

Mal. 4:1-3 (WCF 8:8) “Christ Makes Sure”

For the Children: Some children like to play with Lego. These days, there are some pretty complicated Lego sets around. Of course, the Lego box has all the parts you need already made for you. But that's not much help if you don't know how to follow instructions and put it all together! The Lord Jesus did everything necessary to save us on the cross. But now He also does everything to help us use what He has done for us, so we believe in Him and follow Him. He does this through His Word and His Holy Spirit. **Questions:** What is the “Day of the Lord”? How is the Lord Jesus like the “sun”? What does He do to make sure we receive all His benefits?

Introduction:

First Point: Christ Makes Sure Redemption Is Applied

- 1) His Present Work on Earth: Christ applies His finished work of redemption by interceding for us at His Father's right hand in heaven; but He also “applies and communicates” that work on earth, by means of His Word and Spirit. That work on earth involves revealing the mysteries of salvation to the elect, enabling them to believe and obey the Word and governing their hearts by Word and Spirit (WCF 8:8)
- 2) The Day of the Lord: This day will be one of destruction for the wicked, but peace and joy for God's people. The Day of the Lord is any day the Lord delivers His people and thwarts the wicked. It includes His returning of His people from Exile – but more so the First Coming of Christ. But full justice to this text can only be done by including the Day of Judgement in it as well
- 3) The Sun of Righteousness: The sun warms, illumines, guides, heals and brings gladness. Christ, who is the Righteousness of God and the Light of the world, brings all of these things in the fullest measure – already when He first came into the world, but especially when He comes again. The “wings” of the sun could be its rays, or its rapid progress through the heavens, leaving healing in its wake
- 4) Skipping Calves: The joy of salvation that He brings is put in terms of His people going forth from darkness and fear like calves skipping out of their stalls
- 5) Preparation of Glory: These words also excite the believer's hope, because this Day has not yet come in fullness. It is being “prepared.” We have to wait patiently and confidently. The confidence comes from looking to Christ and His Word, not by looking to ourselves

Second Point: Christ Makes Sure Our Enemies Are Destroyed

- 1) Warning and Encouragement: There is a huge contrast in the way the Day of the Lord comes to the wicked. This is a warning to those who do not fear the Lord. It is said as an encouragement to His oppressed people. For the Lord Jesus ensures that His redeeming work is “certainly and effectually” applied also by overcoming His and our enemies (WCF 8:8). Twice we are reminded that God can do this because He is the Lord of Hosts. We should therefore not live in terror of Satan, sin, death, persecutions or the seductions of the world
- 2) A Day of Burning Chaff: Chaff is the useless part of grain, separated out by winnowing then burned. The intensity of the agony of hell is put in terms of burning in a furnace, even hotter than a normal fire. Every evildoer – those who do not fear God – will meet this end. The eternal destruction is total, “root and branch”
- 3) Trodden Underfoot: God's people, however, will be vindicated. We will be involved in judging the wicked, in Christ's judging. This is put in terms of God's people treading the wicked underfoot like ashes. It is not said to encourage revenge, but to assure us that God will see justice restored
- 4) Preparation of Justice: Christ is still preparing the Day that will bring an end to all our enemies. We must be patient and trust His timing. His administration is “wonderful” but also “unsearchable” (WCF 8:8)

Conclusion: