

Finding Comfort in the Life to Come

1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 22 – Questions 57-58

Main Point:

As long as you live in this fallen world, you will be in need of comfort at times; therefore, find your comfort in and comfort others with the life to come.

1. As long as you live in this fallen world, you will be in need of comfort at times.

2. You can be comforted by knowing what awaits the people of God in the future.

3. Find your comfort in and comfort others with the life to come.

Quotations and Cross-References

Heidelberg Catechism 57 Q: How does “the resurrection of the body” comfort you? A: Not only my soul will be taken immediately after this life to Christ its head, but even my very flesh, raised by the power of Christ, will be reunited with my soul and made like Christ’s glorious body.

2 Corinthians 5:8 ⁸ We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord. (NKJV)

Philippians 3:20-21 ²⁰ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself. (NKJV)

Heidelberg Catechism 58 Q: How does the article concerning “life everlasting” comfort you? A: Even as I already now experience in my heart the beginning of eternal joy, so after this life I will have perfect blessedness such as no eye has seen, no ear has heard, no human heart has ever imagined: a blessedness in which to praise God eternally.

Kevin DeYoung “It’s hard to grasp the goodness and the light of life everlasting, because ‘no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined’ the blessedness that will be ours in the age to come ... But we must trust that God will not disappoint ... Eternal life in God’s presence will be such a weight of glory that we will feel as if we never knew happiness before and all our troubles will be in a moment forgotten as so puny and so trivial and to be utterly inconsequential compared to all this joy.”

Romans 8:18 ¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us. (NKJV)

1 Corinthians 15:45 ⁴⁵ And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam *became* a life-giving spirit. (NKJV)

Ephesians 1:14 ¹⁴ [the Spirit] ... is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory. (NKJV)

Thomas Watson “We are more sure to arise out of our graves than out of our beds.”

William Gurnall “Nothing is more contrary to a heavenly hope than an earthly heart.”

Colossians 3:1-4 ¹ If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. ³ For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. (NKJV)