

I. Why Are the Wicked Allowed to Live a Long Time**(8:10-13, 9:2, 9:6)?**

- A.** The Problem — The profane have prolonged days (8:10-11; Pr 10:7; Gen 6:4, 11)
- B.** The Proper Perspective
- 1)** Time is shorter than you think (8:10c; 9:2)
 - 2)** Have the long view, the eternal view, in mind (8:13, 9:6) .
 - a)** The wicked are receiving judgment in this life even now, even if it is not perceived by them or by us (*Larger Catechism* 28)
 - b)** Judgment cannot be escaped for the wicked (Num 32:23; Heb 10:31).
- C.** The Point
- 1)** Fear God (8:12)
 - 2)** Be patient (9:2a; Psa 62:5-6)

II. Why Are the Wicked Allowed to Have the Just's Reward**(8:14-15, 9:3, 9:7-9)?**

- A.** The Problem — It is as if the sinner receives what we think should be the saint's reward, that is to have good in this life. (8:14a)
- B.** The Proper Perspective
- 1)** This too is fleeting (8:14b; 2 Kgs 11)
 - 2)** There is not anyone who is truly righteous (9:3)
 - 3)** The wicked do not really get to enjoy their wicked gains (9:3)
 - a)** Neither in this life (Pr 20:17)
 - b)** Nor in the life to come (Lk 16:25).
 - 4)** The Christian's great delight in this life is our justification (9:7)
 - 5)** The Christian's great desire in this life is our sanctification (9:8; Psa 141:5).
- C.** The Point
- 1)** Enjoy what little reward you have from your labour in this life

(9:3; 2:24)

- 2)** Enjoy these good gifts with your family (9:9)
 - a)** The primary affection and enjoyment is in the family
 - b)** The importance of the household of faith (Psa 68:6)
- 3)** Our portion in this life is good, but meager compared to the portion in the life to come (9:9)

III. Why Are the Righteous Never Able to Fully Understand These Problems (8:16-9:1, 9:4-5, 9:10)?**A. The Problem**

- 1)** The righteous are never able to fully understand Providence (8:16-17)
- 2)** Providence is not a certain measure of God's pleasure or displeasure (9:1)

B. The Proper Perspective

- 1)** You cannot understand anything fully, let alone everything (8:17, 9:5)
 - a)** The extent of our understanding is very little (9:5a, 7:2)
 - b)** The wicked really don't understand anything (9:5b; Jb 12:1, 25; 1 Cor 2:14)
- 2)** God knows all things, and has decreed the end from the beginning (9:1; Isa 46:8-10)
- 3)** Cling to the truth you know by faith (9:4b) —
 - a)** Weakness of flesh with strength in Christ is better than mere strength in the flesh
 - b)** Weakness of mind with the knowledge of Christ is better than the greatest genius who does not know God
 - c)** Weakness of heart with faith in Christ is better than the most independent unbeliever

C. The Point

- 1)** Have faith in the true and living God (9:4-5)
 - a)** The promise (9:4a; 1 Pt 1:3-9)
 - b)** The warning (9:5)
- 2)** Do well with what is set before you (9:10; *Shorter Catechism* 1; Col 3:23-25)