

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 - Saint Patrick

- A. Icon of Saint Patrick (hair; Trinity; clover)
- B. Amazing story - kidnapped; converted; escaped; return
- C. Real spiritual conflict; constant danger; breastplate
- D. How he did this: understood God's Sovereignty & Power
- E. Catechism Q98 - see the theme (underlined section)

II. God's Sovereignty To Deliver

- A. My comfort: Sovereign to deliver me from the devil
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. Jesus delivered me from ALL the power of the Devil
 - 2. We saw several aspects of this last week
 - a. The Devil's power to accuse
 - b. The Devil's power to persecute
 - c. The Devils power in death
 - 3. Jesus has delivered us from all of this power of the Devil

- 4. This is an expression of the Sovereignty of God!
- 5. God is not engaged in a back and forth battle with the Devil - Our God rules and reigns with all authority and power!

B. God is Sovereign and is the only One we are to fear
Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Matthew 10:28

- 1. There are many who can kill the body
 - a. Satan can work to have our body killed
 - b. Wicked humans can kill our body
 - c. Bacteria and viruses can kill our body
- 2. But only God has power over the soul!
- 3. Our body will eventually die, but after that, we will stand before God for judgment
Man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment Hebrews 9:27
 - a. Some say no one can escape taxes or death
 - b. You might escape taxes!
 - c. But you will not escape death, nor standing before God's judgment throne
- 4. This is why we need not fear anyone or anything that only kills the body. This mortal body will die one way or another, but then it will be raised to face God as Judge.
- 5. But if you are in Christ, you have already been delivered and God's pronouncement of "Totally righteous" has already been secured!

6. This is why Patrick could face the threats of druids and kings - He knew that God was Sovereign and was the only One to be feared.

III. God's Sovereignty to Preserve

A. My comfort: Sovereign to preserve me

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;**

1. God not only delivered us, He also preserves us!
2. We are preserved by our heavenly FATHER
3. Because of the work of Jesus Christ, our Judge has become our Father, and His love Sovereignly watches over us to keep us until He takes us to be with Him.

B. God's Sovereignty preserves us as His child

Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. ³⁰ And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. Matthew 10:28-31

1. We should only fear God since others can not destroy our soul
2. God watches over common sparrows so that not one can die apart from His will.

3. This is Divine Sovereignty! Even the life of a sparrow is under the Sovereign care of God!
4. We are worth far more than sparrows - and God counts our every hair! (Getting easier on my head!)
5. Child of God, you never escape God's notice
6. Child of God, your hairs and your days are numbered so you need not fear.
7. This is why Patrick could face danger and death every day - He knew God was keeping him until his mission was accomplished.

IV. God's Sovereignty to Save Eternally

A. My comfort: Sovereignly working to save me eternally

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**

1. God does not just work to deliver and save us in this life; He is working in everything to save us eternally!
2. Everything the Devil, evil men, or even diseases can do only work for our eternal salvation!
3. This is Rock-solid comfort! God is working in everything to keep me for eternal salvation!

B. Eternal salvation: from election to glorification

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. Romans 8:28–30

1. This is where the phrase “all things work together” is found in Scripture.
2. It is not just a Pollyanna view that everything works out in the end - God Himself is working so that everything is to my ultimate good and salvation!
3. This is the golden chain of salvation: from election to glorification. We have been foreknown, predestined, called, justified, and will be glorified!
4. This is all certain because it does not depend upon us or our faithfulness, but rather on God’s Sovereign power and faithfulness!

And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁰ For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.” John 6:39–40

- a. The will of the Father is to never lose one of His people
- b. Jesus Himself secures our salvation & will raise us!

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand. ³⁰ I and the Father are one.” John 10:27–30

- c. Jesus knows His sheep and gives them eternal life!
 - d. Not one of Jesus’ flock will ever perish - no one can snatch them from Him!
 - e. They are also in the Father’s hand and none can snatch them from His hand!
 - f. The Father and the Son are united in saving and keeping every single one of their sheep.
5. Christian, you were known and loved by the Father before the foundation of the world, Christ died for you, and the Holy Spirit called and regenerated you so that you are now justified and will one day be raised from the dead and glorified!
 6. You are called, saved, and kept by God! This is Rock-solid comfort!

V. Applying the Word

A. Have I come to Christ for this comfort?

1. This comfort is only found in Christ!
2. All other sources of comfort fail at the very point Jesus stressed - eternal life!
3. This virus has reminded us how vulnerable our supposed “sure” sources of comfort & strength are
 - a. Economy - it is much more vulnerable than we think
 - b. Our plans - many have been altered or canceled

c. Physical life - it can be taken by an invisible virus

4. There is only one sure and certain source of comfort that can survive everything - Jesus!

5. Look to Him for salvation and comfort today!

B. Am I living in this comfort each day?

1. This life is full of difficulty, sickness, and trial!

2. Comfort is not found in circumstances but in Christ!

3. This is not something you grow into or earn - it is God's gift to you in Christ!

4. To live and die in this comfort let God's truth mold and shape you - not the cares and concerns of this passing age

a. Reminder - memorize this Question and answer

b. Let the deep biblical truths in this mold your thoughts, fuel your affections, and govern your emotions

1. Meditation on these truths will mold your thoughts so that you think and view the world as it truly is

2. Meditation on these truths will fuel godly affections and starve ungodly attractions

3. Meditation on these truths will govern emotions so that they are not driven with every changing wind of circumstance in this ever-changing world

5. Try beginning your day by praying part or all of St. Patrick's breastplate prayer

6. Re-listen to the worship songs (video or Spotify playlist)

7. Let God's truth soak deep into you this week!

C. Yet Not I But Christ In Me

My Only Comfort (Part 2)

Matthew 10:28-31; Romans 8:28-30

May 10, 2020

Yet Not I But Christ In Me

St. Patrick's Breastplate

Teaching keywords: Catechism; peace and comfort; Sovereignty of God; salvation and deliverance; election; perseverance

May Christ be your shield today: Christ before you; Christ behind you; Christ beneath you; Christ above you; Christ on your right; Christ on your left; May Christ be with you, Christ be in you alone and in multitude, near and afar; for all you face and for all your life, that you may live in the protection, power, and provision of the Holy Trinity.

Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. ³⁰ And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. Matthew 10:28–31

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. Romans 8:28–30