

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 17, "Resurrection of Christ"

Scripture Lesson: 1 Corinthians 15:1-28

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| Lesson Aim | To understand three things: First, the resurrection of Christ from the dead means that we are justified, second, that we are sanctified and third, that we will be glorified. |
| Steps to Learning | Read the Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Day 17 and 1 Corinthians 15:1-28 . Discuss the sermon and the particulars of the lesson below. It may be best to work through the material over several days or sessions. |
| Discuss | <p>What Scriptural texts did we discuss in the sermon that speak to the bodily resurrection of Christ? Luke 24:37ff and 1 Corinthians 15:3-6.</p> <p>How do these texts prove that Christ was raised from the dead bodily? In the Luke text, Jesus' words to the disciples are recorded in which he allows the disciples to touch his body. Jesus says that he is not a spirit because he has flesh and bones. In the 1 Corinthians text, Paul records the fact that more than five hundred people had seen the risen Christ; there were many witnesses to the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ.</p> <p>How is Christ's resurrection connected to our justification? Justification refers to the biblical doctrine that as a person has true faith in Jesus, he is imputed with the righteousness of Christ and forgiven his sins. This is only possible through the death of Jesus, which satisfies God's wrath that had been against his people. If Christ had merely died, then salvation would be incomplete since death would have mastery over him. But when Christ was raised from the dead, he was vindicated proving that he had mastery over death and the grave. Also, Paul teaches clearly in Romans 4:25: "Jesus was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification."</p> <p>How is Christ's resurrection connected to our sanctification? Sanctification refers to the biblical doctrine that after a person is justified, which is a legal, objective reality, he will be changed personally to die more and more to sin and live unto Christ becoming more like him morally speaking. God the Holy Spirit works to sanctify us through the preaching of the Word of God. But Jesus taught that the Holy Spirit would not be poured out until he was raised from the dead and ascended into heaven.</p> <p>How is Christ's resurrection connected to our glorification? Glorification refers to the biblical doctrine that when we die, we will enter heaven and be perfected morally speaking. In Romans 8, Paul teaches that the Holy Spirit who works sanctification in us, is also the One who is pledge of our blessed resurrection. Paul says that our bodies will be redeemed.</p> |
| Bible Reading | Psalms 43-50 (Reading through the Psalms) |