

What We Believe
Westminster Shorter Catechism
Explained with Scripture Proofs

Christian Fundamentals in Q & A Form for All Ages

I am conducting this Bible study to empower you to continue in the faith, stable and steadfast. In today's twisted society, I do not want you shaken from the hope of the gospel you have heard, as the Scripture says many will do. I want to help you mature so that you will not be tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine from the craftiness of human cunning or demonic activity.

The Bible tells us that in these last days, people will not endure sound doctrine but will gather teachers around them to suit their passions and turn away from listening to the truth. I am sure you can see that occurring with increasing frequency everyday.

I, therefore, encourage you to participate with me each week so that you may grow and become stronger in your commitment and service to our Lord. I will do my part to prepare the message for you and pray for every one of you. Do your part to be here and grow in the Word, so that when the time comes, we all can hear the words of the Lord, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Tonight, Discovering Your Life's Purpose II

This message will help you discover your true purpose in life. It will also provide you with a roadmap to fulfilling that purpose in this life and secure for you indescribable eternal blessings in the world to come.

Let's get started and explore the Word of truth to discover your divine purpose for life.

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To help you be steadfast and grounded in the Word of truth, I have selected the Westminster shorter Catechism as a roadmap to strengthen you. I have modified and modernized it so now I am calling it the GLC Catechism.

We will review the Scripture proofs for each question and prayerfully as you hear the Word your eyes will be open, and your faith will be strengthened. Then, I pray you will be able to make a defense to anyone who asks you why you believe what you do.

The first question for discussion.

The Purpose of Life and Scripture

Q. 1. What is the supreme purpose of man?

A. The supreme purpose of man is to glorify God, ^[a] and to enjoy him forever. ^[b]

^[a]. Ps. 86:9; Isa. 60:21; Rom. 11:36; 1 Cor. 6:20; 10:31; Rev. 4:11

^[b]. Ps. 16:5-11; 144:15; Isa. 12:2; Luke 2:10; Phil. 4:4; Rev.21:3-4

Comments

Whether you recognize it or not, all mankind was created for the purpose of glorifying God. Of all the goals a man may set for himself in life, the one most overlooked and even ignored is to fulfill the purpose for which God created him; to glorify God with his life and enjoy the relationship with God.

We all were created for his pleasure not ours. Even though a person may not recognize their responsibility to glorify God, God will still hold a person accountable for not glorifying him. The Scripture tells us **Ro 1:18–20 (ESV) — 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. 19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.**

Solomon previously defined it this way **Ec 12:13 (ESV) — 13 The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.**

There many more Scriptures that support this responsibility to God.

Pr 16:4 (KJV 1900) — 4 The Lord has made all things for himself: Yea, even the wicked for the day of evil.

Ps 100:3 (ESV) — 3 Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

As we are his people and the sheep of his pasture, we owe him the honor of living the life he has granted us for the purpose he placed us here. That is primarily to glorify him!

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God created man and has given tremendous blessings to us. The Scripture says God gives favor and honor and no good thing will he withhold from those who walk uprightly. Meaning we can ask for anything we want and we can have it from God. But there is one thing God will not share with us. And that is his glory. Isaiah 42:8 Glory belongs to no one else but God! All mankind is encouraged to line up with the entire universe **1 Co 6:20 (ESV) — 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.**

We were all created to glorify God regardless to whatever else we do in this life. God says it himself **Is 43:21 (ESV) — 21 the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise.** In declaring praise, people glorify God for he says in **Ps 50:23 (ESV) — 23 The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies me;** when we pray we are like men, when we praise we are like angels

The Bible clearly tells us to give God glory **1 Ch 16:29 (ESV) — 29 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him! Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness;** He is to be glorified in all things. **1 Co 10:31 (ESV) — 31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.**

Every person should live their life with an understanding that God is going to ask for them to give an account. Either they live their life for his glory, or they live their life for their glory? But in the final analysis, God will still get glory as it says **Ex 14:17 (ESV) — 17 And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen.**

We should live our life to give glory to the Father. He is the one who created us. We should give glory to the Son, for He is the one who gave his life for us. We should give glory to the Holy Spirit for He is the one who has given us a new life.

The focus of our life should not be for riches of fame, but it should be for the purpose we were created; to glorify God. Jesus said **Mk 8:34–38 (ESV) — 34 And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 35 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. 36 For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? 37 For what can a man give in return for his soul?**

It is so very sad there many people who are striving for earthly gain and will experience no eternal gain. They have not lived their life according to the purpose of glorifying God. The time they spend on earth is not time lived, but time lost. Solomon puts it this way, **Ec 5:16 (ESV) — 16 This also is a grievous evil: just as he came, so shall he go, and what gain is there to him who toils for the wind?**

We were all created to glorify God. The Word tells us **Mt 5:16 (ESV) — 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.**

God has an expectation of all of us. We should make sure we are giving him glory with our life. Or else we may hear the words **Mt 7:23 (ESV) — 23 And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'**

Why must we glorify God?

- Because he gives us our life.
Ps 100:3 (ESV) — 3 Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
Ro 11:36 (ESV) — 36 For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.
 - He gives us everything we need for life and our survival. Food, water, shelter, etc.
- Because He made all things for His glory.
Pr 16:4 (ESV) — 4 The Lord has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble.
 - If we refuse to give him glory, he still will get it in spite of us. **Remember the rich fool!**
Ex 14:17 (ESV) — 17 And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen.
Ac 12:23 (ESV) — 23 Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last.
Mt 25:31 (ESV) — 31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne.
- Because all creation gives Him glory.

Ps 19:1 (ESV) — 1 The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

Is 43:20 (ESV) — 20 The wild beasts will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people,

- Because He is our hope

Ps 39:7 (ESV) — 7 "And now, O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you.

Ps 62:5 (ESV) — 5 For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him.

- Because we have been adopted into his family.

1 Pe 2:9 (ESV) — 9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Is 43:21 (ESV) — 21 the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise.

- The angels are powerful, but Christ did not take on the nature of angels. He took on the nature of man. ***2 Co 5:21 (ESV) — 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.***
- Though we were made less than the angels, through the grace of God we are now exalted above the angels. We are the bride of Christ!

How should we glorify God?

