

# A BIBLICAL CATECHISM



## **Catechism:**

- (a) a question-and-answer method for learning Christian doctrine;
- (b) a powerful tool that godly families and churches have used for centuries to produce well-grounded, deeply-rooted believers

### **Colossians 2:7**

"...having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him, and established in your faith, just as you were instructed..."



# WHY CATECHISE?

## A CASE FOR REDISCOVERING CATECHISMS

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John Calvin once wrote:

*Believe me...the Church of God will never preserve itself without a Catechism, for it is like the seed to keep the good grain from dying out, and using it to multiply from age to age. Wherefore, if you desire to build a work of continuance to endure long, and which should not shortly fall into decay, cause that the children in their young age be instructed in a good catechism.*

Yet an honest look at today's evangelical church doesn't exactly reveal a work that will "endure long" and not "fall into decay". Instead, statistics show that the majority of youth raised in Christian homes will have nothing to do with Christ by the end of their university years. Most mainline denominations that once stood firm have now departed from the truth. What is clearly in greatest demand in churches, Christian bookstores, and on Christian radio and television, is predominately a man-centred, prosperity gospel that is ravaging the church.

The awful sentence once pronounced upon Israel is coming true again today: "And there arose another generation after them who did not know the LORD or the work that He had done for Israel" (Judges 2:10). How can we halt this decline? As Calvin urges, a biblical catechism can be a powerful tool in preserving the faith in future generations. But what happened to catechisms? Why don't we use them anymore?

### **Ignorant of our ignorance**

One reason is that we live in an age that celebrates ignorance and calls uncertainty a virtue. The 'proud' man is the one who claims to know. In contrast, our spiritual ancestors were humble enough to be bothered by *the problem of spiritual ignorance*. They realised the extent of human depravity, including how sin has infected and damaged our minds. Scripture repeatedly exposes the profound and deep-rooted ignorance, folly, darkness, and futility of the fallen mind (Gen. 6:5; Ps. 14:1-3; 92:6; *all of Proverbs*, e.g. 1:22; 8:5; 9:4-6; Jer. 10:8,14; 51:17; Mt. 15:19; Mk. 12:24; Eph. 4:17-19; Rom. 1:21-22; 3:11; 1 Cor. 1:18-28; 2:14).

Our tendency is to think that once a person gets saved they just need to grow in their relationship with Christ through emotional experiences and nibbling on Scripture. We think that all we need are some daily devotions, a Sunday sermon and small group relationships. We don't realise the extent to which our relationship with Christ feeds on in-depth biblical knowledge.

Scripture shows that the problem of ignorance does not disappear at conversion or through a few crisis experiences or weekend events. Believers are forgiven but still war against their own ignorance and spend a lifetime climbing the steep mountain of wisdom and knowledge. Though we are now illumined by God's Spirit, the battle rages on as we seek daily to overcome the darkness in our own minds and renew our thinking with the light of God's truth (Job 42:3; Ps. 73:22; Prov. 30:2; Rom. 12:2; Eph. 4:23-24; 1 Pet. 1:14,18; 2 Pet. 1:5-6; 3:18, etc.).

But in our age of self-esteem and evolutionary 'progress', we easily underestimate the lingering powers of ignorance and the educational challenge that we're actually up against. Meanwhile we don't realise that, compared to ordinary Christians in previous generations, we're still infants in biblical literacy and spiritual knowledge. There are no shortcuts in the competition against our own ignorance and that of our children and others we disciple. The only weapon for defeating darkness is biblical knowledge, the "sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (Eph. 6:17).

## **Dispelling ignorance**

The way that God has ordained for biblical knowledge to reach us and progressively to dispel our ignorance is *through teaching*. Teaching was the passion and purpose of Christ's earthly ministry (Mark 1:38; 6:34; 10:1). Teaching was Christ's final mandate to us in His Great Commission (Matt. 28:19). Teaching was what Christ sent His Spirit to do for us (Jn. 14:26; 16:13-15). Teaching is the way that King Jesus advances His cause and builds His Church, as the Book of Acts demonstrates (Acts 2:42, etc.). Teaching is the primary function of pastors and elders, and of Christian parents (1 Tim. 3:2; Eph. 4:11; 6:4).

And there are some methods of biblical teaching that have stood the test of time, compared to other trends that have come and gone. One such tool for biblical teaching that has proven its worth to God's people for centuries is the catechism.

