

HC Q&A 2-3 – Comfort: How To Get It

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: I hope you now understand and agree that everyone wants comforts. Man always craves for comfort. The problem man has is how to get that comfort – true comfort – not the comfort like you get from eating ice-cream or being married. This is what you will hear about today.

Our headings are:

Know what you need for comfort

Know how to know what you need for comfort

Our goals are: That you will know what you need to find true comfort, that you will praise the Lord for providing that true comfort that you can enjoy in life and in death, and that you will live as those who have received true comfort.

Know what you need for comfort

2 Q. WHAT MUST YOU KNOW TO LIVE AND DIE IN THE JOY OF THIS COMFORT?

A. Three things: first, how great my sin and misery are; second, how I am set free from all my sins and misery; third, how I am to thank God for such deliverance.

1. You need comfort, and there are 3 things you need to know to get it.

2. You need to know that you are intensely sinful and hopelessly imprisoned (被拘禁) by your sins. Within this prison you can experience temporary comfort. Things of this world are enjoyable. But real comfort is an elusive dream because your sins weigh you down. They crush you. You can't do anything to free yourself from the burden of sins. You sin all the time!

Even those born in Christian homes are sinful. No one has a Divine right to comfort. You only have a right to Divine judgments. And the judgment for sin is hell... a place not known for any comforts. Sin kills comfort and you are full of sin.

Romans 3: 9 What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both **Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin.** 10 As it is written: "**There is none righteous**, no, not one; 11 There is none who understands; There is **none who seeks after God.**

1John 1: 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

Romans 3: 13 "Their throat is an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit"; "The poison of asps is under their lips"; 14 "Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness." 15 "Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16 Destruction and misery are in their ways; 17 And the way of peace they have not known." 18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

You are so sinful that God cannot bear to look at you. This was why when Jesus was on the cross God turned away from him. He was guilty with your sins.

3. You need to know the way of salvation because your soul is imprisoned and condemned in sin and deep misery. The Door of freedom- is Jesus Christ – the only means of salvation. Salvation is what gives true comfort to the soul.

John 17: 3 "And this is **eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ** whom You have sent.

Acts 4: 12 "**Nor is there salvation in any other**, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

And this is not just for NT times. This was for all times. Even the OT prophets believed in Jesus Christ.

Acts 10:43 "**To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission (赦免, 除去) of sins.**"

Jesus himself confirmed this, showing that all prophets spoke of his work of redeeming mankind from sin and death by his death, burial, and resurrection.

Luke 24: 19 And He said to them, "What things?" So they said to Him, "The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, 20 "and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. 21 "But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem (救贖) Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened. 25 Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 "**Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?"** 27 **And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded (讲解) to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.**

Do you see how serious the dispensationalist (时代论者) sin is? He attempts to rob all Old Testament saints of salvation, since none can be saved without Christ. Hebrews 11 teaches that all Old Testament saints were saved by faith in Jesus.

4. You need to know how you are to respond when you are set free from your slavery to sin. Why is this important? Because faith in Jesus Christ will be reflected in godliness. Faith without works is dead faith. **Specifically you will respond by:**

a. Worshipping God.

1 Peter 2: 9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light ...

b. Living lives characterized by obedience. This will bring **glory to God** and will **help others to find the way** of salvation.

Matthew 5: 16 "**Let your light** so shine before men, that **they may see your good works and glorify your Father** in heaven.

Ephesians 5: 8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. **Walk as children of light** 9 (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), 10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

c. Fighting against the desires of the flesh. Apostle says "mortify" (克制 治死) the flesh because there is an ongoing battle in you. Sin wants to reign over your life, but by the Word of God and the Spirit of God in you, you must dethrone it...even kill it.

Romans 6: 12 Therefore **do not let sin reign** in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. 13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

Colossians 3:5 Therefore **put to death your members** which are on the earth: fornication (淫乱), uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness (贪婪), which is idolatry (拜偶像).

5. It is not sufficient to have 1 or 2 of these requirements. You need all 3. If you don't believe you are sinful, you won't look to the Savior. If you don't believe in the Savior, you won't work and worship him. If you don't work and worship the Savior, it means you are not set free from sin.