- By being committed to glorify Him!

Jn 8:50 (ESV) — 50 Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge.

Mt 16:24 (ESV) — 24 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

As you make a commitment to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior, become committed to glorify him! You must exalt him above all things in the earth. There's nothing wrong with having a commitment to other things in life, but they must not supersede your commitment to put God first. The Levites were given their position because they honored God even above their family.

Dt 33:8–9 (ESV) — 8 And of Levi he said, "Give to Levi your Thummim, and your Urim to your godly one, whom you tested at Massah, with whom you quarreled at the waters of Meribah; 9 who said of his father and mother, 'I regard them not'; he disowned his brothers and ignored his children. For they observed your Word and kept your covenant.

Jesus said ***Jn 12:28 (ESV) — 28 Father, glorify your name."*** Then a voice came from heaven: ***"I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."***

- By confessing our sins. Confessing our sins honors God and brings glory to his name.

- Just like the thief on the cross gave glory to God
- ***Lk 23:41–43 (ESV) — 41 And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." 42 And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." 43 And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."***

- *Jos 7:19 (ESV) — 19 Then Joshua said to Achan, "My Son, give glory to the Lord God of Israel and give praise to him. And tell me now what you have done; do not hide it from me."*
- By believing Him.
Consider Abraham: *Ro 4:18–20 (ESV) — 18 In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the Father of many nations, as he had been told, "So shall your offspring be." 19 He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. 20 No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God,*
- By defending His honor.
1 Sa 17:26 (ESV) — 26 And David said to the men who stood by him, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"
Ps 69:9 (ESV) — 9 For zeal for your house has consumed me, and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me.
- By being fruitful. Being saved is not enough.
Jn 15:8 (ESV) — 8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.
Php 1:11 (ESV) — 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.
Mt 5:16 (ESV) — 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.
- By being contented. Whatever state we are in.
2 Co 12:10 (ESV) — 10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.
- By working out our salvation.
Ro 8:29 (ESV) — 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.
- By living for Him.
2 Co 5:15 (ESV) — 15 and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.
Ga 2:20 (ESV) — 20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
- By rejoicing in Him.
Ps 100:2 (ESV) — 2 Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!

2 Co 1:4 (ESV) — 4 who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

1 Th 1:6 (ESV) — 6 And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the Word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit,

- By standing up for his Word.

Jud 3 (ESV) — 3 Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.

1 Pe 3:15 (ESV) — 15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

- By praising Him.

Ps 50:23 (ESV) — 23 The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies me; to one who orders his way rightly I will show the salvation of God!"

Ps 86:12 (ESV) — 12 I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever.

- By being zealous for his name.

Nu 25:6–11 (ESV) — 6 And behold, one of the people of Israel came and brought a Midianite woman to his family, in the sight of Moses and in the sight of the whole congregation of the people of Israel, while they were weeping in the entrance of the tent of meeting. 7 When Phinehas the Son of Eleazar, Son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose and left the congregation and took a spear in his hand 8 and went after the man of Israel into the chamber and pierced both of them, the man of Israel and the woman through her belly. Thus the plague on the people of Israel was stopped. 9 Nevertheless, those who died by the plague were twenty-four thousand. 10 And the Lord said to Moses, 11 "Phinehas the Son of Eleazar, Son of Aaron the priest, has turned back my wrath from the people of Israel, in that he was jealous with my jealousy among them, so that I did not consume the people of Israel in my jealousy.

Jn 2:14–17 (ESV) — 14 In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. 15 And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. 16 And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade." 17 His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

Re 2:2 (ESV) — 2 " 'I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false.

- By doing all things considering Him; spiritual and natural.

1 Co 10:31 (ESV) — 31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Ac 24:16 (ESV) — 16 So I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man.

- By being a witness to convert others for Him.

1 Co 10:31–33 (ESV) — 31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 32 Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, 33 just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved.

1 Ti 2:3–4 (ESV) — 3 This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

- By suffering for His name.

Mt 26:39 (ESV) — 39 And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."

Heb 11:35–38 (ESV) — 35 Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. 36 Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— 38 of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

Re 12:11 (ESV) — 11 And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the Word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.

- By giving Him glory in all we do.

1 Co 15:10 (ESV) — 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

Herod failed to give God glory - **Ac 12:21–23 (ESV) — 21 On an appointed day Herod put on his royal robes, took his seat upon the throne, and delivered an oration to them. 22 And the people were shouting, "The voice of a god, and not of a man!" 23 Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last.**

- By living a holy life.

1 Jn 2:6 (ESV) — 6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

Add back+++++

As in times past the Word of God has suffered violence. Today is no different. The children of the world viciously attack the children of the kingdom. Peter had these words to say **1 Pe 3:15 (ESV) — 15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, .**

Then Paul says

Col 1:23 (ESV) — 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

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Man's purpose is to glorify God and to enjoy him. In this purpose we also fall short. We seek enjoyment from things in the world when we should seek enjoyment in God.

We are to enjoy God in this life and in the life to come. We must learn to enter his presence and we enter his presence by meditating on his Word. God is his Word. When we hear his Word his Holy Spirit begins to burn within our hearts. **Lk 24:32 (ESV) — 32 They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?"**

It is unfortunate that many people prefer the enjoyment of this world than the enjoyment of God. In this matter also we will have to give an account. Scripture tells us that many that run after earthly pleasures or find themselves caught up in a trap. **Pr 7:22–23 (ESV) — 22 All at once he follows her, as an ox goes to the slaughter, or as a stag is caught fast 23 till an arrow pierces its liver; as a bird rushes into a snare; he does not know that it will cost him his life.**

Why should we pursue earthly pleasures when the Scripture says no good thing will God withhold from those who seek him. **Ps 34:10 (ESV) — 10 The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.**

Carrying Heaven With You to Enjoy God

You seek the Lord through his Word. The Word is God. If you carry the Word of God in your heart, you carry heaven with you because you carry the presence of God. (Do a search on "The Lord was with")

Q. 2. What has God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?

A. The Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, ^[a] are the only Scriptures to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him. ^[b]

^[a]. Matt. 19:4-5 with Gen. 2:24; Luke 24:27, 44; 1 Cor. 2:13; 14:37; 2 Pet.1:20-21; 3:2, 15-16

^[b]. Deut. 4:2; Ps. 19:7-11; Isa. 8:20; John 15:11; 20:30-31; Acts 17:11; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; 1 John 1:4

Q. 3. What do the Scriptures primarily reveal?

A. The Scriptures primarily reveal what man is to believe concerning God, ^[a] and what duty God requires of man ^[b].

^[a]. Gen. 1:1; John 5:39; 20:31; Rom. 10:17; 2 Tim. 3:15

^[b]. Deut. 10:12-13; Josh. 1:8; Ps. 119:105; Mic. 6:8; 2 Tim. 3:16-17

What we believe concerning God (Q. 4-38)

Q. 4. What is God?

A. God is a Spirit ^[a], infinite ^[b], eternal ^[c], and unchangeable ^[d] in his being ^[e], wisdom ^[f], power ^[g], holiness ^[h], justice ^[i], goodness ^[j], and truth ^[k].

