

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 - Guilt, Grace, and Gratitude & Growth

- A. Our entire catechism is shaped by this structure
- B. We follow the Heidelberg in this structure
- C. They begin with this question; we end with it
- D. How do we respond to all God has done?
- E. How do we express gratitude in our lifestyle?

II. Eternally Saved By the Triune God

- A. Salvation is the work of the Holy Trinity
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.

- 1. This recognizes that salvation is the work of the Trinity - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

- 2. We saw some of this last week, completed today
 - a. The Father loved and chose us in eternity
 - b. The Son came and worked redemption for us
 - c. The Holy Spirit convicts us, draws us, regenerates us, and applies the work of Christ to us
- 3. We are the people of God by the will and the work of the Holy Trinity - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

- B. The Spirit's work - assuring us we are God's children 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.

- 1. The Spirit assures us that we are part of God's people

For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Romans 8:15–16

- a. We have received the Spirit of sonship (literally adoption)
- b. The Spirit testifies to our spirit that we are God's children - no longer enemies, but beloved children!
- c. The Spirit causes us to cry out to God "Abba, Father" - the very words Jesus used!

"Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." Mark 14:36

- 1. These are Jesus' words in His moment of great distress
- 2. The Spirit now causes these words to gush forth from us in our moments of distress and also as an affirmation that we are God's children!

2. By the work of the Spirit, we are now God's adopted children, and allowed to use the same words Jesus did to call God our Father! This is grace!

C. The Spirit's work - assuring us of eternal life/inheritance 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.

1. The Spirit assures us that as God's own people and that we have been granted eternal life & inheritance **Now if we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ**, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. Romans 8:17

- a. If we are God's children then we are heirs of God
- b. Just as we share in Jesus' words 'Abba, Father' so we will share in His inheritance
- c. Adoption was a two-stage process in which you were adopted and later received the inheritance.
- d. As God's adopted children the Spirit assures us that we will receive a full, eternal inheritance

2. The Spirit is actually the deposit or downpayment guaranteeing that the full inheritance will follow And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, **you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession** — to the praise of his glory. Ephesians 1:13–14

- a. Notice this is all the work of the Trinity - Christ, Spirit, God (the Father)
- b. The Spirit is a seal, a deposit guaranteeing our future inheritance

- c. The same idea is seen in 2 Corinthians 1:20-22; 5:5

D. The Spirit is God's powerful Presence through Whom we experience all of the great benefits God has given us through the Gospel!

III. Our Response - A Life Devoted to God

A. We respond with a sincere desire to live for God 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.**

1. The Spirit forms in us a sincere desire to live for God
2. The great salvation God has given to us produces gratitude, which prompts a life of obedience to God
3. The Spirit is working to sanctify us so that we have a growing desire to obey God, and walk in increasing obedience to God's commands
Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation — but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it.
¹³For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, ¹⁴ because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.
Romans 8:12–14

- a. This is the INEVITABLE outcome of being regenerated by the Spirit
- b. If one does not have a desire to put to death the misdeeds of our sinful nature, that person has not been born again by the Spirit of God.
- c. Those who have been redeemed by Christ and regenerated by the Spirit have a new nature that desires to submit to God and to show gratitude to God by obeying Him and doing good works.

- d. This is not speaking of our justification but rather our sanctification.
- e. Notice that this is the last part of the answer to the catechism question because it is not the ground of all God has done for us but rather our grateful response to all God has done for us.

B. We are even willing to suffer and die for God if He wills

Now if we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, **if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.**
Romans 8:17

1. God's amazing grace toward us and the incredible salvation we have been given are pressed home by the Holy Spirit so that our gratitude is so great that we are even willing to suffer and die for God.
2. Paul assumes that as we have shared in Jesus' inheritance, so also we will share in His sufferings. The two are inseparable.
3. Our devotion to Christ is to be total
That I with body and soul, both in life and death, am not my own, but belong unto my faithful Savior Jesus Christ... and makes me sincerely willing and ready, from this day forth, to live unto him.
 - a. Body and soul - every part of me devoted to God
 - b. Life and death - no matter the circumstances
 - c. Sincerely - not forced but willing, glad obedience
 - d. This is a life consumed with a desire to know and live for God
 - e. This is the result of knowing God, His heart for us, and the great salvation He has given us in Jesus Christ!

IV. Applying the Word

A. Have I experienced this great salvation?

1. This all begins with us becoming God's people
2. We do NOT live for God to become His people; that is His gift of grace!
3. Have I EXPERIENCED this great salvation?
4. Has the Holy Spirit regenerated me?
5. Does the Spirit testify to my spirit that I am God's child?
6. Call out for salvation today!! (Contact us to grow)

B. Is gratitude for all God has done shaping my daily life?

1. A life devoted to God flows from gratitude for all God has done
2. This gratitude shapes my entire Christian life
3. This is why our whole catechism is structured around Guilt, Grace, Gratitude and Growth
4. Let gratitude flow from you this week to produce a life devoted to God
 - a. Meditate deeply on all God has done!
 1. Memorize this catechism question and answer
 2. Meditate on it and Romans 8:31-39
 - b. Speak gratitude to God for all He has done each day
 - c. Let gratitude prompt obedience in daily living
5. A life wholly abandoned to God Our Mighty Fortress!

My Only Comfort (Part 3)

Romans 8:12-17

May 17, 2020

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1 Corinthians 15:58

Teaching keywords: Catechism; peace and comfort; Holy Spirit; sanctification; heaven, hell, and eternity

Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. ¹ Corinthians 15:58

Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation — but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. ¹³ For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, ¹⁴ because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. Romans 8:12–17