

**SCRIPTURE:** Romans 8 with Lord's Day 1.1  
**SINGING:** 86:1-3 – 71:1-5 – 174:1-4 – 422:5-6

Intro: Jesus called men to *fish for men* (Mark 1:17) with the *best bait* (Rom. 8)

- A. Lord's Day 1.1 is the most brilliant echo of Romans 8
1. Packed between the covers of *No condemnation* (vs. 1) and *No separation* (vs. 39) are pages of *Divine Comforts*
  2. The "confession of faith" in Lord's Day 1.1
    - a. is forged in the fires of trials (2 Tim. 1:11-12; 4:6-8)
    - b. is learned as gold is dug out and sifted out (Prov. 2:3-5)
- B. Why do we keep teaching Scripture through the Heidelberg Catechism?
1. Because it is a most excellent summary of 'gems of Holy Scripture'
  2. Because it is not just doctrine but **devotional doctrine**

### **The Unbelievers' Discomfort versus the Believers' Comfort**

#### **I. The Unbeliever's Discomfort: To be insecure outside of Jesus Christ**

- A. The cause of all our discomforts is *our separation from God*
1. God did not hide the truth about sin
    - a. Rom 5:12 *Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.*
  2. We now all live outside Paradise under the curse
    - a. Eph. 2:3 ... *and where by nature children of wrath, even as others*
  3. We face the ultimate summon to appear before our Judge
    - a. 2 Cor. 5:10: *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad*
- B. This is the depressing truth and unsettling truth (the *Bad News*)
1. Every human effort to remedy has failed
    - a. Eccl. 7:29 *Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions*

## **II. The believers' Comfort: To be secure in Jesus Christ**

A. Not every believer *possesses this level of assurance of faith*

1. Goal of Catechism:

a. Romans 15:13 *Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost*

B. The witness of Lord's Day 1.1 is alluring and personal

1. This is not a *doctrinal statement – biography of a saint's experience*

2. It is a testimony about glory of Jesus in life of a sinner

C. What is *the only Comfort in life and death: it is to belong to Jesus Christ!*

1. Meaning of *to belong to Jesus Christ*

a. He purchased me with the ransom price of His blood (Rom 8:3)

b. He delivered and keeps me from the power of the devil (Rom. 8:7-9)

c. He guards me as the apple of His eye (Rom. 8:28-29)

d. He assures me that *all is well that will end well* (Rom. 8:30; 18-25)

e. He promises to be my enabler in all weaknesses (Rom. 8:14-15, 26)

f. He assures me of my future portion (Rom. 8:9)

Closing: Are you hooked to find this precious treasure for yourself?

### **Thoughts to consider**

1. Discuss the following statement: *There are many paths that lead to Christ as there are feet to tread them. But there is only one way to God.*
2. Illustrate the truth Pink wrote, *No sinner was ever saved by giving his heart to God. We are not saved by our giving but by God's giving.*
3. Often we use words without fully grasping the meaning. Define from Scripture the word *salvation*.