

What a Comfort

Isaiah 40:1-2

People always try to comfort us in our trouble. They come to us, saying, "Don't worry; everything is all right." Such human comfort has no solid foundation because it does not rest on anything. But God's comfort rests on a solid foundation, which we read about in Isaiah 40.

The first question of The Heidelberg Catechism asks: *What is your only comfort in life and death?* To which it answers: *That I am not my own,¹ but belong body and soul, in life and in death² to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.³ He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood,⁴ and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.⁵ He also watches over me in such a way⁶ that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven;⁷ in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.⁸ Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life⁹ and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.¹⁰*

(¹ 1 Cor. 6:19-20 ² Rom. 14:7-9 ³ 1 Cor. 3:23; Titus 2:14 ⁴ 1 Pet. 1:18-19; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:2; ⁵ John 8:34-36; Heb. 2:14-15; 1 John 3:1-11 ⁶ John 6:39-40; 10:27-30; 2 Thess. 3:3; 1 Pet. 1:5 ⁷ Matt. 10:29-31; Luke 21:16-18 ⁸ Rom. 8:28 ⁹ Rom. 8:15-16; 2 Cor. 1:21-22; 5:5; Eph. 1:13-14 ¹⁰ Rom. 8:1-17).

What then, is your only comfort in life and death? The answer should be:

1. That in Jesus I am _____

- a. From a natural _____
 - b. From the power of _____
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2. That in Jesus I am _____

- a. To be in Jesus hands is to be in the hands of the father
 - b. To belong to Jesus warrants the protection by the father
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3. That in Jesus by the Spirit I am _____

- a. Like a dedicated _____
 - b. Like a dedicated _____
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Paul says in Romans 14:8, "For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's." There is no other comfort, there is no better comfort either.