^[a]. Deut. 4:15-19; Luke 24:39; John 1:18; 4:24; Acts 17:29

^[b]. 1 Kings 8:27; Ps. 139:7-10; 145:3; 147:5; Jer. 23:24; Rom. 11:33-36

^[c]. Deut. 33:27; Ps. 90:2; 102:12, 24-27; Rev. 1:4,8

^[d]. Ps. 33:11; Mal. 3:6; Heb. 1:12; 6:17-18; 13:8; Jas. 1:17

^[e]. Ex. 3:14; Ps. 115:2-3; 1 Tim. 1:17; 6:15-16

- [f]. Ps. 104:24; Rom. 11:33-34; Heb. 4:13; 1 John 3:20
[g]. Gen. 17:1; Ps. 62:11; Jer. 32:17; Mat. 19:26; Rev. 1:8
[h]. Heb. 1:13; 1 Pet. 1:15-16; 1 John 3:3, 5; Rev. 15:4
[i]. Gen. 18:25; Ex. 34:6-7; Deut. 32:4; Ps. 96:13; Rom. 3:5, 26
[j]. Ps. 103:5; 107:8; Matt. 19:17; Rom. 2:4
[k]. Ex. 34:6; Deut. 32:4; Ps. 86:15; 117:2; Heb. 6:18

Q. 5. Is there more than one God?

A. There is only one God ^[a], the living and true God ^[b].

^[a]. Deut. 6:4; Isa. 44:6; 45:21-22; 1 Cor. 8:4-6

^[b]. Jer. 10:10; John 17:3; 1 Thess. 1:9; 1 John 5:20

Q. 6. How many persons are there in God?

A.6. There are three persons in God; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit ^[a]; these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory. ^[b]

^[a]. Matt. 3:16-17; 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; 1 Pet. 1:2

^[b]. Ps. 45:6; John 1:1; 17:5; Acts 5:3-4; Rom. 9:5; Col. 2:9;
Jude 24-25

Q. 7. What are the decrees of God?

A.7. The decrees of God are his eternal plan, according to the purpose of his will, by which, for his glory, he has foreordained everything that ever happens ^[a].

^[a]. Ps. 33:11; Isa. 14:24; Acts 2:23; Eph. 1:11-12

Q. 8. How does God execute his decrees?

A.8. God executes his decrees in the works of creation and providence ^[a].

^[a]. Ps. 148:8; Isa. 40:26; Dan. 4:35; Acts 4:24-28; Rev. 4:11

Q. 9. What is the work of creation?

A.9. The work of creation is God making everything out of nothing, by the power of his Word ^[a], in the space of six days, and all was very good. ^[b]

^[a]. Gen. 1:1; Ps. 33:6, 9; Heb. 11:3

^[b]. Gen. 1:31

Q. 10. How did God create man?

A.10. God created man male and female, in his image ^[a], in knowledge ^[b], righteousness, and holiness ^[c], with dominion over the other creatures ^[d].

^[a]. Gen. 1:27

^[b]. Col. 3:10

^[c]. Eph. 4:24

^[d]. Gen. 1:28; see Ps. 8

Q. 11. What are God's works of providence?

A.11. God's works of providence are his completely holy ^[a], wise ^[b], and powerful ^[c] acts of preserving ^[d] and governing ^[e] all his creatures and all their actions ^[f].

^[a]. Ps. 145:17

^[b]. Ps. 104:24

^[c]. Heb. 1:3

^[d]. Neh. 9:6

^[e]. Eph. 1:19-22

^[f]. Ps. 36:6; Prov. 16:33; Matt. 10:30

Q. 12. What did God's providence specifically do for the man he created?

A.12. When God created man, he entered into a covenant of life with him on the condition of his perfect obedience, forbidding him to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, or he would die. ^[a]

^[a]. Gen. 2:16-17; Jas. 2:10

Q. 13. Did our first parents continue in the perfect relationship in which they were created?

A.13. Our first parents, being left to the freedom of their own will, fell from the perfect relationship with God when they were created by sinning against God. ^[a]

^[a]. Gen. 3:6-8, 13; 2 Cor. 11:3

Q. 14. What is sin?

A.14. Sin is disobeying or not conforming to the law of God law in any way ^[a].

^[a]. Lev. 5:17; Jas. 4:17; 1 John 3:4

Q. 15. What was the sin our first parents committed?

A.15. The sin of our first parents was eating the forbidden fruit ^[a].

^[a]. Gen. 3:6

Q. 16. Did all mankind fall in Adam's sin?

A. The covenant made with Adam ^[a] was not only for himself but also for his posterity; all mankind, being born from him, sinned and fell with him in his first transgression ^[b].

^[a]. Gen. 2:16-17; Jas. 2:10

^[b]. Rom. 5:12-21; 1 Cor. 15:22

Q. 17. What condition did the fall bring mankind into?

A. The fall brought mankind into a condition of sin and misery ^[a].

^[a]. Gen. 3:16-19, 23; Rom. 3:16; 5:12; Eph. 2:1

Q. 18. How is the current condition of mankind sinful?

A. The current condition of mankind is sinful because of the guilt of Adam's first sin ^[a], the lack of the original perfect righteousness of which he was created ^[b], and the corruption of his whole nature ^[c], which is commonly called the original sin; along with all the sins which come from the original sin ^[d].

