

Lord's Day 1

1.1-2 A— The Introduction

1. Q. What is your only comfort in life and death?

A. That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for him.

2. Q. What do you need to know in order to live and die in the joy of this comfort?

A. First, how great my sins and misery are; second, how I am delivered from all my sins and misery; third, how I am to be thankful to God for such deliverance.

Questions to Consider

- What makes us uncomfortable and why do we experience this?
- Why do we seek so hard after comfort?
- In what ways do we sinfully seek after comfort?
- How do we know we are sinfully seeking after it?
- Where is true comfort found?
- When you ask most high school graduates how much they want to earn in their lifetime—the common answer is “enough to live comfortably.”

1.1-2 B—The Fall

Why are we uncomfortable in this life?

- Pain exists because we willfully have chosen to disobey God.
- We willfully exchanged the way of God for the way of our own desires.
- We were in paradise with God in complete comfort and security.
 - When Eve reached out to the forbidden fruit:
 - She exchanged the comfort she had with the Lord
 - For the comfort of Satan and sin within this fallen world
 - The result of this has been chaos
- We see the results of this in Genesis 3:
 - The world is now under a curse
 - 1. Death has entered into the human race—
 - Nobody is comfortable with this reality
 - Spiritual death—our relationship with God has been severed
 - Physical death—the body eventually returns to the ground where it came
 - 2. Childbearing is to be painful
 - 3. Mankind will have to till the ground and eat his food by the sweat of his brow

- The comfort Adam and Eve experienced in the Garden of Eden is now gone
- Sin has corrupted every aspect of this world
- It now lies in the power of the evil one
- The result is:
 - Every person is born into a world that cannot comfort them
 - It cannot satisfy
 - We look to it every day to find fulfillment / meaning / purpose
 - It always lets you down
 - We look for a savior
 - Politician / celebrity / doctor / scientist
 - To save us from the misery of this world
 - We ask from them something they cannot give us
- We seek after comfort because we are uncomfortable
 - Our fellowship with God has been broken
 - Our souls lack the only source that can satisfy it
- There are many motivations and reasons as to why we long for comfort
 - Much of it is due to fear:
 - We lack control
 - We are powerless to make any changes
 - We fear that we will not have enough money to pay the bills
 - We don't want to freeze to death
 - We don't want to starve to death
 - Lack of comfort also comes by way of pain
 - We suffer
 - Physically—disease / sickness / bodily injury
 - The realization that someday you will die
 - Mentally:
 - Lack of purpose
 - Why am I even here?
 - What's the point?
 - Identity
 - Who am I?
 - Depression
 - Sometimes it comes at us from multiple angles
 - Sometimes we don't even know why
 - Lack of comfort is also due to
 - Our souls simply not being able to find satisfaction from anything in this world

1.1-2 C—Our Attempt to Redefine Our Reality

Ecclesiastes 7:29 *Only see this: I have discovered that God made people upright, but they pursued many schemes.”*

John 3:13 *Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again*

Hebrews 3:13 *But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin*

- There is nothing more uncomfortable than a guilty conscience
- So, in order to fix this: We have to redefine the rules of the game

We try to find comfort in redefining reality

- **We redefine who God is**
 - The position of the Atheist or the skeptic
 - Denying there is a God
 - Denying we are created by God in His image for His own purpose
 - Denying there are fixed moral absolutes that we all must abide by
 - Denying the fact that we all will stand before God someday and give an account
 - We redefine God according to our likeness
 - The way we think He ought to be
 - That way God is less offensive to us
 - We can live how we choose
 - God will support my decision
 - We redefine right and wrong
 - We become our own standard of authority
 - As God supports our decision in the background
- **Next—We try to redefine who we are as human beings**
 - 1. **Evolution**
 - Essentially, we are a cosmic accident
 - We are not morally accountable to God or each other
 - We can live as we please
 - We determine our own reality in life
 - We become our own god
 - We become the standard of measurement
 - We choose to adopt a certain set of rules or morality to follow
 - Nobody tells me what to do
 - 2. **Occult Enlightenment**—the false realization that we are god
 - By realizing your own divinity within through spiritual enlightenment
 - That you are god and salvation lies within you
 - This knowledge comes by the way of yoga / meditation / mantras
 - Drug use / mystical experiences

