



MY ONLY COMFORT
IN
LIFE & DEATH

The Heidelberg Catechism

What is My Only Comfort in Life & Death

That I am not my own,¹

but belong— body and soul,

in life and in death—²

to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ

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 life
and makes me whole-heartedly willing and ready
from now on to live for him.¹⁰



Restoring Shalom

- **2 Corinthians 1:2-6 (NKJV)**

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² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,

⁴ who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.


⁵ For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ.

⁶ Now if we are afflicted, *it is* for your consolation and salvation, which is effective for enduring the same sufferings which we also suffer. Or if we are comforted, *it is* for your consolation and salvation.



Shalom

Shalom—completeness, wholeness, health, peace, welfare, safety, soundness, tranquility, prosperity, perfectness, fullness, rest, harmony, the absence of agitation or discord. **Shalom** is a universal flourishing, wholeness, and delight—a rich state of affairs in which natural needs are satisfied and natural gifts fruitfully employed, a state of affairs that inspires joyful wonder as its Creator and Savior opens doors and welcomes the creature in whom He delights.



Shalom's Violation

- **Plantinga A Breviary of Sin (Short Study)** *"The Bible presents sin by way of major concepts, principally lawlessness and faithlessness, expressed in an array of images: sin is the missing of a target, a wandering from the path, a straying from the fold. Sin is a hard heart and a stiff neck. Sin is blindness and deafness. It is both the overstepping of a line and the failure to reach it — both transgression and shortcoming. Sin is a beast crouching at the door. In sin, people attack or evade or neglect their diving calling...Sin is disruption of created harmony (the violation of Shalom) and then resistance to divine restoration of that harmony."*


What the Lord Hates

Prov 16:19

***16** These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: **17** A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, **18** An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, **19** A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.*



Basic Premises about Sin

- Firstly, Christianity posits, or insists, that there is a God
 - That God has positively revealed Himself to Man.
Romans 1.
 - That something is seriously wrong between man and God.
 - That something is sin! Of it, all are found possessing and guilty before God.
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What is Man Guilty of?

- The Choice to live independently of God
- The Destruction of Shalom as its consequence!!!

Man is Cursed & Blessed

Gal. 3:8-14

¹⁰ For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "*Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them.*" ¹¹ But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God *is* evident, for "*the just shall live by faith.*" ¹² Yet the law is not of faith, but "*the man who does them shall live by them.*" ¹³ Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "*Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree*"), ¹⁴ that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

The Law

Romans 3:19-22 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,

²² even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;

The Consummation

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. ¹¹ Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? ¹³ Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; ¹⁵ and consider *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation--as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, ¹⁶ as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable *people* twist to their own destruction, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures.

II Peter 3