

I. Listening to the voice of Christ.**A.** To whom do we listen?

- 1) Exposition of the Text — *But whoso hearkeneth unto me*
 - a) God the Father (Pr 1:8)
 - b) God the Son (1:1; Mt 12:42; WSC 24, 26; 1 Cor 1:24)
 - c) God the Holy Spirit (Isa 11:2)

- 2) Answering an Objection: Shouldn't we listen to all voices and learn from everything?

- a) We are to heed the voice of God (Pr 3:1)
- b) We are to avoid always the way of apostasy (Pr 7:25, 27)

- 3) The Urgency of Listening to Christ (Mt 7:13-14)

B. What are the means to use that we should listen to God?

- 1) Warning against false means that would lie to us

- a) False gods (1 Cor 8:4b, 6)
- b) False preachers (Jer 23:17).

- 2) The true and only means God uses to speak to His people — His Word. (Isa 8:20)

C. The Issue of Assurance: How do I know I am hearkening to the voice of Christ? (Jn 10:27-28)**D.** What are the characteristics to listening well to God?

- 1) Believing upon the whole of who God is (Ex 12:10)
- 2) Hearing the whole counsel of God

II. The Christian's dwelling in safety.**A.** What does it mean to dwell in safety?

- 1) Exposition of the Text — *Shall dwell safely*

- a) Not as regarding the Law (Isa 53:3; 2 Tim 3:12)
- b) But regarding the hope of the Gospel

- 2) Answering the Objection: But I do not feel that I am dwelling in safety now?

- a) Response 1: We ought to be on guard that we are not expecting something from God which He has not promised (1 Sam 13:14; Psa 3)
- b) Response 2: But you may be sure that you are under the unique, loving providence of God. (Rom 8:28)

- c) Response 3: Just as with all of the Lord's blessings, God does not always (or even often) bless us with safety in the way we would expect. (Jdg 3:1-2)

B. This is the wonder of the Gospel (*Heidelberg Disputation 26*).**C.** The hope of eternal life (John 11:25-26a)**III. The Christian's quiet from fear of evil.****A.** What does it mean that the Christian shall be quiet from fear of evil?

- 1) Exposition of the Text — *Shall be quiet from fear of evil*

- a) That as we have our eyes fixed upon the Lord and listen to His Word (in reading and preaching) the Christian should have peace in the midst of:

- i. Suffering (2 Cor 12:7b-9a)
- ii. Uncertainty (Psa 28:1, 7a)
- iii. Dying (Acts 7:59).

- 2) Answering the Objection: But why then do I not feel such peace?

- a) Which is often a reality of the Christian experience
- b) There is a need for self-examination in the light of God's Word (Psa 73:22, 17)
- c) Two encouragements to aid your perseverance:
 - i. Pray to the Lord (1 Pt 5:7, Mt 6:13).
 - ii. Praise the Lord (Psalm 39:12-13, 40:1, 4A)

B. What then is to be the Christian's ultimate fear?

- 1) Not the power of man (Isa 51:12)
- 2) Nor the opinions of man (Pr 29:25)
- 3) Nor illness or even death itself (Mt 10:28)
- 4) But the fear of the Lord (Pr 9:10)

C. Christ speaks comfort to His people in His Word, that we should not fear. (Isa 40:1-2)**D.** The Christian, having peace with God, may then have peace from God throughout this life (Ex 34:23; Heb 2:14; Isa 9:6; Psa 23:4; Jn 14:26; Phil 4:7).