^[a]. Rom. 5:12, 19

^[b]. Rom. 3:10; Col. 3:10; Eph. 4:24

^[c]. Ps. 51:5; John 3:6; Rom. 3:18; 8:7-8; Eph. 2:3

^[d]. Gen. 6:5; Ps. 53:1-3; Matt. 15:19; Rom. 3:10-18, 23; Gal. 5:19-21; Jas. 1:14-15

Q. 19. What misery did the fall bring upon mankind?

A. All mankind by the fall lost fellowship with God ^[a] and are under his wrath ^[b] and curse ^[c], and as a result made subject to all miseries in this life ^[d], to death ^[e] itself, and the punishment of hell forever ^[f].

^[a]. Gen. 3:8, 24; John 8:34, 42, 44; Eph. 2:12; 4:18

^[b]. John 3:36; Rom. 1:18; Eph. 2:3; 5:6

^[c]. Gal. 3:10; Rev. 22:3

^[d]. Gen. 3:16-19; Job 5:7; Ecc. 2:22-23; Rom. 8:18-23

^[e]. Ezek. 18:4; Rom. 5:12; 6:23

^[f]. Matt. 25:41, 46; 2 Thess. 1:9; Rev. 14:9-11

Q. 20. Did God leave all mankind to perish in sin and misery?

A. From all eternity, God knew those who would have everlasting life. [a,] These He freed from sin and misery by a covenant of grace and brought them to salvation by a redeemer. ^[b].

^[a]. Acts 13:48; Eph. 1:4-5; 2 Thess. 2:13-14

^[b]. Gen. 3:15; 17:7; Ex. 19:5-6; Jer. 31:31-34; Matt. 20:28; 1 Cor. 11:25; Heb. 9:15

Q. 21. Who is the Redeemer of God's people?

A. The only Redeemer of God's chosen is the Lord Jesus Christ ^[a], the eternal Son of God ^[b], who became man. ^[c] He was and continues to be God and man in two distinct natures, and one person, forever ^[d].

^[a]. John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 Tim. 2:5-6

^[b]. Ps. 2:7; Matt. 3:17; 17:5; John 1:18

^[c]. Isa. 9:6; Matt. 1:23; John 1:14; Gal. 4:4

^[d]. Acts 1:11; Heb. 7:24-25

Q. 22. How did Christ, the Son of God, become man?

A. Christ, the Son of God, became man by assuming a human body and a soul like ours ^[a], being conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, in the womb of the virgin Mary, and born of her ^[b] yet he was sinless ^[c].

^[a]. Phil. 2:7; Heb. 2:14, 17

^[b]. Luke 1:27, 31, 35

^[c]. 2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15; 7:26; 1 John 3:5

Q. 23. What offices does Christ fulfill as our Redeemer?

A. Christ, as our Redeemer, fulfills the offices of a prophet ^[a], priest ^[b], and king ^[c] in both His states of humiliation and exaltation.

^[a]. Deut. 18:18; Acts 2:33; 3:22-23; Heb. 1:1-2

^[b]. Heb. 4:14-15; 5:5-6

^[c]. Isa. 9:6-7; Luke 1:32-33; John 18:37; 1 Cor. 15:25

Q. 24. How does Christ fulfill the office of a prophet?

A. Christ fulfills the office of a prophet in revealing to us, by his Word ^[a] and Spirit, ^[b] the will of God for our salvation ^[c].

^[a]. Luke 4:18-19, 21; Acts 1:1-2; Heb. 2:3

^[b]. John 15:26-27; Acts 1:8; 1 Pet. 1:11

^[c]. John 4:41-42; 20:30-31

Q. 25. How does Christ fulfill the office of a priest?

A. Christ fulfills the office of a priest, in his once offering up of himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice, ^[a] and reconciling us to God ^[b]; and by making continual intercession for us ^[c].

^[a]. Isa. 53; Acts 8:32-35; Heb. 9:26-28; 10:12

^[b]. Rom. 5:10-11; 2 Cor. 5:18; Col. 1:21-22

^[c]. Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25; 9:24

Q. 26. How does Christ fulfill the office of a king?

A. Christ fulfills the office of a king, in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us ^[a], and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies ^[b].

^[a]. Ps. 110:3; Matt. 28:18-20; John 17:2; Col. 1:13

^[b]. Ps. 2:6-9; 110:1-2; Matt. 12:28; 1 Cor. 15:24-26; Col. 2:15

Q. 27. How was Christ humiliated?

A. Christ was humiliated by being born as a man into a poor family, ^[a] made under the law ^[b], undergoing the miseries of this life ^[c], the wrath of God ^[d], and the cursed death of the cross, ^[e] and in being buried, and continuing under the power of death for a time. ^[f]

^[a]. Luke 2:7; 2 Cor. 8:9; Gal. 4:4

^[b]. Gal. 4:4

^[c]. Isa. 53:3; Luke 9:58; John 4:6; 11:35; Heb. 2:18

^[d]. Ps. 22:1 (Matt. 27:46); Isa. 53:10; 1 John 2:2

^[e]. Gal. 3:13; Phil. 2:8

^[f]. Matt. 12:40; 1 Cor. 15:3-4

Q. 28. How is Christ exalted?

A. Christ is exalted by his rising again from the dead on the third day ^[a], in ascending into heaven ^[b], in sitting at the right hand ^[c] of God the Father, and in coming to judge the world at the last day ^[d].

^[a]. 1 Cor. 15:4

^[b]. Ps. 68:18; Acts 1:11; Eph. 4:8

^[c]. Ps. 110:1; Acts 2:33-34; Heb. 1:3

^[d]. Matt. 16:27; Acts 17:31

Q. 29. How do we share in the redemption purchased by Christ for us?

A. We share in the redemption purchased by Christ, by the effective application of it to us by his Holy Spirit ^[a].

^[a]. Titus 3:4-7

Q. 30. How does the Holy Spirit apply redemption purchased by Christ to us?

A. The Holy Spirit applies the redemption purchased by Christ to us by producing faith in us ^[a], which unites us to Christ in our effectual calling ^[b].

