

Theme: Knowing all of these things, what is your only comfort in life and death? That I with body and soul, both in life and death, am not my own, but belong unto my faithful Savior Jesus Christ; who, with his precious blood, has fully satisfied for all my sins, and delivered me from all the power of the devil; and so preserves me that without the will of my heavenly Father, not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, that all things must work together for my salvation, and therefore, by his Holy Spirit, He also assures me of eternal life, and makes me sincerely willing and ready, from this day forth, to live unto him.

I. Intro - A Time for Comfort

- A. We are in unusual times; people want comfort
- B. Modern meanings of comfort:
 - 1. A state of physical ease and freedom from pain or constraint - this is not biblical!
 - 2. the easing or alleviation of a person's feelings of grief or distress - this is biblical
- C. The older meaning of comfort: to give strength - this is certainly biblical
- D. What is our comfort? Catechism Q98 (theme)
- E. We will take a few weeks to unpack this answer

II. Comfort: I Belong To Jesus!

- A. Our only comfort? We belong to Jesus
Knowing all of these things, what is your only comfort in life and death? That I with body and soul, both in life and death, am not my own, but belong unto my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.
 - 1. We are not our own; we belong to Jesus
 - 2. All of my person - body and soul - belongs to Him
 - 3. All of my days - life and death - belong to Him

4. He is faithful - I can trust Him!

B. The biblical basis for saying we belong to Jesus

For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

⁹ For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living. Romans 14:7–9

- 1. We do not live or die to ourselves alone
- 2. Whether we live or die, it is for Jesus
- 3. Whether we live or die we belong to Jesus
- 4. He is Lord of both the living & the dead - Lord of all!

C. Christ has purchased me - I belong to Him

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? **You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price.** Therefore honor God with your body. ¹ Corinthians 6:19–20

- 1. All humans belong to God as His creations
- 2. But Christians belong in a special sense: He bought us with His blood
- 3. He has purchased us at the price of His own blood to be His, and He is faithful
- 4. This is a strong basis for comfort!

III. Comfort: I Am Fully Saved By Jesus!

A. Our only comfort? We are fully saved by Jesus!

Knowing all of these things, what is your only comfort in life and death? That I with body and soul, both in life and death, am not my own, but belong unto my faithful Savior Jesus Christ; **who, with his precious blood, has fully satisfied for all my sins, and delivered me from all the power of the devil;**

1. This is the outcome of belonging to Jesus!
2. This is the effect of being purchased by Christ!
3. We have been purchased by the blood of Christ

B. The effect of Christ's sacrificial death: full salvation

1. Christ's sacrificial death shows God is fully for us

What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all — how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Romans 8:31–32

- a. Through Christ we KNOW God is FOR us, not against us!
 - b. If God is for us - nothing else matters!
 - c. If God did not shrink from sacrificing His own Son for us - He will graciously give us everything we need!
 - d. This is true comfort!
- ##### 2. Christ's sacrificial death has satisfied for all our sins
- Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Romans 8:33
- a. Those who have been bought by Christ's blood are fully justified!

- b. God has declared us fully righteous, as if we had never sinned and as if we had positively obeyed all of God's law perfectly!
- c. We have been justified - declared righteous - by God Himself. Thus, it does not matter how the world or the devil may accuse us, God has fully and finally declared us righteous in Christ!

3. Christ's sacrificial death delivers us from all the power of the devil - his accusations

Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died — more than that, who was raised to life — is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Romans 8:33–34

- a. Satan means 'the accuser' - this is who the devil is.
 - b. Satan and his allies may accuse - but God justifies!
 - c. Satan and his allies may condemn - but Jesus Christ stands at the Father's right hand to intercede!
 - d. The blood of Christ has made all of the devil's accusations and schemes inert and ineffective before God.
 - e. This is true comfort!
- ##### 4. Christ's sacrificial death delivers us from all the power of the devil - his persecutions
- Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. Romans 8:35–37
- a. Christ's blood secures us no matter what life brings

- b. Nothing can separate us from Christ's love!
 - c. We may face trouble, hardship, famine, poverty, or persecution, but none of these can separate us from God!
 - d. As those who belong to Christ, we are willing to face all this and more for all that matters is we are His!
 - e. Through Christ's sacrificial death we are MORE than conquerors over every scheme and power of the devil! There is nothing Satan or His allies can do that can separate us from God!
 - f. This is true comfort!
5. Christ's sacrificial death delivers us from all the power of the devil - his henchman death
For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38–39
- a. As the blood-bought people of God, nothing Satan can do can ever separate us from God!
 - b. Neither death nor life, angels or demons, the present or the future, or anything in space-time creation can separate us from our loving God!
 - c. If we face persecution or death, God may choose to deliver us, and nothing can stop Him!
 - d. If we face persecution or death, God may choose to allow us to suffer and even die, but this will only bring us into His Presence and a great reward!
 - e. As the blood-bought people of God, all Satan can do through his power to work evil against us is to increase our eternal reward!
 - f. This is true comfort!

IV. Applying the Word

- A. Have I responded to the Gospel?
 - 1. This is all great comfort - but only for those who belong to Christ through the Gospel!
 - 2. All of this comfort is bought by the blood of Christ
 - 3. Have you responded to the Gospel with repentance and faith?
 - a. Repentance - His blood is necessary to pay for my great sins; I grieve over my sin and turn from it
 - b. Faith - His blood is sufficient to forgive and cleanse me from sin; to secure all God's blessings; I trust Him and His blood alone!
 - 4. Respond today & receive this unassailable comfort!
- B. Am I living in this comfort?
 - 1. Christian - all of this is God's gift to you in Christ!
 - 2. Christian - this is the only source of true comfort!
 - a. Don't look to comfort food - you will just gain weight!
 - b. Don't comfort yourself by TV - you will just kill brain cells!
 - c. Don't 'comfort' yourself by sin - you will distort your soul and kill your own joy!
 - 3. This week, meditate on these great truths!
 - a. Memorize this catechism question and answer
 - b. Meditate on these two passages, especially Romans 8:31-39
 - c. Go over the devotion and discussion guide to let these truths sink in

- d. Go to the Spotify playlist and sing these great songs again to let these truths soak into your mind

4. Come behold the Wondrous Mystery!

My Only Comfort (Part 1)

Romans 14:7-9; 8:31-39

May 3, 2020

Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery

Numbers 6:24-26

Teaching keywords: Catechism; peace and comfort; Lordship; Satan and demons; justification; death; salvation and deliverance

The Lord bless you and keep you; ²⁵ the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; ²⁶ the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. Numbers 6:24–26

For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

⁹ For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living. Romans 14:7–9

What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all — how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died — more than that, who was raised to life — is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:31–39