1.1-2 D—Comfort Can only Be Found in Christ

The broken relationship between us and God must be restored

- If you have ever had a restless night where you couldn't get comfortable in bed
 - Tossing and turning
 - Laying on your back / your side / flipping over the pillow
- Finally, you think you found the comfort spot
 - And 3 minutes later you are tossing and turning again
- ***This world cannot give you the comfort you need***
 - ***Because it was never created for this purpose***

Comfort can only be found in the Gospel

John 3:14 *but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life*

How We Are Delivered from All Our Sin and Misery

Our only comfort **in this life and in death:**

- For today – tomorrow – and for all eternity = every aspect of our existence

1. We are not our own

- This world is not the savior
 - It cannot save you
 - It was never intended to do this
- Only God can save you
 - Because we need a Savior to restore us back into fellowship with God
- Rather than living for ourselves / our own comforts / according to our own desires
 - We are to deny ourselves and be filled with the Holy Spirit
 - God is now our portion and satisfaction
- Christ is the one who purchased us out of the slave market of sin
 - If left to ourselves
 - We would still be looking to it for comfort
- The very God which we hated
- The very God in which we opposed
- The very God in which we refused to bow the knee
 - Is the same God who died for us
 - He took our place
 - **Romans 5:8** *but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us*
- We no longer belong to ourselves
- We have to give this up
 - We now belong to Christ

2. Christ has fully paid for our sins

- Not only did God rescue us
 - He paid the bill as well
- Our salvation comes with a price
 - It is not free
- **1 Corinthians 6:20** *for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body*
- He paid our debt
- Our wrath was placed upon Him
- All of our sins, all the rebellion, all the lust, all the anger
 - **Hebrews 10:14** *For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified*

3. Christ is the One who preserves us

- He continues to do for us—what we are incapable of doing for ourselves
- He empowers us and gives us the grace to persevere
- He supplies the power and the energy for us to run off of
 - We have lacked this ability since the fall when our fellowship with God was broken
- **Jude 24–25** ²⁴ *Now to him who is able to protect you from stumbling and to make you stand in the presence of his glory, without blemish and with great joy,* ²⁵ *to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority before all time, now and forever. Amen*

4. The Holy Spirit Himself gives us assurance of this

- We have been marked / we have been branded
 - We are now God's property
 - Nobody can snatch us out of His hands
- **2 Corinthians 1:21–22** ²¹ *And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us,* ²² *and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee*

1.1-2 E—Concluding Thoughts

- As long as God leaves a person alone to themselves:
- And as long as God does not take hold of a person by His grace and convert them
 - They will remain insensitive to their state of misery
 - They will continue to pursue sinful comforts
 - They will continue to try to find fulfillment in the things of this world
 - They will cling to those things that were mentioned above
 - Like a life raft in the middle of the ocean
 - They become the only things that keep people afloat in life
- We belong to the Lord because He chose to unite Himself to us

- This is our only comfort in this world
- **John 10:28** *I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand*
 - This is the most secure statement you could ever hang your hat on
 - Cling to this with all your might
 - Truer words have never been spoken regarding your comfort and security
- Comfort cannot be found in this fallen world
 - We need a Savior
 - We need to be rescued
 - We cannot do this by ourselves
 - If we try, we will only find despair
- Being united to Christ is our comfort in life or death
 - body, soul, and spirit
- This means:
 - Anytime we suffer in this life
 - Anytime the future looks uncertain for us
 - Anytime we are face to face with our own death
 - We have comfort
 - We are secure in the hands of the Lord