

Footstep #6 – Overwhelmed and Yet Victorious - 1513

*“In devils’ dungeon chained I lay
The pangs of death swept o’er me.
My sin devoured me night and day
In which my mother bore me.
My anguish ever grew more rife,
I took no pleasure in my life
And sin had made me crazy.”* (Roland Bainton, *Here I Stand*, p. 50)

The hymn above describes the frustration, sense of helplessness, and depression of an educated man who knows that his eternal life will be in hell because of his sins. Luther was paralyzed as a result of the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church at this time and his belief in an angry God.

Fortunately, the last verse of this hymn explodes in triumph!

*“For I am thine and thou art mine,
And where I am our lives entwine,
The old Fiend cannot shake it.”*

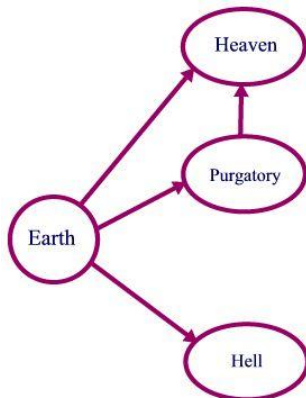


Diagram of the afterlife in the 16th century.