

Confronted to be Comforted

- i. **Confronted** by the Law
- ii. **Crushed** by the Law
- iii. **Comforted** by Christ

Focus:

We need to be *confronted* with the depths of our **sin** & depravity before we can be truly *comforted* by Christ the Savior.

1). Confronted by the Law

1. **How** does God confront us w. our sin?

Q.3 “How do you come to know your sin & misery?”

A.3 “The law of God tells me.”

2. Passages

A. **Rom.3:20** “through the law comes the **knowledge** of sin”

B. **Rom.7:7** “I would not have known what sin was *except* through law. For I would not have known what **coveting** really was if Law had not said, 'Do not covet.'”

C. **2 Kings 22**

“8 Then Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the scribe, 'I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the LORD.'” And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it. ... 10 Then Shaphan the scribe showed the king, saying, 'Hilkiah the priest has given me a book.' And Shaphan read it before the king. 11 Now it happened, when the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, that he **tore** his robes. ... 13b [And he said,] 'Great is the LORD's anger that burns against us because our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book, to do according to all that is written there concerning us.’”

3. Our Own Sin

A. Commandment #3 – You shall not take the **Name** of the LORD in **vain**.

B. Commandment #6 – You shall not **murder**.

C. Commandment #7 – You shall not commit **adultery**.

2). Crushed by the Law

1. Romans 3:19

“Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that **every** mouth may be stopped & **all** the world may become **GUILTY** before God.”

2. Rom.3:9-10

“⁹ What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews & Greeks are all under sin. ¹⁰ As it is written: 'There is none righteous, no not one.'”

3. Rom.3:20

“By the works of the law, no flesh will be declared righteous in God's sight. No ... by law comes the knowledge of our sinfulness.”

4. Rom.5:20

“the law was added *so that* trespasses might increase”

5. Gal.3:24,

“the law was our *schoolmaster* [KJV] *tutor* [NKJV]”

6. Psa.51:16-17

“¹⁶ ... You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. ¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart—These, O God, You will not despise.”

3). Comforted by Christ

1. Bad News – Romans 3:9-20

There is no one righteous, no not one; no one will be declared righteous by observing law.

2. Good News – Romans 3:21-24

But now **APART FROM** the **law** the righteousness of God has been revealed. This righteousness comes *from God through* faith in Jesus Christ *to* all & *on* all who believe.

... All who believe are ... justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

3. Lord's Day 23 Q&A60

Q. How are you right with God?

A. Only by true faith in Jesus Christ.

Even though my conscience accuses me of having grievously sinned against all God's commandments and of never having kept any of them, and even though I am still inclined toward all evil, nevertheless, without my deserving it at all, out of sheer grace, God grants and credits to me the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ, as if I had never sinned nor been a sinner, as if I had been as perfectly obedient as Christ was obedient for me. All I need to do is to accept this gift of God with a believing heart.