Psalter 385:1,3 - 136:1,2,3,4 - 81:1,2,3 - 116:1,2,3,4

Scripture: Philippians 3

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 22

**WHAT CHRIST OBTAINED FOR HIS CHURCH AFTER THIS LIFE**

1. Soul-communion with Christ;
2. Being conformable to Christ;
3. Communion with God through Christ.

**Questions for discussion & meditation**

1. LD 22 is about the resurrection from the dead and life eternal. Why would in answer 57 the name of Christ be mentioned so often?
2. Do you sometimes wonder whether the resurrection of all persons that ever lived is actually possible? After all, so many bodies of people have ceased to exist already! How should we see this?
3. Why is the resurrection actually necessary? All what matters is that our soul is saved and may go to heaven, doesn’t it?
4. The Bible speaks about two kinds of resurrection. What do you read about this in Daniel 12:2? What does this serious text mean? On which side do you stand?
5. The HC uses the word ‘joy’ to describe eternal life. That begins already in this life. Do you know something of that joy? What can we deduce from the fact that the HC specifically uses the word ‘joy’ for the service of the Lord?
6. Questions 37 and 38 of the Shorter Westminster Catechism deal with the death and resurrection of believers also. What new things can you learn from these questions when compared with LD 22?

**Q. 37. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at death?**

A. The souls of believers are at their death made perfect in holiness [a], and do immediately pass into glory [b]; and their bodies, being still united to Christ [c], do rest in their graves till the resurrection [d].

[a]. Heb. 12:23

[b]. Luke 23:43; 2 Cor. 5:6, 8; Phil. 1:23

[c]. 1 Thess. 4:14

[d]. Dan. 12:2; John 5:28-29; Acts 24:15

**Q. 38. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection?**

A. At the resurrection, believers being raised up in glory [a], shall be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the day of judgment [b], and made perfectly blessed in the full enjoying of God [c] to all eternity [d].

[a]. I Cor. 15:42-43

[b]. Matt. 25:33-34, 46

[c]. Rom. 8:29; 1 John 3:2

[d]. Ps. 16:11; 1 Thess. 4:17