

THE APOSTLES' CREED: SALVATION FROM THE FIRST TO THE LAST
"I believe in...the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting."

John 3:16–18a

Heidelberg Catechism 1: "What is your only comfort in life and death? That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and death, to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit he also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for him."

1. The Forgiveness of Sins

- a. God does not hold my sins against me:
 - i. Jer 31:34b: "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."
 - ii. Ps 103:12: "as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us."
 - iii. Micah 7:19: "You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea."
 - iv. Isa 38:17b: "In your love you kept me from the pit of destruction; you have put all my sins behind your back."
- b. God accepts us although we are still corrupt and still sin
 - i. Ps 103:14: "for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust."
 - ii. 1 John 2:1–2a: "My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins."
- c. God credits Christ's righteousness to us and accepts us as righteous in his sight.
 - i. Rom 8:1, 34: "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." "Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us."

- ii. 2 Cor 5:21: “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”
“Become” for us same sense as “to be” for Christ: sin was imputed to Christ so that righteousness might be imputed to us.

2. The Resurrection of the Body

- a. 2 Cor 5:8: “We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.”
- b. Job 19:25–26: “I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God.”
- c. 1 Cor 15:22: “For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.”

3. Everlasting Life

- a. John 3:16: “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”
- b. Ps 16:9–11: “Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay. You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.”
- c. John 3:36: “Whoever believes in the Son *has* eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on them.”
- d. John 5:24–29:
Vv. 24–27: “Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and *has now come* when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.
Vv. 28–29: “Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned.”

Summary and conclusion: We have present assurance now and hope for the future because the triune God has provided salvation for those who believe in him.