Know how to know what you need for comfort

3 Q. HOW DO YOU COME TO KNOW YOUR MISERY?

A. The law of God tells me.

1. How do you know that you must know these 3 things in order to be comforted? God's law tells you!

2. But what is the law of God?

a. Specifically, the 10 commands are the law of God. The laws are summarized in this: Love God, and Love your neighbor. All the law and the prophets speak of God's law.

Matthew 22:38 "This is the first and great commandment. 39 "And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 "On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

b. Generally, the whole Bible is God's law and explanations of God's law. So the more you read God's Word, the more you will learn of your sin, your salvation, and your service. The less you read God's Word the more you will think you are better and know more than you do...and you will have no answer to your spiritual problems. How many people stay Arminian (阿民念主义) because they don't really study God's Word!

3. First, let's talk about the law specifically – the 10 commands!

a. What are specific parts of the Bible that teach that you need the 10 laws to see your misery?

Romans 3: 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.**

Romans 7:7 What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have **known sin except through the law.** For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You shall not covet."

Without the 10 commands, how would you know what is wrong? You may have some sense that some things are wrong because you have the image of God – like someone in an isolated place might know it is wrong to kill – **but you wouldn't instinctively know the full extent of your sins because the image of God in you is tarnished** (被玷污). You would not know the broadness of the commands—things required, things forbidden, and how you may sin by thoughts, words, and actions. You need God's 10 laws.

b. The purpose of the 10 laws was not to show man how he could be saved, but the purpose of the 10 laws was to show man that he needed to be saved because of his sinfulness. No one could be declared righteous by obeying the law because no one could obey the law. Remember, obeying the law **outwardly is more reachable** (可达到), **but you are required to obey the law with the perfect**

motive in the heart also. The trouble is, the heart is sinful, so your outward actions, though they may seem good, are reprehensible (应受谴责的) in God's sight. That is why **every other religion on earth is false** and every other person other than a true Christian will be condemned by God and sent to hell.
c. This means you must use the 10 laws in evangelism!

4. Let's talk about the law in general—which gives explanations of the law and then directs the lost to Christ! The law in general is the Bible.

a. There is no other book anywhere, other than the Bible, that speaks of the full extent of man's sinfulness and the essential saving details of the work of Jesus Christ. This is why you need more than the 10 laws specifically. The rest of the Bible shows explication (说明) of the law – and how far man falls short in obeying the law.

b. This means all other books that pretend to tell about how to be saved are books from evil spirits and evil men. They hide the truth and tempt men to take the easy way out...and tempt men to look for their salvation elsewhere. Usually these books from the Devil tempt men to find their salvation in themselves or in some outward work.

c. This means that you must give the whole Bible to those who don't have it!

5. Finally, consider what the Apostle Paul wrote about what you learn in the Bible about your salvation:

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. 2 **For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.** 3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled...

If Christ were not condemned for you, you will be condemned for yourself. Which other books tells you it is impossible for you to save yourself? Which other books tells you that you get not a single merit with God for all the good you may do in this world? Only the Bible! I believe the Devil smiles when someone believes that his works, or pilgrimages (朝圣), or lighting candles, or his charitable giving pleases God. The Devil probably smiles because he has another soul trapped in hell for eternity. The Devil, by his deceit, makes them think they are religious and so they feel comfortable – like a fish which swallows a bait – until there is a jerk (猛地一拉) on the line. But you have the true Words of God.

Conclusion:

You need to know 3 things in your head and in your heart to enjoy true comfort in your soul: Your sin, how you are set free, and how you are to show your thankfulness to God. Two out of three will not do. Each one is dependent on the other to give you true comfort.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Come to God's Word daily and learn of your sin and misery. No other book – no matter how religious -will tell you that. All other books are pretentions from the Devil.

2. Come to God's Word daily and learn how God has come near you...and made you his child by the life and death of Jesus on the cross. There is no other name given among men by which you can be saved!

3. Come to God's Word daily and learn how to serve him. Good works can only be done according to the Word of God.

4. Then you will have and enjoy true comfort – your only true comfort – starting in this life.

Finally, some people are under the impression that they are Christians because they go to church. But if you don't know and believe these 3 things: Your sins, how you are set free from your sins, and how you are to respond to God, then you are still in your sins. You need to be saved. You need to call upon God to make you his child – to change you from the inside.