

Ps. 31:9-18 (WCF 11:5) “Consequences of the Christian’s Sin”

For the Children: When I was a teenager I used to make fireworks as a hobby. But I knew that making bombs was dangerous. Many young people had suffered serious consequences from playing carelessly with such things. So I stayed away from the more dangerous things. God’s Word warns us about how dangerous sin is, especially when we don’t repent of it. Knowing about all the terrible consequences should make us want to stay away from sin – even though we know that God’s children can’t lose their salvation.

Questions: How do we know God’s children will always remain “justified”? What made David think God would help him? What are some of the consequences of sin to ourselves and others?

Introduction:

First Point: Justification Is Permanent

- 1) **Once-for-All:** Justification is permanent because it is based on the once-for-all work of Christ, not on sinful man’s works. See Rom. 5:12ff; Heb. 10:10; and WCF 11:3. Christ’s “satisfaction” of His Father’s justice is full, resulting in a full discharge of our debt. All our sins are now forgiven us, including those of the future. God, in His justice, will not uncover them again. Therefore God “continues to forgive the sins of those that are justified” and “they can never fall from the state of justification” (WCF 11:5)
- 2) **The Basis of David’s Plea for Deliverance:** The basis on which David pleads for God to deliver him is therefore not his own works, but God’s character – His “lovingkindness” (v. 16) and “grace” (v. 9). It is on the basis of His covenant of grace (v. 15)
- 3) **The Deliverance David Seeks:** David is distressed at the slander and reproach men had brought against him (vss. 11-13). These men also sought his life. In this, David was a type of Christ, who was unjustly slandered and killed because of our sins. But unlike Christ, David was also a sinner who provoked enmity. He confesses that sin (v. 10) and sought deliverance from it. Satan, with his allies (our old nature, the world) uses all that as ammunition to oppose us, as he did with David. Deliverance from all that is found in the Lord, because He upholds His own declaration that we are justified in His sight

Second Point: But Sin Still Has Its Consequences

- 1) **Deliverance Through Means:** The Lord delivers us from Satan and sin using His Word and His Spirit. His Word warns of the consequences of sin to God’s people. The Spirit enables us to care about that. For the Lord also gives us the gift of faith, the instrument by which we are justified. That gift of faith brings with it the desire and ability to repent of sins, instead of spiritual laziness
- 2) **Consequences to Ourselves:** Sin – especially when we do not repent of it – can cause physical, emotional and spiritual problems (vss. 9-10). See 1 Cor. 11:30, Pss. 32, 51. Prayer, the study of God’s Word and our love of worship may all suffer. Other sins may follow, such as anger. We may cope poorly with trials. There may be a loss of our sense of assurance. Unrepented sin does great damage in our personal lives
- 3) **Consequences to Others:** Sin, especially when unrepented, is a bad witness to unbelievers. It provokes them to despise God and His people all the more. It creates trouble within the church. It hinders us in our task to help others, also to admonish them. It hinders our use of our gifts and service in office or other ministries. Unrepented sin does great harm to others as well
- 4) **The Way Back:** Clearly, the way to undo this damage is to repent, with the Lord’s help – as David acknowledged his iniquity and called on the Lord for deliverance. See WCF 11:5

Conclusion: