

Psalm 16; Lord's Day 16
JESUS BURIED AND DESCENDED INTO HELL

- I. Buried.
 - A. Jesus' burial was a part of the humiliation required by our sins and the punishment they deserve.
 - 1. It was not necessary in order to prove that he was actually dead.
 - 2. Rather, Jesus was buried because the grave is a part of death; burial belongs to the experience of death.
 - B. Jesus was buried to show that He experienced all of death, and that He conquered it too.
 - 1. Jesus entered the grave with His burial to show us that the grave has no victory over us.
 - 2. Jesus' burial was different from ours because He had finished the payment of sin.
 - 3. As proof that He conquered the grave, Jesus changed the grave into a garden, a seedbed.
- II. Jesus' deepest humiliation was His descension into hell.
 - A. There are errant views about Christ's descension into hell taught by Roman Catholics and by Lutherans.
 - 1. Both views are in error.
 - 2. The meaning of I Peter 3:18-20.
 - B. The Reformed faith has always believed that the Apostles' Creed presents a logical order of severity, not a temporal order.
 - 1. This statement expresses powerfully the Bible's teaching on our Lord's suffering.
 - 2. Jesus suffered the agonies of hell (God's wrath), without needing to go to the place of hell.
 - 3. Therefore it is listed last in the Apostles' Creed because it is the worst of His humiliation.
 - C. Jesus' descension into hell provides great comfort to God's people.
 - 1. The knowledge of hell makes us appreciate the wonder of Christ's death.
 - 2. In the times of our greatest temptations and personal crises we may know that Christ went to hell for us.