

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 1

Introduction

- I. In preaching the catechism, we preach God's Word. A confession is speaking after God.
- II. Catechism preaching is topical; it focuses on a doctrine from the point of view of all of Scripture.
- III. Catechism preaching is personal; it relates doctrine to my life.

“My Only Comfort”

- I. What it is
 - A. “What is thy only comfort?”
 1. This question is necessary; man needs comfort.
 2. This question is important; it deals with soul and death and eternity and God.
 3. This question is personal; it demands an answer from all.
 - B. There is only one answer, one exclusive, all embracing comfort
 1. It begins with man saying, “I am not my own” -- something man doesn't want to say
 2. It includes saying, “I do belong to Jesus”
 - a. This is a living relationship of faith
 - b. In this relationship He is responsible for me
 - c. In this relationship He rules me by His grace
- II. Why it is comforting
 - A. This comfort meets my real need -- my sin
 1. Many don't see this as our real need; and so divide the needs of body and soul
 2. But Christ brings them together and meets them all
 - B. This comforts me because of what Christ has done
 1. He purchased me with his blood
 2. He defeated the Devil
 3. He took responsibility for my sins before God
 - C. This comforts me because of what Christ is doing
 1. Not sparing me from suffering
 2. But promising
 - a. Nothing can happen against his will
 - b. All that happens will serve my salvation
- III. In What it Results
 - A. When you have this, then you will be thankful, you'll find joy, there'll be assurance of eternal life, and you'll also have the grace to bear troubles of life with patience.
 - B. How? Through the threefold knowledge of misery, deliverance and gratitude