
DOCTRINE: God will look after His own in their old age.

2. THE ASSURANCE OF THIS IS EXPLAINED IN THAT IT WAS GOD WHO CREATED US AT FIRST

- 1) See v.3-4: "from the womb". Do we not all have a veil over this experience.

Q. How far back does your memory go?

Not to the day of birth!

- 2) Yet it was God who put life into us and gave us a body:
Ps. 139.
- 3) God reasons: "I have taken care till now..."
- 4) The promised assurance is that God will carry us and deliver us:
 - (i) "carry": There are times in life when we feel we cannot go on – because of illness / frailty / discouragement
ILLUSTRATION: I recall being put on a stretcher
APPLICATION: When you cannot walk God will carry you.
ILLUSTRATION: Enoch and Elijah
 - (ii) "deliver": there are situations in which we feel we are trapped and cannot escape.
ILLUSTRATION: Lot in Sodom / David in cave / Paul at sea.
APPLICATION: God is able to deliver you. I see a good point in William Joy (of Bath): He says: God delivers us in trouble, i.e. God keeps us from sinning; from trouble, i.e. He opens a door of escape: by trouble, i.e. God uses trouble to bless us ("thorn" of Paul).
APPLICATION: God's "I will" – here 4 times!

3. GOD WILL DO ALL THIS AS LONG AS WE LIVE

- 1) Look at the terms used: "old age", "hoar hairs".
DOCTRINE: God pledges His help from birth to death
APPLICATION: O how happy is the believer!
- 2) Why does God do all this?
 - (i) He has loved His people eternally
 - (ii) Christ has paid for them + pleads for them

(iii) God is preparing the best for another world

- 3) See John 17:
"new heavens"; "many mansions"; "everlasting rest"

CONCLUSION

Illustration: Bunyan's saint as he went into the river –

PSALM
92: 1 – 6
23: 1 – 6
92: 12 – 15