^[a]. Rom. 10:17; 1 Cor. 2:12-16; Eph. 2:8; Phil. 1:29

^[b]. John 15:5; 1 Cor. 1:9; Eph. 3:17

Q. 31. What is our effectual calling?

A. Our effectual calling is the work of the Holy Spirit, who convinces us of our sin and misery, enlightens our minds in the knowledge of Christ ^[a], renews our wills ^[b], and persuades and enables us to embrace Jesus Christ ^[c], who is freely offered to us in the gospel ^[d].

^[a]. Acts 26:18; 1 Cor. 2:10, 12; 2 Cor. 4:6; Eph. 1:17-18

^[b]. Deut. 30:6; Ezk. 36:26-27; John 3:5; Titus 3:5

^[c]. John 6:44-45; Acts 16:14

^[d]. Isa. 45:22; Matt. 11:28-30; Rev. 22:17

Q. 32. What benefits do those that are successfully called have in this life?

A. They that are successfully called in this life partake of justification, adoption, sanctification, and the other benefits that accompany them or flow from them in this life. ^[a]

^[a]. Rom. 8:30; 1 Cor. 1:30; 6:11; Eph. 1:5

Q. 33. What is Justification?

A. Justification is an act of God's free grace ^[a], by which he pardons all our sins ^[b] and accepts us as righteous in his sight ^[c], through the righteousness of Christ credited to us ^[d] and received by faith alone ^[e].

^[a]. Rom. 3:24

^[b]. Rom. 4:6-8; 2 Cor. 5:19

^[c]. 2 Cor. 5:21

^[d]. Rom. 4:6, 11; 5:19

^[e]. Gal. 2:16; Phil. 3:9

Q. 34. What is adoption?

A. Adoption is an act of God's free grace ^[a], by which we are received into his family and have a right to all the privileges of children of God ^[b].

^[a]. 1 John 3:1

^[b]. John 1:12; Rom. 8:17

Q. 35. What is sanctification?

A. Sanctification is the work of God's free grace ^[a], by which we are renewed throughout in the image of God ^[b] and are enabled more and more to become dead to sin and alive to righteousness ^[c].

^[a]. Ezk. 36:27; Phil. 2:13; 2 Thess. 2:13

^[b]. 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 4:23-24; 1 Thess. 5:23

^[c]. Ezek. 36:25-27; Rom. 6:4, 6, 12-14; 2 Cor. 7:1; 1 Pet. 2:24

Q. 36. What are the benefits in this life that accompany or flow from Justification, adoption, and sanctification?

A. The benefits in this life that accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification are the assurance of God's love ^[a], peace of conscience ^[b], joy in the Holy Spirit ^[c], increase of grace ^[d], and persevering in grace to the end of our earthly lives ^[e].

^[a]. Rom. 5:5

^[b]. Rom. 5:1

^[c]. Rom. 14:17

^[d]. 2 Pet. 3:18

^[e]. Phil. 1:6; 1 Pet. 1:5

Q. 37. What benefits do believers receive from Christ when they die?

A. The souls of believers at their death are made perfectly holy ^[a], and they immediately pass into glory ^[b]; and their bodies, being still united to Christ ^[c], 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 are raised up in glory ^[a], are openly acknowledged and acquitted in the day of judgment ^[b], and are perfectly blessed to the full enjoying of God ^[c] forever ^[d].

^[a]. 1 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

What God requires of us (Q. 39-107)

Q. 39. What does God require of man?

A. God requires man to obey his revealed will ^[a].

^[a]. Deut. 29:29; Mic. 6:8; 1 John 5:2-3

Q. 40. What rule did God first reveal for man to obey?

A. The rule God first revealed for man to obey was the moral law ^[a].

^[a]. Rom. 2:14-15; 10:5

Q. 41. Where is the moral law summarized?

A. The moral law is summarized in the ten commandments ^[a].

^[a]. Deut. 4:13; Matt. 19:17-19

Q. 42. What is the summation of the ten commandments?

A. The summation of the ten commandments is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind: and our neighbor as ourselves ^[a].

^[a]. Matt. 22:37-40

Q. 43. What is the preface to the ten commandments?

A. The preface to the ten commandments is, *"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery."* ^[a]

^[a]. Ex. 20:2; Deut. 5:6

Q. 44. What does the preface to the ten commandments teach us?

A. The preface to the ten commandments teaches us that God is the Lord, and our God, and Redeemer. Therefore we are obligated to keep all his commandments ^[a].

^[a]. Luke 1:74-75; 1 Pet. 1:14-19

Q. 45. Which is the first commandment?

A. The first commandment is, *"You shall have no other gods before me."* ^[a]

^[a]. Ex. 20:3; Deut. 5:7

Q. 46. What is required in the first commandment?

A. The first commandment requires us to know and acknowledge God to be the only true God and our God and to worship and glorify him accordingly ^[a].

^[a]. I Chron. 28:9; Isa. 45:20-25; Matt. 4:10

Q. 47. What is forbidden in the first commandment?

A. The first commandment forbids the denying of ^[a], or not worshipping and glorifying Him as the true God ^[b], and as our God ^[c]; and forbids the giving of that worship and glory to any other, which is due to him alone ^[d].

^[a]. Ps. 14:1

^[b]. Rom. 1:20-21

^[c]. Ps. 81:10-11

^[d]. Ezek. 8:16-18; Rom. 1:25

Q. 48. What are we specially taught by these words, "before me," in the first commandment?

A. The words "before me" in the first commandment teach us that God, who sees all things, takes notice of and is very offended by the sin of us having any other god ^[a].

^[a]. Deut. 30:17-18; Ps. 44:20-21; Ezek. 8:12

Q. 49. Which is the second commandment?

A. The second commandment is, *"You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments."*

^[a]

^[a]. Ex. 20:4-6; Deut. 5:8-10

Q. 50. What is required in the second commandment?

A. The second commandment requires the receiving, observing, and keeping, pure and complete, all the religious worship and ordinances that God has established in His Word ^[a].

^[a]. Deut. 12:32; Matt. 28:20

Q. 51. What is forbidden in the second commandment?

A. The second commandment forbids the worshipping of God by images ^[a] or any other way not established in his Word ^[b].

^[a]. Deut. 4:15-19; Rom. 1:22-23

^[b]. Lev. 10:1-2; Jer. 19:4-5; Col. 2:18-23

Q. 52. What are the reasons for the second commandment?

A. The reasons for the second commandment are God's sovereignty over us ^[a], his ownership of us ^[b], and the zeal he has for his worship ^[c].

^[a]. Ps. 95:2-3, 6-7; 96:9-10

^[b]. Ex. 19:5; Ps. 45:11; Isa. 54:5

^[c]. Ex. 34:14; I Cor. 10:22

Q. 53. What is the third commandment?

A. The third commandment is, ***"You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain."*** ^[a]

^[a]. Ex. 20:7; Deut. 5:11

Q. 54. What is required in the third commandment?

A. The third commandment requires the holy and reverent use of God's names, titles ^[a], attributes ^[b], ordinances ^[c], Word ^[d], and works^[e].

^[a]. Deut. 10:20; Ps. 29:2; Matt. 6:9

^[b]. 1 Chron. 29:10-13; Rev. 15:3-4

^[c]. Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 11:27-28

^[d]. Ps. 138:2; Rev. 22:18-19

^[e]. Ps. 107:21-22; Rev. 4:11

Q. 55. What is forbidden in the third commandment?

A. The third commandment forbids our treating as unholy or abusing anything in which God makes himself known ^[a].

^[a]. Lev. 19:12; Matt. 5:33-37; Jas. 5:12

Q. 56. What is the reason for the third commandment?

A. The reason for the third commandment is that although those who break this commandment may escape punishment from men, the Lord our God will not allow them to escape his righteous judgment ^[a].

^[a]. Deut. 28:58-59; 1 Sam. 3:13; 4:11

Q. 57. What is the fourth commandment?

A. The fourth commandment is, ***"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any***

work, you, or your Son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. ^[a]

^[a]. Ex. 20:8-11; Deut. 5:12-15

Q. 58. What is required in the fourth commandment?

A. The fourth commandment requires the keeping holy to God such set times as he has appointed in his Word; expressly one whole day in seven, to be a holy sabbath to himself ^[a].

^[a]. Ex. 31:13, 16-17

Q. 59. Which day of the seven has God appointed the weekly sabbath?

A. From the beginning of the world to the resurrection of Christ, God appointed the seventh day of the week to be the weekly sabbath ^[a]; and the first day of the week ever since Christ to be the Christian sabbath, and continuing to the end of the world, ^[b].

^[a]. Gen. 2:2-3; Ex. 20:11

^[b]. Mark 2:27-28; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2; Rev. 1:10

Q. 60. How is the sabbath to be kept holy?

A. The sabbath is to be kept holy by a holy resting all that day, even from such worldly affairs and recreations that are lawful on other days ^[a]; and spending the whole time in the public and private exercises of God's worship ^[b], except so much as to be taken up in the works of necessity and mercy ^[c].

^[a]. Ex. 20:10; Neh. 13:15-22; Isa. 58:13-14

^[b]. Ex. 20:8; Lev. 23:3; Luke 4:16; Acts 20:7

^[c]. Matt. 12:1-13

Q. 61. What is forbidden in the fourth commandment?

A. The fourth commandment forbids the omission or careless performance of the duties required, the treating the day as unholy by idleness, or doing that which is sinful, or unnecessary thoughts, words, or works, about our worldly affairs or recreations ^[a].

^[a]. Neh. 13:15-22; Isa. 58:13-14; Amos 8:4-6;

Q. 62. What are the reasons for the fourth commandment?

A. The reasons for the fourth commandment are that God allows us six days for our own affairs ^[a], and by his own example, he makes the seventh day holy and blesses it ^[b].

^[a]. Ex. 20:9; 31:15; Lev. 23:3

^[b]. Gen. 2:2-3; Ex. 20:11; 31:17

Q. 63. Which is the fifth commandment?

A. The fifth commandment is, "*Honor your father and your mother; that your days may be long in the land which the Lord your God is giving you.*" ^[a]

^[a]. Ex. 20:12; Deut. 5:16

Q. 64. What is required in the fifth commandment?

A. The fifth commandment requires respecting and treating everyone properly in their positions and relationship to us, as superiors, inferiors, or equals. ^[a].

^[a]. Rom. 13:1, 7; Eph. 5:21-22, 24; 6:1, 4-5, 9; 1 Pet. 2:17

Q. 65. What is forbidden in the fifth commandment?

A. The fifth commandment forbids being disrespectful to or not treating others as their position or relationship to us demands. ^[a].

^[a]. Matt. 15:4-6; Rom. 13:8

Q. 66. What is the reason for the fifth commandment?

A. The reason for the fifth commandment is a promise of long life and prosperity (as far as it serves for God's glory and our own good) to all who keep this commandment ^[a].

^[a]. Ex. 20:12; Deut. 5:16; Eph. 6:2-3

Q. 67. What is the sixth commandment?

A. The sixth commandment is, "*You shalt not murder.*" ^[a]

^[a]. Ex. 20:13; Deut. 5:17

Q. 68. What is required in the sixth commandment?

A. The sixth commandment requires all lawful endeavors to preserve our own life and the life of others ^[a].

^[a]. Eph. 5:28-29

Q. 69. What is forbidden in the sixth commandment?

A. The sixth commandment forbids the taking of our own life, or the life of others, unjustly, or whatever leads to suicide or murder^[a].

^[a]. Gen. 9:6; Matt. 5:22; 1 John 3:15

Q. 70. What is the seventh commandment?

A. The seventh commandment is, "*You shall not commit adultery.*" ^[a]

^[a]. Ex. 20:14; Deut. 5:18

Q. 71. What is required in the seventh commandment?

A. The seventh commandment requires the preservation of our own and our neighbor's sexual purity in heart, speech, and behavior ^[a].

^[a]. 1 Cor. 7:2-3, 5; 1 Thess. 4:3-5

Q. 72. What is forbidden in the seventh commandment?

A. The seventh commandment forbids all sexually immoral thoughts, words, and actions ^[a].

^[a]. Matt. 5:28; Eph. 5:3-4

Q. 73. Which is the eighth commandment?

A. The eighth commandment is, "*You shall not steal.*" ^[a]

^[a]. Ex. 20:15; Deut. 5:19

Q. 74. What is required in the eighth commandment?

A. The eighth commandment requires that we lawfully acquire and increase the wealth and material well-being of ourselves and others ^[a].

^[a]. Lev. 25:35; Eph. 4:28b; Phil. 2:4

Q. 75. What is forbidden in the eighth commandment?

A. The eighth commandment forbids doing anything that may unjustly hinder our own, or our neighbor's, wealth or material well-being ^[a].

^[a]. Prov. 28:19ff; Eph. 4:28a; 1 Thess. 3:10; 1 Tim. 5:8

Q. 76. Which is the ninth commandment?

A. The ninth commandment is, ***"You shall not bear false witness against thy neighbor."*** ^[a]

^[a]. Ex. 20:16; Deut. 5:20

Q. 77. What is required in the ninth commandment?

A. The ninth commandment requires us to tell the truth and maintain and promote it, concerning our own and our neighbor's reputation ^[a], especially in witness-bearing ^[b].

^[a]. Zech. 8:16; Acts 25:10; 3 John 12

^[b]. Prov. 14:5, 25

Q. 78. What is forbidden in the ninth commandment?

A. The ninth commandment forbids anything that is contrary to truth or injurious to our own or our neighbor's reputation ^[a].

^[a]. Lev. 19:16; Ps. 15:3; Prov. 6:16-19; Luke 3:14

Q. 79. What is the tenth commandment?

A. The tenth commandment is, ***"You shalt not covet your neighbor's house, you shalt not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is your neighbor's."*** ^[a]

^[a]. Ex. 20:17; Deut. 5:21

Q. 80. What is required in the tenth commandment?

A. The tenth commandment requires complete contentment with our own status in life ^[a] and a proper and loving attitude toward our neighbor and all that is his ^[b].

^[a]. Ps. 34:1; Phil. 4:11; 1 Tim. 6:6; Heb. 13:5

^[b]. Luke 15:6, 9, 11-32; Rom. 12:15; Phil. 2:4

Q. 81. What is forbidden in the tenth commandment?

A. The tenth commandment forbids all discontentment with our own estate ^[a], envying or grieving at the good of our neighbor, and all improper emotions and affections to anything that is his ^[b].

^[a]. 1 Cor. 10:10; Jas. 3:14-16

^[b]. Gal. 5:26; Col. 3:5

Q. 82. Is any man able perfectly to keep the commandments of God?

A. Since the fall, no natural man can keep God's commandments perfectly but will break them in thought, word, and deed daily ^[a].

^[a]. Gen. 8:21; Rom. 3:9ff, 23

Q. 83. Are all transgressions of the law equally heinous?

A. Some sins in themselves, because of their nature and the circumstances, are more heinous in the sight of God than others ^[a].

^[a]. Ezek. 8:6, 13, 15; Matt. 11:20-24; John 19:11

Q. 84. What does every sin deserve?

A. Every sin deserves God's wrath and curse, both in this life and that which is to come ^[a].

^[a]. Matt. 25:41; Gal. 3:10; Eph. 5:6; Jas. 2:10

Q. 85. What does God require of us, that we may escape his wrath and curse due to us for sin?

A. To escape the wrath and curse of God, due to us for sin, God requires of us faith in Jesus Christ, repentance leading to life ^[a], with the diligent use of all the visible means by which Christ communicates to us the benefits of redemption ^[b].

^[a]. Mark 1:15; Acts 20:21

^[b]. Acts 2:38; 1 Cor. 11:24-25; Col. 3:16

Q. 86. What is faith in Jesus Christ?

A. Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace ^[a], by which we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the gospel ^[b].

^[a]. Eph. 2:8-9; cf. Rom. 4:16

^[b]. John 20:30-31; Gal. 2:15-16; Phil. 3:3-11

Q. 87. What is repentance unto life?

A. Repentance unto life is a saving grace ^[a], by which a sinner, out of a true awareness of his sin and understanding of the mercy of God in Christ ^[b], with grief and hatred of his sins, turns from them to God ^[c], with the full intent of endeavoring after new obedience ^[d].

^[a]. Acts 11:18; II Tim. 2:25

^[b]. Ps. 51:1-4; Joel 2:13; Luke 15:7, 10; Acts 2:37

^[c]. Jer. 31:18-19; Luke 1:16-17; 1 Thess. 1:9

^[d]. 2 Chron. 7:14; Ps. 119:57-64; Matt. 3:8; 2 Cor. 7:10

Q. 88. What are the visible and natural means by which Christ communicates the benefits of redemption to us?

A. The visible and natural means by which Christ communicates to us the benefits of redemption are his ordinances, especially the Word, sacraments, and prayer; all of which are made effective for His chosen ones for salvation ^[a].

^[a]. Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 2:41-42

Q. 89. How is the Word made effective for salvation?

A. The Spirit of God makes the reading, and especially the preaching of the Word, an effective means of convicting, converting sinners, and building them up in holiness and comfort, through faith to salvation ^[a].

^[a]. Neh. 8:8-9; Acts 20:32; Rom. 10:14-17; 2 Tim. 3:15-17

Q. 90. How is the Word to be read and heard so that it may become effective for salvation?

A. So that the Word may become effective to salvation, we must attend to it with diligence, preparation, and prayer ^[a]; receive it with faith and love, lay it up in our hearts, and practice it in our lives ^[b].

^[a]. Deut. 6:6ff; Ps. 119:18; 1 Pet. 2:1-2

^[b]. Ps. 119:11; 2 Thess. 2:10; Heb. 4:2; Jas. 1:22-25

Q. 91. How do the sacraments become effectual means of salvation?

A. The sacraments become effectual means of salvation, not from any special power in them or the person that administers them; but only by the blessing of Christ and the working of his Holy Spirit in those that receive them by faith. ^[a].

^[a]. I Cor. 3:7; cf. 1 Cor. 1:12-17

Q. 92. What is a sacrament?

A. A sacrament is a holy ordinance instituted by Christ as a physical sign ^[a]; in which Christ, and the benefits of the new covenant, are represented, sealed, and applied to believers. ^[b].

