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Comfort: Isaiah 40

What is thy 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 Saviour 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; yea, that all things must be subservient to my salvation, and therefore, by his Holy Spirit, He also assures me of eternal life, and makes me sincerely willing and ready, henceforth, to live unto him.²

comfort

■ **noun**

1 a state of ease and freedom from pain or constraint.

- ▶ (**comforts**) things that contribute to comfort.
- ▶ prosperity and a pleasant lifestyle.

2 consolation for grief or anxiety.

- ▶ a person or thing that gives such consolation.

■ **verb** cause to feel less unhappy; console.

—DERIVATIVES **comforting** adjective **comfortingly** adverb **comfortless** adjective

—ORIGIN Middle English: from Old French *confort* (noun), *conforter* (verb), from late Latin *confortare* 'strengthen'.³

¹ ©Scott Jacobsen

² [*Historic Creeds and Confessions*](#), electronic ed. (Oak Harbor: Lexham Press, 1997).

³ Catherine Soanes and Angus Stevenson, eds., [*Concise Oxford English Dictionary*](#) (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004).

John 10:12–16 (ESV)

12 He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. 13 He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

John 10:27–29 (ESV)

27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand..⁴

Who owns the sheep?

False shepherds vs. True Shepherds

"I will give you shepherds"

Jeremiah 3:15

“ ‘And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.

Jeremiah 23:4

I will set shepherds over them who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be missing, declares the LORD.

Ezekiel 34:23

⁴ Heidelberg Catechism, [Heidelberg Catechism](#), Revised Edition. (Cleveland, OH: Central Publishing House, 1907), 19.

And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd.

John 10:11 (ESV)

11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

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How are they owned

What it means to belong to Christ:

- I. In Life and in Death
 - a. **I am not my own**

Romans 14:7, 8 For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. 8

For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

- b. **I belong to Christ**

1 Corinthians 6:19, 20a Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own,

- c. **Christ purchased me**

1 20 for you were bought with a price

2 Titus 2:11–14 (ESV)

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of *our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all*

lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

d. Christ has made satisfaction for my sins

- 1 1 Peter 1:18, 19 knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.
- 2 1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.
- 3 1 John 2:2 He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.
- 4 1 John 2:12
I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake.

e. Christ preserves me

f. John 6:39 (ESV)

39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.

g. John 10:28 (ESV)

28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

h. 2 Thessalonians 3:3 (ESV)

3 But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one.

i. 1 Peter 1:5 (ESV)

5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time..

j. Christ assures me

2 Corinthians 1:20–22 (ESV)

20 For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory. 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.

2 Corinthians 5:5 (ESV)

5 He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

Ephesians 1:13–14 (ESV)

13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Romans 8:16 (ESV)

16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

Matthew 11:28–30 (ESV)

28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Luke 24:46–48 (ESV)

46 and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, 47 and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things.

1 Corinthians 6:11 (ESV)

11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Titus 3:3–7 (ESV)

3 For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and

hating one another. 4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life..⁵

Question 2

How many things are necessary for thee to know, that thou, enjoying this comfort, mayest live and die happily?

Three; the first, how great my sins and miseries are;^b the second, how I may be delivered from all my sins and miseries; the third, how I shall express my gratitude to God for such deliverance.^{d6}

- II. What must I know to have this comfort?
 - a. How great my sins are
 - b. How I may be delivered from my sins
 - c. How I may express my gratitude.

Ephesians 5:8–11 (ESV)

8 for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), 10 and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. 11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.

1 Peter 2:9–10 (ESV)

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

⁵ [*Historic Creeds and Confessions*](#), electronic ed. (Oak Harbor: Lexham Press, 1997).

⁶ [*Historic Creeds and Confessions*](#), electronic ed. (Oak Harbor: Lexham Press, 1997).

Romans 6:1–2 (ESV)

1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?

Romans 6:12–13 (ESV)

12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions.

13 Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness..⁷

⁷ [*Historic Creeds and Confessions*](#), electronic ed. (Oak Harbor: Lexham Press, 1997).