

WCF 18.3.o ▪ Assurance Combats Sin
Hopewell 101 ▪ 2024.07.28 Sabbath School

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

All right, let's begin a prayer. Our gracious God in the heavenly father? Lord. So thankful that we may have you yourself. in Union with your son. Himself. By the indwelling. That's Moscure himself. And we thank you that you've given us not only to have you, but To know that we do.

And we praise you for your wisdom and your goodness and your righteousness. But when you do this, Combats, our sin rather than accommodating. Forgive us, O Lord for When we indulge the remaining flesh. Our original nature. And, Wicked use of good Doctrine. To accommodate sin. Don't let us do that.

We pray. Help us. Now as we consider, A few passages that remind us. Of just how Backwards and twisted. That, that is. Help us by your spirit, not only Pull this class time. But for the whole day, Especially as we are also preparing. To come to the public workshop.

Give us to rejoice in you, we ask. In Christ's name, amen. All right, so we're all the way down to the end. Of the Article, 3 in Westminster Confession 18.

And it's really The fact that Assurance pay insurance that we're in a state of Grace Assurance that we have eternal life and have Christ. the fact that that does not incline men to looseness, genuine Assurance, doesn't, it's something that we've seen all the way throughout the first three articles first in the warning, that there is such a thing as false Assurance.

So if you are inclined to looseness, You can know that what you thought was Assurance, if you thought you had it, it's not. It's self-assurance it's self-deception. the person who is worried that Assurance might make him. More comfortable with his sin is probably in a good place. But generally speaking, Those who have Assurance of faith.

They West they are more glad to have Christ. And then their sin. They wish they had more of Christ and less of their sin. so there is that danger. Of self-deception. Although Hypocrites and other unregenerate men, I'm just reading the first article May vainly deceive themselves with false hopes and carnal, that is fleshly presumptions.

assuming something is true without Evidence of reality. Of being in the favor of God. And the estate of Salvation, which hope of theirs shall perish. Yet such as truly believe in the Lord Jesus and love him. Insincerity endeavoring to walk in all good conscience. Before him May in this life, be certainly assured that they are in the state of grace.

May rejoice in the hope of the glory of God, which hope shall never make them ashamed. This certainty. Is not a bear conjectural and probable, persuasion grounded upon a fallible hope. So the word certainty the word Assurance. The fact that this is something that the Holy Spirit does in you and gives to you.

Because he has applied Christ to you. Assurance being not Mental. That you are able to get not just an idea in your heads kids that one day, the Assurance light bulb goes on you say ah I'm assured. Know, it's it's a reality between you and gaunt. He convinces you that you are his And that he is yours.

And he does that as one part of the work that he is doing in you. he never does that apart from believing in Jesus, he never does that. Apart from giving you to love him, ate your sin, want to obey. Glad that he has saved you. they all go together.

But it is therefore a certainty. It's a reality it's a work that God does in you. not American problem, persuasion grounded upon a fallible Oak, but an infallible Assurance of Faith, founded upon the Divine truth of the promises of salvation. The inward evidence of those Graces unto which these promises are made, the testimony of the spirit of adoption.

Witnessing with our spirits that we are. The children of God, which spirit is the earnest of our inheritance whereby? We are sealed to the day of redemption. Now article three what we're concluding this morning? This infallible Assurance does not so belong to the essence of Faith, but that a True Believer.

May wait long. And conflict with many difficulties, before he be a partaker of it. Just a reminder, the fact that you do not have your Assurance yet, does not mean that God is not sure about you. a Believer is sure about Christ. The assured believer is assured about himself that he is in Christ.

But as God works in you and as you wait and struggle for Assurance knowing that it can be had but feeling the pain of not having it, you may yet hope in God who knows who are his Who is working in you and it's in his wisdom. That you don't have Assurance yet.

As soon as it would be good for you to have, you will have it. and so the work that the Lord is doing in, you is always worthwhile while you wait for him to do a different or a particular work in you. In this case, giving you Assurance of Faith, trust the Lord with everything.

Even with your lack of assurance.