^[a]. Matt. 28:19; 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 1:22-26

^[b]. Gal. 3:27; 1 Cor. 10:16-17

Q. 93. Which are the sacraments of the New Testament?

A. The sacraments of the New Testament are Baptism ^[a] and the Lord's Supper ^[b].

^[a]. Matt. 28:19

^[b]. 1 Cor 11:23-26

Q. 94. What is Baptism?

A. Baptism is a sacrament undertaken by the immersion in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit ^[a]. It signifies and seals our being joined with Christ, partaking in the benefits of the covenant of grace and our commitment to being the Lord's ^[b].

^[a]. Matt. 28:19

^[b]. Acts 2:38-42; 22:16; Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:26-27; 1 Pet. 3:21

Q. 95. To whom is Baptism to be administered?

A. Baptism is not to be administered to anyone outside the visible church until they profess their faith in Christ and obedience to him ^[a], but the children of church members can be Christened ^[b].

^[a]. Acts. 2:41; 8:12, 36, 38; 18:8

^[b]. Gen. 17:7, 9-11; Acts 2:38-39; 16:32-33; Col. 2:11-12

Q. 96. What is the Lord's Supper?

A. The Lord's Supper is a sacrament in which there is the giving and receiving of bread and wine, according to Christ's directions to show forth his death and suffering. ^[a] Those who receive it in the right

way share in his body and blood, not physically, but by faith, with all his benefits, to their spiritual nourishment, and growth in grace ^[b].

^[a]. Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-26

^[b]. 1 Cor. 10:16-17

Q. 97. What is the right way to receive the Lord's Supper?

A. The right way to receive the Lord's Supper is for a person to ensure they have a correct understanding of what it means to discern the Lord's body, of their faith to feed upon him, of their repentance, love, and new obedience; lest they come in the wrong way and eat and drink judgment to themselves ^[a].

^[a]. 1 Cor. 11:27-32

Q. 98. What is prayer?

A. Prayer is an offering up of our desires to God ^[a], for things that agree with his will ^[b], in the name of Jesus Christ ^[c], confessing our sins ^[d], and thankfully recognizing his mercies. ^[e]

^[a]. Ps. 10:17; 62:8; Matt. 7:7-8

^[b]. 1 John 5:14

^[c]. John 16:23-24

^[d]. Ps. 32:5-6; Dan. 9:4-19; 1 John 1:9

^[e]. Ps. 103:1-5; 136; Phil. 4:6

Q. 99 How does God direct us to pray

A. The entire Word of God is used to direct us in prayer ^[a], but especially the Lord's prayer, which Christ taught his disciples. ^[b]

^[a]. 1 John 5:14

^[b]. Matt. 6:9-13

Q. 100. What does the preface of the Lord's Prayer teach us?

A. The preface of the Lord's Prayer, which is, "***Our Father which art in heaven,***" teaches us to draw near to God with all holy reverence ^[a] and confidence ^[b], as children to a father ^[c], able and ready to help us ^[d]; and that we should pray with and for others ^[e].

^[a]. Ps. 95:6

^[b]. Eph. 3:12

^[c]. Matt. 7:9-11, cf. Luke 11:11-13; Rom. 8:15

^[d]. Eph. 3:20

^[e]. Eph. 6:18; 1 Tim. 2:1-2

Q. 101. What do we pray for in the first petition?

A. In the first petition, which is, "***Hallowed be thy name,***" we pray that God would enable us, and others, to glorify him in all things he makes himself known ^[a]; and that he will work out all things to his own glory ^[b].

^[a]. Ps. 67:1-3; 99:3; 100:3-4

^[b]. Rom. 11:33-36; Rev. 4:11

Q. 102. What do we pray for in the second petition?

A. In the second petition, which is, "***Thy kingdom come,***" we pray that Satan's kingdom may be destroyed ^[a]; and that the kingdom of grace may be advanced ^[b], ourselves and others brought into it, and kept in it ^[c]; and that the kingdom of glory may come quickly ^[d].

^[a]. Matt. 12:25-28; Rom. 16:20; 1 John 3:8

^[b]. Ps. 72:8-11; Matt. 24:14; 1 Cor. 15:24-25

^[c]. Ps. 119:5; Luke 22:32; 2 Thess. 3:1-5

^[d]. Rev. 22:20

Q. 103. What do we pray for in the third petition?

A. In the third petition, which is, "***Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven,***" we pray that God, by his grace, would make us able and willing to know, obey, and submit to his will in all things ^[a], as the angels do in heaven ^[b].

^[a]. Ps. 19:14; 119; 1 Thess. 5:23; Heb. 13:20-21

^[b]. Ps. 103:20-21; Heb. 1:14

Q. 104. What do we pray for in the fourth petition?

A. In the fourth petition, which is, "***Give us this day our daily bread,***" we pray that of God's free gift, we may receive a sufficient portion of the good things of this life and enjoy his blessing with them ^[a].

^[a]. Prov. 30:8-9; Matt. 6:31-34; Phil. 4:11, 19; 1 Tim. 6:6-8

Q. 105. What do we pray for in the fifth petition?

A. In the fifth petition, which is, "***And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors,***" we pray that God, for Christ's sake, would freely pardon all our sins ^[a]; we are encouraged to ask this because by his grace we are enabled to forgive others from the heart ^[b].

^[a]. Ps. 51:1-2, 7, 9; Dan. 9:17-19; 1 John 1:7

^[b]. Matt. 18:21-35; Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:13

Q. 106. What do we pray for in the sixth petition?

A. In the sixth petition, which is, "***And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,***" we pray that God would either keep us from being tempted to sin ^[a] or support and deliver us when we are tempted ^[b].

^[a]. Ps. 19:13; Matt. 26:41; John 17:15

^[b]. Luke 22:31-32; 1 Cor. 10:13; 2 Cor. 12:7-9; Heb. 2:18

Q. 107. What does the conclusion of the Lord's Prayer teach us?

A. The conclusion of the Lord's Prayer, which is, "***For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever, Amen.***" teaches us to take our encouragement in prayer from God only, ^[a] and in our prayers praise him, ascribing kingdom, power, and glory to him. ^[b] And in the testimony of our desire and assurance to be heard, we say, Amen. ^[c]

^[a]. Dan. 9:4, 7-9, 16-19; Luke 18:1, 7-8

^[b]. 1 Chron. 29:10-13; 1 Tim. 1:17; Rev. 5:11-13

^[c]. 1 Cor. 14:16; Rev. 22:20