

# **Heidelberg Catechism**

**Part 2: Deliverance**

**Lord's Day 16**

**Question and Answer 40-44**

# Heidelberg Catechism

Lord's Day 16

Question 40:

Why did Christ have to suffer death?

Answer 40:

Because God's justice and truth require it: nothing else could pay for our sins except the death of the Son of God.

# Heidelberg Catechism

<sup>25</sup>Far be it from you to do such a thing—to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?”

**Genesis 18:25**

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<sup>25</sup>God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—<sup>26</sup>he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

**Romans 3:25-26**

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<sup>36</sup>Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."

**John 3:36**

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Lord's Day 16

Question 41:

Why was he "buried"?

Answer 41:

His burial testifies that he really died.

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<sup>9</sup>He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.

**Isaiah 53:9**

<sup>3</sup>For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.

**1 Corinthians 15:3-4**

# Heidelberg Catechism

## Lord's Day 16

### Question 42:

Since Christ has died for us, why do we still have to die?

### Answer 42:

Our death does not pay the debt of our sins. Rather, it puts an end to our sinning and is our entrance into eternal life.



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<sup>24</sup>“I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.

**John 5:24**

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<sup>9</sup>For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>10</sup>He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

**1 Thessalonians 5:9-10**

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Question 43:

What further benefit do we receive from Christ's sacrifice and death on the cross?

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## Lord's Day 16

### Answer 43:

By Christ's power our old selves are crucified, put to death, and buried with him, so that the evil desires of the flesh may no longer rule us, but that instead we may offer ourselves as a sacrifice of gratitude to him.

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<sup>5</sup>If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. <sup>6</sup>For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— <sup>7</sup>because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.

**Romans 6:5-7**

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<sup>8</sup>Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. <sup>10</sup>The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. <sup>11</sup>In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

**Romans 6:8-11**

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<sup>1</sup>Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual <sup>£</sup> act of worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

**Romans 12:1-2**

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## Lord's Day 16

### Question 44:

Why does the creed add, "He descended to hell"?

### Answer 44:

To assure me during attacks of deepest dread and temptation that Christ my Lord, by suffering unspeakable anguish, pain, and terror of soul, on the cross but also earlier, has delivered me from hellish anguish and torment.



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<sup>45</sup>From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. <sup>46</sup>About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?*"—which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

**Matthew  
27:45-46**

# Heidelberg Catechism

<sup>40</sup>But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence?" <sup>41</sup>We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." <sup>42</sup>Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." <sup>43</sup>Jesus answered him, "*I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.*"

**Luke 23:40-43**