So we may wait long and conflict with many difficulties before he be a partaker of it, yet being enabled by the spirit to know the things which are freely given him of God. He may without extraordinary revelation. And the right use of ordinary means attain their unto. Therefore it is the duty of everyone.

To give all diligence. To make his calling and election short. That thereby his heart. May be enlarged in peace and joy in the Holy Ghost in love and thankfulness to God and in strength and cheerfulness. In the duties of obedience, the proper fruits. Of this assurance. So Not only is Assurance, sweet and strong and good in itself.

But God in the Overflow of his generosity when he gives you to know that you are his he gives you other things. What were some of those other things that we heard about last week? Joy. Peace. But not just joy and peace, but love to God, thankfulness to God strength.

Is it off again? I don't know why he keeps dying this morning.

Thank you. But what does God give you by convincing you that he you are his He increases your love to him, he increases your thankfulness to him. He increases your desire for that. Fullness of blessedness that you are going to have when you see him and when you are perfected and even when He having gathered all

whom he is saving to himself and Sanctified all of them.

You will be resurrected and so there is this there is this proper fruit of assurance. So remember, last week we talked about Knowing what kind of tree it is. If it's bearings the fruit of obedience and Zeal for Holiness, you say, haha, it's an assurance tree. That's the that's the fruit that grows from assurance.

That is produced by Assurance. If it is producing complacency, you're not really healing life. Working hard at, loving God and obeying him, you know, being full of desire for worldly things. Somebody who's full, and Is not even. Enticed by honey. The the way the Proverbs, described If, if you don't have desire for Holiness and obedience, Then that's not the fruit of assurance.

It's the fruit of something else. But with all of these fruits, with all of these results and everything that has been said so far, they finally draw the conclusion. So far, is it from inclining, men to looseness. And this is something that had to be stated of course, against the papists.

Papists didn't want anyone having Assurance. So long as they were selling Grace, they wanted you to feel like you needed more of what they were buying. Or what you needed to buy, more of what they were selling. The armenians of course placing more. in man's hands.

in Salvation or placing someone in man's hands in in Salvation, we're against the doctrine of assurance. But really any Has a guilty conscience. And does not have. Love for God himself. The light in God himself will hear or think about this Doctrine and say, if I could know that I was saved, all I would do is sin.

Because they don't love God himself. Because they don't. they don't hate their sin. It's not a fault in the doctrine, it's a fault. In the person who's thinking about the doctrine A Believer. Thanks if only, I could know that I was his, if I could be sure that I was in a state of Grace.

What a help that would be to me. To not have these doubts to love him or all the more fully to be unrestrained in my obedience and Devotion to him. So you hear about, you hear the same Doctrine one from someone who's in a state of grace longing for Assurance.

The other one Really wishing. He could get away with his sin but his guilty conscience is bothering him, but if he could know that he had his ticket punched boy, he would just go ahead and sin and he says about the doctrine that he finds men to looseness. Sorry, but we're not going to listen to what this guy says about Doctrine.

so far, is it from inclining mental business. So the proof texts which I just Gave you at the bottom of the page including an extra verse or two here. From from what they included. The the proof texts are basically just places where Something related to Assurance and a strong prohibition against sin, or a strong exhortation to Holiness are combined together.

So that you will know that. From God. he's he tells us that The fact that he enables Believers to know that they are saved, Is something that he uses in those whom he is helping battle against your sin. But this is a weapon. This is armor for battling against your sin.

So first, John 2. verses one to two, we've included also verse three, my little children. Children. Do you know who? John calls, my little children here. All believers. So even your daddy, Even your grandpa. If he's, if he's a believer in Jesus Christ, John the Apostle, he was pretty old when he wrote this, but that's not the only reason why.

And when I see a couple of my kids and we try to do it on the down low, we're kind of Try to be the invisible family sometimes, but you may have heard me say my darlings or my dear ones, my little children. All right, my little children the Apostle writes to the Believers to the church.

These things I write to you so that you may not sin. Okay, so why is first John written? We all answer from first, John 5, 13. That you may know that you have eternal life. and that knowing you may continue to believe why else is first. John written you can answer from first.

