

Catechetical Sermon, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 16, "Dead to Sin"**

Scripture Lesson: Romans 6:1 – 11

<b>Lesson Aim</b>	To understand two things: First, what Christ has done for us in his humiliation: his death, burial and descent into hell and second, what the effects or benefits of Christ's work are for us now and into eternity.
<b>Steps to Learning</b>	Read the <a href="#">Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Day 16</a> and <a href="#">Romans 6:1–11</a> . Discuss the sermon and the particulars of the lesson below. It may be best to work through the material over several days or sessions.
<b>Discuss</b>	<p><b>Why did Christ have to die?</b> Since the wages of sin is death, Christ had to die to pay for our sins so that we would no longer be under the condemnation of sin and death.</p> <p><b>Why did Christ need to be buried?</b> To demonstrate that he was really and truly dead.</p> <p><b>What kind of death did Jesus experience?</b> He experienced spiritual, physical and eternal death. By spiritual death we mean he experienced the power of sin (although he was never sinful) and death that affected his soul (and body). By eternal death we mean in one moment, he took on the eternal wrath of God that had belonged to us.</p> <p><b>Did Christ actually descend into hell?</b> No, he figuratively descended into hell by his sacrificial life and death. Because he experienced this, we will never experience actual hell. Praise God!</p> <p><b>What are the effects or benefits of Christ's work for us in this life?</b> Paul makes it clear in Romans 6:1–11 that when Christ died to sin, we did too. That means just as Christ was freed from the power of sin and death, we are too in this life; sin and death do not rule us as they did before we knew Christ. This means we are justified in God's sight, considered to be perfectly righteous. This is a reality that does not change. Nevertheless, we will continue to sin but can now fight against temptation and sin by the power of the Holy Spirit until we die.</p> <p><b>What is the good news found in our physical death?</b> We will stop sinning because we will be in heaven! Once we are in heaven, it will be impossible to sin and we won't want to sin. Praise God!</p>
<b>Bible Reading</b>	<a href="#">Psalms 36–42</a> (Reading through the Psalms)