In 1647 in London there was a gathering of pastor-teachers from England and Scotland whom Richard Baxter described as the finest group of theologians the Christian world had ever seen "since the days of the Apostles". After many months of deliberation over how best to preserve and explain the Christian faith to the masses, one of the main documents this group of Puritan ministers produced was the *Westminster Shorter Catechism*. This catechism is still in print, over 360 years later, and has been translated and adapted into hundreds of languages. Says one writer about the *Shorter Catechism*, it is "unrivalled as a concise and faithful summary of the central teachings of Scripture". It is this catechism which we have used and adapted in the booklet you hold in your hand.

## **A definition**

What does "catechise" mean? To modern ears, it sounds painfully similar to "circumcise", or like some kind of torture or a rare disease you hope you never contract. But in fact, the word "catechise" comes from the NT Greek word, *katekeo*, which means "to instruct, teach" (Lk. 1:4; Acts 18:25; Gal. 6:6, etc.).

Catechism came to mean the church's ministry of grounding new believers in the essentials of the faith, a systematic way of ensuring that no Christian is left unarmed and ungrounded. How many Christians do you know that have heard thousands of sermons, attended a small group for decades, and read dozens of Christian books, *yet* they still cannot give a clear, concise biblical definition for such essential doctrines as the Trinity or justification or sanctification? They need to be catechised!

John MacArthur writes (in endorsing a catechism book), "One of the most urgent tasks facing the contemporary church is that of teaching doctrine, not only to the future, but to present generations." J.I. Packer has said that the greatest challenge for the 21<sup>st</sup> century Church is to recatechise and disciple believers. I offer, therefore, these *ten reasons why we should catechise* in our churches.

### **1. Catechise because *Scripture encourages it*.**

Shallow, wandering Christians who are not grounded in their faith are a danger to themselves and to others. It is clear that Christ intends for His Church to grow up to maturity and stability, not being easily tossed about by the latest ideas and schemes (Eph. 4:11-16). No one grows in Christ without being "firmly rooted...and established in your faith" (Col. 2:7). Thomas Watson said, "catechising is...needful for Christians to be well instructed in the grounds of religion....it is the best [way] for the grounding and settling of people".

For example:

- In Exodus 20, God gave the Ten Commandments as a summary outline of His entire Law.
- In Deut. 6:20-25, parents are told to answer a child's question by giving a summary of God's great work of redeeming Israel and giving them His Law. God also gave parents the Passover meal and other memorials and stone monuments as means by which to teach and pass on the faith to future generations.
- In the Gospels, Jesus gave us "The Lord's Prayer" as a brief guideline for all our praying (Matt. 6:9-13).
- The NT is full of examples of Christian summaries and thumbnail sketches of the faith, which the early church appears to have memorised, sung, and confessed together (Eph. 4:4-6, 1 Tim. 3:15-16, Php. 2:6-11). The purpose of Christ's two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, are also a kind of visible catechism to keep a church gospel-centred.
- Paul speaks often to Timothy and Titus of the "faithful sayings" which were loved and recited in the churches (1 Tim. 1:15; 3:1; 4:9; 2 Tim. 2:11; Tit. 3:8). 2 Tim. 1:13 also speaks of how we must "retain, hold on to" the "form, standard, pattern, outline" of "sound words". There is great benefit to creeds, confessions, and catechisms that show us the "form" and essence of the apostolic teaching.
- Hebrews speaks of the importance of first learning the "elementary principles... elementary teaching" of the Christian faith (5:12, 6:1).

Plus, the direct mandate to every Christian parent to "bring up" our children "in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4) ought to compel us to grab every possible tool that will assist us in this great mission of training young hearts with God's truth. Satan is relentless in his efforts to catechise us and our children in the ways of the world. Can we afford to be *any less zealous* to ground our children in the truth and to renew their minds and ours with God's Word? (Rom. 12:1-2)

## 2. Catechise to *evangelise*.

Paul said that "faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ" (Rom. 10:17). So we should seize every opportunity to expose our children and others to biblical truth, that they might come to faith. The whole history of Israel illustrates how God *uses prior knowledge to bring later conviction* and salvation, as God was using His Law to prepare His people for Christ (Rom. 3; Gal. 3, etc.). Often in Acts, from Peter's Pentecost sermon onwards, the Holy Spirit uses the apostolic preaching to reach God-fearing Jews or Gentiles who already had tons of prior knowledge of the Old Testament and of Messianic prophecies (Acts chps. 2-3, 7, 10, 13, 18:24-28, etc.).