John 2, verse 1, that you may not sin. So the same book of the Bible is written for both purposes. Does Assurance of. And find men to looseness. No. Assurance of Faith is what you write to those who are believers, who are my little children in order that they may not sin.

and you should think that way as you are pursuing your own Assurance of Faith. As you are Desiring from God to give you to know that you have eternal life and know that you believe. To know that you have the son that you would not sin. If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the father Jesus Christ, the righteous And he himself is the propitiation for our sins.

Yeah, this is Part of the, that truth of God's word that helps you, that is part of the basis of your Assurance, you know, that if you have Jesus, he has completely taken the wrath of God for your sins. Not there. When when you sit at home, and when you're disciplined, and when you receive your instruction, But hopefully, Mom and Dad have if not then after today.

hopefully all the more so when you sin, they remind you this wasn't just dangerous because you could have gotten hurt. This wasn't just Bad because dishonoring mom and dad disrupts God's design for the home. All those other things are true. But you breaking the fifth commandment just now deserves the wrath of God.

If there is not Jesus on the cross. To endure all the the glory of God in opposition to your sin you would perish for what you just did. It's not just talking back or scowling look at Mommy or saying wait or why, or whatever it is instead of Oh, yes, ma'am.

It's just it's a raft, deserving sin against God and then you tell them, but there is in Jesus. And he has suffered all of the wrath of God. For everyone who believes in him. You believe in Jesus Christ, there there's no anger against you from God for this. There's no punishment against you for from, From God, for, And the reason we have discipline is not in order to punish you.

For your sin. It's because he who has taken all of the punishment. Has said that he will use this to drive the Folly far from your soul. To give you faith in Jesus Christ, to give you to hate your sin. the rod is a, you know, you can use use the rod on an animal.

It's behavioral training. You use the rod on a criminal, it's punishment. It's supposed to be Use the rod on a covenant child. It's a means of Grace. It's used. It's the discipline of the Lord. It is employed. In faith. But there's so much assurance and comfort in the word propitiation.

Which means the one who has taken entirely the wrath of God. So God is only favorable towards us even when he has fatherly displeasure. Towards us and our sin, he has favorable towards us in his fatherly. Disposure, that's something. We can't Branch off and do too much right now.

But he himself is a propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the whole world. and of course not all without exception. There are those for

whom Christ didn't die. How do we know they're not saved? Christ saves everyone. He doesn't. Yeah, he doesn't fail.

In his atonement or his salvation. And God does not doubly punish sins. If Jesus Christ had taken away, the wrath of God for all without exception, then there would be no wrath of God, for for any Sinners or God would be unjust to put anyone in hell. When it says not for ours only, but also for the whole world the Apostle is reminding the the believer.

He's reminding you. As you as you, maybe have sinned again. And it's troubling you because of how many times you've committed the same sin or you've sinned. So soon, After a very sweet and Rich private or family or public Worship interaction with God or you've sinned so severely and it's the sort of thought or even action that you're horrified could even come out of a Christian right now you're wondering, can there be still enough propitiation for me?

And the Apostle comes by the spirit. He says, oh yes, not just for you, but for the whole world. Of Believers. There's enough wrath swallowing in Jesus Christ that God will never stop being favorable to anyone who believes in the Lord. Jesus Christ. So very strong. Material here for Assurance of Faith.

Of course. Because it's a book of the Bible designed to give us Assurance of F. But also, to stir us up against sin. These things are right to you so that you may not sin. Right before that. And then, right after verse 3, Now by this, we know that we know him, if we keep his Commandments.

The Jesus who did this to take away the guilt of your sin Did not do it. So that you could keep going unchecked in the committing of your sin, and the stain of your sin in the under the power of your sin. And the person who holds to this Jesus, who has taken away his guilt holds to the Jesus who also cleanses him from all unrighteousness.

probably can't spend. As much Exposition time in the other passages. but Romans 6 1, what shall we say, then shall we continue in sin that Grace May abound. So if I know that I'm in a state of grace, should I keep going and sinning? Is certainly not how surely who died to sin live any longer in it.

And he talks about Union with Christ. And And what you are offering yourself. Unto, and you're a slave of one or the other either sin or God. But again. knowing that you're in a state of grace, is knowing that you are dead. To your sin. it no longer has claim upon you Titus 2.

and they gave verse 11 12 and 14. So we just included verse 13. For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts. We should live soberly. That means seriously intentionally weightily. Righteously and godly in the present age.

Looking for the Blessed, hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us. All right, so you've got The certainty of your Assurance. You weren't saved by a mere man. You weren't saved by what you did. You are saved by Jesus.

Who is not just our savior. But our great God and savior. Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us. Redeems from what and for what? Redeem us from Every Lawless deed. And for what and purify for himself, his own special people. And what is this purification?

It's not just the removal of guilt. Look at the end of verse 14. Zealous. For good works. So, are you zealous for? Good works? I heard a young man. yesterday. We were done with. with the men's breakfast. And we were gonna, we were gonna be doing some Chores around the campus and this young man heard a chore that he knows how to do at home.

He heard that something was going to be swept with great joy. He declared I can do that. I can sweep. he was in that moment zealous for that good work. Are you zealous for? Good works. for all the things that God calls good works. When you hear about it in the Bible, You say Jesus saved me to do that?

Because I am Christ's and he is mine and his Spirit is working in me. I can do that. You get up in the morning and maybe not the first thought you have remaining flesh, but eventually in God's mercy especially if you have that habit of of very early.

Immediate morning secret prayer. Secret Workshop. you remember. That there are good works for you to walk in today and you are eager to do them. If that's not how you are living. Then Jesus has died for you to do differently than you are currently living. One of the things that Jesus gave himself for, Is so that we could be zealous for good works, does it give us Assurance to know that he gave himself for us?

Absolutely. But that Assurance has also tied, To knowing and Desiring what he gave himself for. That he would purify for himself. His own special, people zealous for good works. Second Corinthians 7 1. Therefore, having these promises beloved Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the Flesh and spirit perfecting Holiness in the fear of God.

So, having the promises knowing that you're beloved, is a motivation For sanctification. It's a motivation for Holy living. Again, what can be more? Assuring then to know that you have no condemnation in Christ Jesus, there is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. And just if you scan down, Romans 8, 1-14 if you're a second half of Romans 8 lover, I want you to become a whole Romans 8 lover.

Romans 8, doesn't begin in verse 28. you know, be the whole book of Romans, I'll ever be a Genesis one to Revelation, 22 lover but specifically When you are considering the,

The. I want to say dessert, I don't want to make it sound like you deserve it. Which you don't deserve dessert. Abounding Grace from Dad and Mom. But The sweets of the second half. Of Romans 8, they come hand in hand with a sword, the battle in the first half of Romans 8, which you wage because you are his 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 for the law of the spirit of life in Christ, Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do and that it was weak through the flesh. God did by sending his own son. And the likeness of sinful flesh on account of sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, that okay.

So here you have a purpose statement, does it incline mendlessness? From a couple chapters previous, shall we continue and sin that Grace May abound. No. That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in. Who do not walk according to the flesh. But according to the spirit, Okay, when you believe in Jesus Christ, Or the only way that anyone can be righteous with God is by the righteous requirement of God being fulfilled for us by Jesus walking according to the righteous.

Requirement of the law that Jesus obeying in our place, but One of the purposes. For which he has not only lived and obeyed and died and risen, and descended, and taken his seat and reigned for us. One of the purposes for which he has done. That, is that the righteous requirement of the law?

Might might be not just have been fulfilled for us and what Jesus did but start to be fulfilled in. Not walk according to the flesh, but according to the spirit If you truly have Jesus, the true Jesus changes how you walk. He produces obedience living. Obedient living for those who live according to the flesh that their minds

on the things of the flesh, those who live, according to the spirit, the things of the spirit.

To be carnally minded as death. To be spiritually minded, as life and peace. Carnal mind is an enmity against God is not subject to the law of God nor indeed can it be. So those who are in the flesh, cannot please God. Okay, so several verses in a row, they're not part of the original proof text is one of the reasons I didn't want to make proof text, but several verses in a row that say if your response to what you think is knowing that you're a Christian, if your response to Assurance of Faith is to walk in sin, to feel free to sin to indulge a desire to sin, then you are not in Christ, you are not in the spirit, you are in the flesh.

He keeps he keeps saying this is what it looks like to be in the flesh. This is what it looks like to be in the spirit. This is what it looks like to be in the flesh. This is what it looks like to be in the spirit. Why is he doing that?

So that you can hold both mirrors up to yourself. And say, wait a minute. I ain't the sin that I keep committing. I'm walking in the spirit. I love to please God. Or you can say I've got all of these catechism answers and things that I've been taught and or I've been teaching my own children or I've been teaching the church. And yet.

I often, you know, I'm using those things to indulge my sin and if you are, if you are Desiring, more of your sin rather than Desiring, To please Christ, then this This is a painful mirror to look into. It's, but Verse 9. But you are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if indeed the spirit of God dwells in you, Now, if anyone does not have the spirit of Christ, he is not is And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the spirit is life because of righteousness.

But if the spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells, and you, he who raised Christ from the dead, will also give life to your mortal bodies through the spirit, dwells in you therefore Brethren. We are debtors not to live, not to the flesh to live, according to the flesh.

Says, what is Assurance of Faith, say Assurance of face says, look at what I've been given. I'm a debtor, I've been given Christ. I've been given the spirit. I've been given a desire to obey. And this has put me under obligation, not Not freeing me to do what my flesh feels like doing.

it's put me under obligation indebted me, to the spirit who has done this, to the Christ who has done this. For, if you live, according to the flesh, you will die. But if by the spirit you put to death, the Deeds of the body you will live for as many as are led by the spirit of God.

These are the sons of God. And then again, The combination of assurance and desire Zeal for Holiness. First, John 3 verse 3. But we'll we'll build up to it with the sweetness of assurance in verses one, and two behold, what manner of love. The father has bestowed on us that we should be called children of God.

Therefore, the world does not know us because it did not know him. Beloved. Now, we are children of God. And yet it has not yet been revealed what we shall be. But we know that when he is revealed we shall be likened for we shall see him as he is and everyone who has this.

Hope Okay. What is your hope? What are you? Certain of if you're assured of your faith. You're assured that you are his child. You are assured that you will see. You're assured that when you see him, you will be likened. These are components of what you are. Sure of If?

if you have this hope, Therefore everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself just as he is pure. If your hope is that you're going to be as holy as Jesus one day. And you're rejoicing in that and you're beholding that love. That's the sweetest thing for you.

If your Is that you're going to be as holy as Jesus one day. That's, that's the Christian hope children. Not that you're going to be good enough not to need discipline one day, although we hope for that. Not that you are going to feel good about yourself and not mess up your life or anybody else's, although We hope for that.

The Christian hope is that you are going to be as holy as Jesus one day. And if that's the hope that he has given you, then, what do you do in that hope? Well, you purify yourselves as he is pure you aim with your life. At being as holy as Jesus and praise God, he has given us Jesus himself.

Who is the one who makes us holy, and he's even told us the things that he uses. To make us as holy as Jesus. And so you do those things trusting in Jesus aiming at being as holy as Jesus. So far. Is such a Doctrine. From inclining, men to looseness.

Amen, let's pray. Our gracious. God and our heavenly father. Give us this desire. To be as holy as Jesus. Give us this hope that we shall be. We do pray. Lord that for each one, you would not only bring us to Faith in Jesus Christ. That we would be sure of him but bring us to Assurance of Faith.

That we would be sure that we are. And thereby. Giving us this, hope this certainty drive us to love him. And to desire to be as holy as he is. Grant that we ask especially is now we come to Worship Him this and to worship you in him to draw near to you through him.

And use your means even in the worship, as part of your work and conforming us to His Image. We ask in his name, amen.