

SCRIPTURE READING: Ps. 124 – 125

EXTRA READING: Apostle's Creed – Canons V, 7 (page 113)

SINGING: 76:1-4 – 134:1-3 – 416:3, 5, 7 – 355:1-3

Opening Observations on the Heidelberg Catechism

- Why is this Catechism 3rd popular Protestant writing next to Bible?

- What is the meaning and intention of a 'catechism'?

- In what context was this catechism written?

THE ONLY COMFORT IN LIFE & DEATH

I. NO MORE TO BELONG TO MYSELF II TO BELONG TO JESUS CHRIST

I. WHAT IS YOUR ONLY COMFORT IN LIFE AND DEATH?

A. This question is very relevant to us all: *What is **your** only Comfort?*

1. need to understand 'comfort' as more than *sweet, warm feeling*

a. Latin root: *com – forte*

b. OT comfort: *to make someone breathe – deliver*

c. NT comfort(er): *to be his/her advocate*

2. Personal question: *what is your only comfort – certainly life/death?*

a. what holds you up facing life and death?

B. Lord's Day One is the *confession of faith of an assured Christian*

1. I am no longer my own – don't belong to me/I/myself

a. we were not created to *be on our own*

b. our fall tore us away from all security and cast us upon ourselves

• that means we are responsible to *handle life and death*

c. what comfort is to have to your own lord and savior?

II. The believer's only comfort in life and death: *to belong to Jesus Christ*

A. "My only comfort in life and death is ..."

1. that I belong (now) to my faithful **Savior Jesus Christ**
a. because He chose me rather I chose Him (Rom. 9:16)

2. that I belong to *my* faithful Savior

3. that I belong to my *faithful* Savior

4. that I belong to Him Who saved me with His *precious blood!*

5. that I belong to Him Who is the Almighty Deliver

6. that I belong to the faithful Keeper of Israel (Ps. 124/125)

7. that I belong to Him Who is my secret Enabler

Closing Thought: *Is there a portion more beautiful than this?*

A. Even best the world offers comes not even close to this

B. But can I become partaker of this greatest comfort in life and death?

THOUGHTS ON THE COMFORT OF SALVATION

In creation we learn to see God's hand; in salvation we learn to know His heart.

We are not saved by our giving our heart to God but God's giving of His Son and Spirit to our heart.

Salvation is not deliverance from hell alone; it is foremost the deliverance of sin and Satan.