Paul states this explicitly in Timothy's case, saying that "from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (2 Tim. 3:16). This word, "childhood", in the NT normally means "infant, baby". Long before Timothy understood what he was learning, the spiritual 'braai' was already being prepared: the coals and fire-lighters were well-laid in his heart, making him all the more ready for the day when the Holy Spirit would come to ignite those truths through regeneration, conviction and conversion and to set him ablaze for Christ.

Like any good thing, such a saturation in biblical knowledge can become a proud idol and a dead tradition; but such abuse does not cancel the virtue of the thing itself, the great value of storing up God's Word in young hearts for future use (Ps. 119:11).

As Spurgeon wrote:

*Those who use [the catechism] in their families or classes must labour to explain the sense to the little ones; but the words should be carefully learned by heart, for they will be understood better as the child advances in years.*

*...I am more and more persuaded that the study of a good Scriptural catechism is of infinite value to our children.... Even if the youngsters do not understand all the questions and answers...yet, abiding in their memories, it will be infinite service when the time of understanding comes, to have known these very excellent, wise and judicious definitions of the things of God.... It will be a blessing to them – the greatest of all blessing...a blessing in life and death, in time and eternity, the best of blessings God Himself can give.*

My friends Seth and Paul, missionaries in the north of this country [South Africa], have recently completed a catechism in the Tsonga language. Already they have seen at least four people come to Christ through their catechism sessions! This kind of up-close-and-personal, house-to-house teaching of the gospel has broken through people's ignorance in ways that their regular sermons and many other efforts had not yet done (cf. Acts 20:20).

### **3. Catechise because of *the example of church history.***

We owe a tremendous debt to our spiritual forefathers in this realm of good catechisms, and we ignore their legacy to our own peril. As the saying goes, 'You can see further when standing on the shoulders of giants'. A good, historic catechism can be "a giant of mind-sharpening, Christ-worshipping, soul-inspiring devotion" (deYoung).

In the early church, catechisms were a favourite tool for preparing baptismal candidates and thus safeguarding the purity of the church from many false conversions. One of the titles and job descriptions for church fathers like Tertullian and Augustine was that of "catechist".

Unfortunately, with the rise of infant baptism, catechisms became a part of a confirmation process that often gave a false assurance of salvation to any who completed the process (among both Protestants & Catholics). Many in South Africa who grew up in mainline churches recall their days of catechism as an empty ritual in a dead church: "*Bor-ing!*"

But one must ask: was it the catechisms that *made* it a boring experience, or was it a dead church that produced the boredom? The best of spiritual disciplines will inevitably go sour if combined with cold affections and hypocritical lives. Remember, the abuse of a good tool does not invalidate the tool itself; it only cautions us to use it biblically, sincerely and passionately. Which is exactly what the Reformers then did in the Protestant Reformation!

The Reformation became the 'Golden Age of Catechisms', as reformers like Luther and Calvin heralded the need to recover catechising as essential to the survival of the Church. Many of the Reformers seized the providential opportunity granted by Gutenberg's new printing press to produce and spread biblical catechisms as mighty tools for the reformation and strengthening of the Church. Calvin spoke of the need for the Church to write out treatments "in succession of the principal matters" of Christian truth, and that those who used such catechisms would "make more progress in the school of God in one day than any other person in three months"!

Martin Luther took catechisms so seriously that he required all to memorise it. Any who were unwilling were barred from the Lord's Supper and, if an unwilling child, then parents should withhold food and drink from them until they learned their catechism! Says one historian, "Luther knew he could not force

belief, but he insisted that people at least know the truth. And in many ways, it seemed to work. Within a few years, he reckoned that fifteen-year-olds in Wittenberg knew more about the Word of God 'than all the universities and doctors before'." (Reeves, *The Unquenchable Flame*, p. 57)

God used faithful Baxter, the 17<sup>th</sup> century Puritan pastor, to transform the whole village of Kidderminster through catechising every household, children and parents alike. Cambridge used to have the position of "college catechist", filled by a succession of godly, notable pastors. Even during the Dark Ages, the great medieval emperor, Charlemagne, said that catechising was essential to rescue his era from its embarrassing ignorance. To this day, the 4<sup>th</sup> most widely circulated book of all time (after the Bible, *Pilgrim's Progress*, and *The Imitation of Christ*) is the *Heidelberg Catechism*, which is a rich treasury of gospel teaching that stirs the soul. We have included a few favourites from that catechism in this booklet also.

