

The Quest
FOR *Comfort*
— THE STORY OF —
THE HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

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The Quest for Comfort: The Story of the Heidelberg Catechism
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When was the last time you felt bad? Maybe you were very sick. Maybe you did something wrong. Maybe you were lonely or scared.

In times like these we need comfort. We need to know that despite our problems and our sin, God is on our side, working out everything for our good.

Many years ago God used three men to write a little book that explained the only true comfort in life and in death.

These men lived in a time when comfort was badly needed. Most people believed they could have comfort in this life only when they were good. Even if they believed they were good, they had very little comfort about what would happen to them after they died. Few knew the real and lasting comfort that God promises through His Word. That's why these three men wrote their little book.

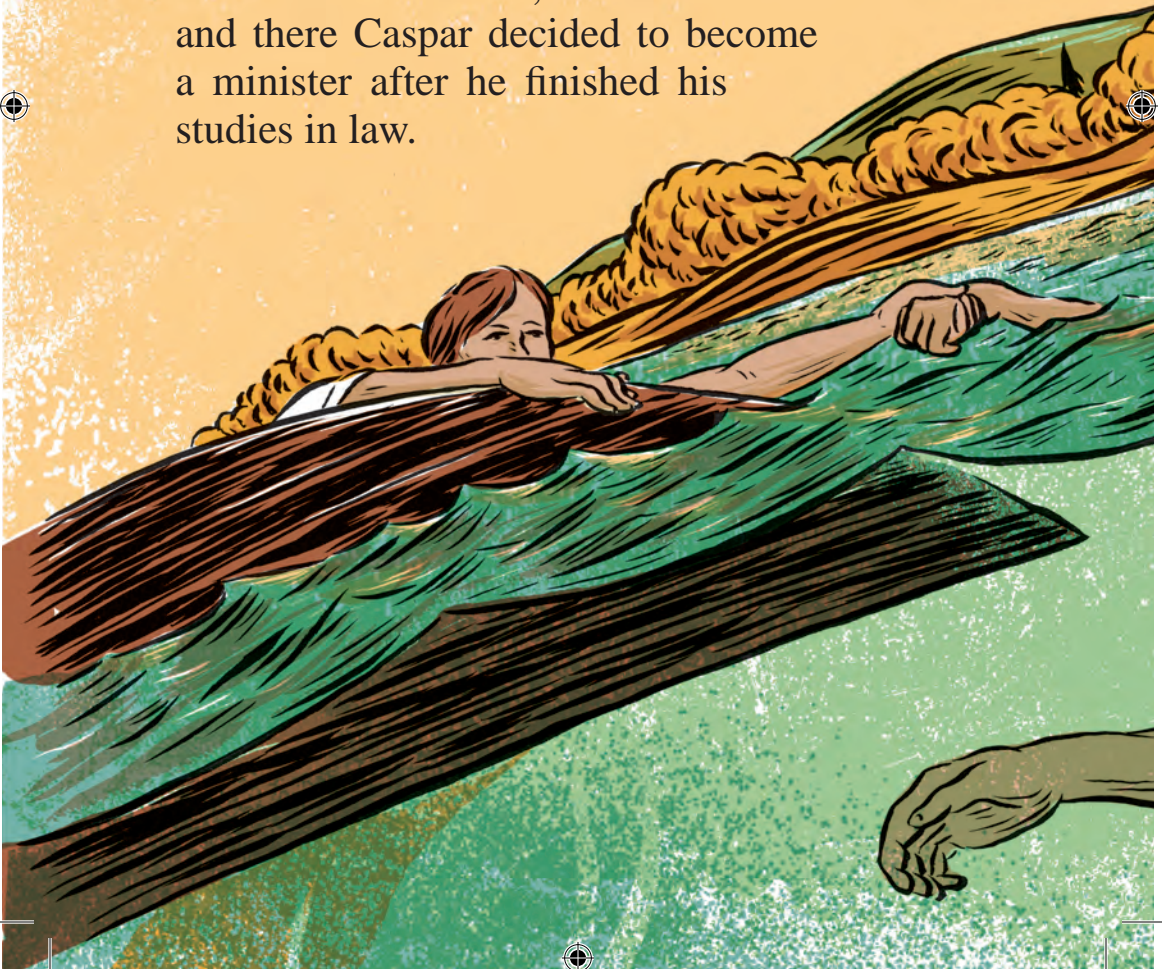
The three men were Caspar Olevianus, Zacharias Ursinus, and Frederick III. The little book they wrote, with God's help, is called the Heidelberg Catechism.



As a young man, Caspar Olevianus thought he was going to be a lawyer. He went to school in France and studied hard. But he also found time to play.

One day he was relaxing along a river with some fellow students. Some of the students decided to get drunk and fool around with a rowboat in the river. While Caspar looked on, the boat flipped upside down, and the students began to drown.

Caspar and others dove in and rescued all of the young men, except one. Herman Louis, the son of Frederick III, was drowned. Then and there Caspar decided to become a minister after he finished his studies in law.





Like many other Protestants of his day, Caspar began his training for the ministry in Geneva, Switzerland, under the teaching of John Calvin.

After his training he returned to his hometown of Treves, Germany, to teach philosophy and Latin. He also began to preach. Caspar's goal was for the church to be reformed according to the Word of God. So he plainly and powerfully preached what the Bible taught. He also told about some of the errors of the Roman Catholic Church.

Angered by his preaching, Roman Catholic leaders ordered him to stop and leave the city. He refused, giving the same answer that Peter and the

apostles gave fifteen hundred years earlier: "We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29).

