Isaiah 1:10-20

¹⁰ Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom! Give ear to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah! ¹¹ "What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the LORD; I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of well-fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats. ¹² "When you come to appear before me, who has required of you this trampling of my courts? ¹³ Bring no more vain offerings; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and Sabbath and the calling of convocations—I cannot endure iniquity and solemn assembly. ¹⁴ Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hates; they have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them.

¹⁵When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood. ¹⁶Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil, ¹⁷ learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause. ¹⁸ "Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. ¹⁹ If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; ²⁰ but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be eaten by the sword; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

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The Heidelberg Catechism

1.Q. What is yr only comfort in life and in death?

A. That I am not my own, but belong – body and soul, in life and in death – to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven: in fact all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

2.Q. What must you know to live and die in the joy of this comfort?

A. Three things: first how great my sin and misery are; second, how I am set free from all my sins and misery; third how I am to thank God for such deliverance.

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After the talk today, there will be a short Q&A session, time permitting

Next week: Series: The Examined Life Title: How to live wisely (John 12:1-11) Speaker: Andrew Latimer

GET ME OUT OF HERE 'Fed up with religion'

Isaiah 1:10-20

does God like church services?

Worthless worship

■ 'I've had enough of...'

■ 'I cannot endure...'

True worship

• changed lives ¹

■ cleansed sins ²

¹ John 4:23; Philippians 3:3; James 1:26-27; Galatians 5:6; 1 Corinthians 13:2; 1 Peter 3:7; 1 Timothy 5:8; Matthew 5:23

² Ephesians 1:7; Acts 13:38; Luke 24:47; 18:13