

Claiming the Faith

Lesson #19

Where is our Hope?

Resources Needed

Westminster Shorter Catechism Q. 82-89
Book of Confessions Overview

0:00 Welcoming Prayer: *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less* - by Edward Mote

My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in every high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil.

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand:
all other ground is sinking sand. Amen.

0:05 Key Concepts

Repentance
Confession

0:10 Key Scriptures

1 John 1: 8-10

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

0:15 Exposition

0:30 Discussion and Reflection

1. If Jesus has already died for our salvation, and God has chosen us as elect, why then is the practice of confession and the repentance of sin necessary for the believer?
2. When we confess our sins, do we confess them to the person we wronged, to God in prayer, both, neither, or someone else? What factors help you decide your answer?
3. How is the corporate confession in Reformed worship a helpful part of your expression of faith?

0:45 Concluding Remarks

Claiming the Faith

We are led to confession somewhat through the backdoor. God has called and chosen each of us to live a life of faith, perfected only by His will and the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Yet, we are also called to confess our sin, repent of our transgressions before God. While the act of repentance is a sharing of our wrongs outwardly, to God or to others, that is less the important aspect of repentance to God than the *awareness* and *contrition* we receive in confessing ourselves. As we become more self-aware in our faith, we are likely to live in ways that lessen the chance for recidivism in our sinful nature. Though we'll never be free from sin in life, we are called to this way of living that urges us away from sin.

0:50 Sending Prayer

His oath, his covenant, his blood,
support me in the whelming flood;
when all around my soul gives way,
he then is all my hope and stay.

When he shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in him be found:
dressed in his righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne.

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand:
all other ground is sinking sand. Amen.

Notes