

He Descended into Hell Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 16, Part 2

1. DO WE MEAN IT: The phrase "he descended into hell" is _____ and often _____, such that it is important that we understand it rightly.

2. DEFENDING THE DESCENT: The phrase has two meanings that are both _____, are embraced in the _____ of the church, and are consistent with each other.
 - a. Jesus truly died bodily and descended to the _____ of the _____ ("sheol" in Psalm 16:10).

"Wherein consisted Christ's humiliation after his death? Answer: Christ's humiliation after his death consisted in his being buried, and continuing in the state of the dead, and under the power of death till the third day; which has been otherwise expressed in these words, he descended into hell." Westminster Larger Catechism, Q&A 50

- b. Throughout his suffering and death, Jesus _____ in his _____ hellish torment. This is not a chronological statement that Jesus went to the place of eternal judgment after he died, since the Bible is clear that this was not the case (Luke 23:43, 46).

"Why does the creed add, 'He descended into hell'? A. 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." Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 44

- c. "He descended into hell" is a _____ description of the spiritual _____ that he experienced throughout his suffering and death on the cross and before: the wrath of God against our sin.

Matthew 26:38 – "Then he said to them, 'My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.'"
 Luke 22:44 – "And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground."
 Matthew 27:46 – "And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'"
 Matthew 27:45 – "Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour."

3. DEEPEST DREAD AND TEMPTATION: This ancient Christ confession isn't just _____; it is _____ for our lives as God's covenant people.
 - a. It matters for our _____.

 - b. It matters in times of _____.

 - c. It matters in times of personal crisis and _____.

 - d. Jesus has gone ahead of you into the _____ and has returned from the _____ victorious.