Listen to how one grandmother in 1926 recalls her experience of being catechised by their pastor:

*We had no Sabbath school then, but we had the Baptist Catechism, with which we were as familiar as with the Lord's Prayer. At our quarterly seasons, we children of the congregation repeated the Baptist Catechism standing, in a circle round the font. We numbered from sixty to a hundred. The girls standing at the south of the pulpit, the boys meeting them in the center from the north, Dr. Furman would, in his majestic, winning manner, walk down the pulpit steps and with book in hand, commence asking questions, beginning with the little ones (very small indeed some were, but well taught and drilled at home).*

*We had to memorize the whole book, for none knew which question would fall to them. I think I hear at this very moment the dear voice of our pastor saying, "A little louder, my child," and then the trembling, sweet voice would be raised a little too loud. It was a marvel to visitors on these occasions, the wonderful self-possession and accuracy manifested by the whole class. This practice was of incalculable benefit, for when it pleased God to change our hearts, and when offering ourselves to the church for membership, we knew what the church doctrines meant and were quite familiar with answering questions before the whole congregation, and did not quake when pastor or deacon or anyone else asked what we understood by Baptism, the Lord's Supper, Justification, Adoption, Sanctification. Oh, no; we had been well taught...What a pity that such a course of instruction has been abandoned.*

#### **4. Catechise to benefit more from Bible reading and sermons and to spark more Scripture memorisation.**

Your ability to profit from your Bible reading and sermon hearing will be affected by how many doctrinal hooks and categories you have for placing the things you are learning. The more you develop a working theology and doctrinal vocabulary, the more you will grasp from each sermon and each passage you read. Matthew Henry said a good catechism gives you a map of the Promised Land, a bird's eye view of the Bible so that you can better find your way through it.

Henry also wrote, "Catechizing does to the preaching of the word the same good office that John the Baptist did to our Saviour; it prepares the way, and makes its paths straight...." Thomas Watson said, "To preach and not to catechise is to build without a foundation". Another prominent Puritan, John Flavel, said to pastors, "All your excellent sermons will be dashed to pieces, upon the rock of your people's ignorance... You can never pitch upon a better project, to promote and secure the success of your labours, than catechising."

Some will criticise and say that catechisms (like creeds and confessions) replace the Bible and violate the 'Sola Scriptura' principle. But if God did not design for us to need human words that instruct us and explain and apply the Bible for us, then why listen to sermons or seek godly counsel or even read this article? Spurgeon answers well this unfounded fear:

*If there were any fear that the Scripture would be displaced by [catechisms], we should be the first to denounce them; but there is not the shadow of a reason for such a dream, since the most Bible-reading of all nations is that in which the [Westminster] Assembly's Catechism is learned by almost every mother's son.*

In other words, a good catechism, properly used, does not replace Scripture but actually exalts Scripture. It shows how serious we are about learning and remembering the Bible's core doctrines. In the catechism contained in this booklet, you will see that every page is replete with Scripture references and verses to memorise. This tool will only make us treasure Scripture more and take God's Word more seriously.

#### **5. Catechise to *increase discernment and vigilance against error.***

The more grounded you are in doctrine, the more alert you will be against error. A good catechism acts as a hedge against heresy and false teaching and aberrant doctrine. As Spurgeon wrote:

*I am persuaded that the use of a good Catechism in all our families will be a great safeguard against the increasing errors of the times....In matters of doctrine you will find orthodox congregations frequently changed to heterodoxy [error] in the course of thirty or forty years, and that is because, too often, there has been no catechising of the children in the essential doctrines of the Gospel.*

#### **6. Catechise to *keep core doctrines central.***

Catechisms are not only a hedge against heresy; they are also a wedge that opens the mind to truth, the great truths, the main truths of the Bible. What God has made most central and repeated in His Word is what we want to be most central in our faith and in our life together as a church. Otherwise, we can easily be sidetracked and preoccupied by peripheral doctrines and pet issues and hobby-horses. Catechising is a great way to equip and excite believers about grand truths such as God's decrees, the atonement, and the offices of Christ as our Prophet, Priest and King.

#### **7. Catechise to *see the unity of the whole Bible.***

The more a believer is grounded in the main themes of Scripture, the more he sees the glorious unity of the Bible as coming ultimately from one Divine Author. When you can define and defend major doctrines from both OT and NT texts, you become more assured of the consistency, authority, and power of God's Word.

#### **8. Catechise to *prepare for temptation and suffering.***

Times of persecution may come, or confinement to a sick bed, when you cannot always read Scripture. The only doctrines and truths and promises you may have available are what you've stored up by memory. Or times of temptation may assault you in your most vulnerable moments, and you will be forced to choose right or wrong long before you can open your Bible. Your only defence will be the Scriptures and doctrines you have stored up in advance for such battles (Ps 119:11).

One old writer said this to encourage parents to catechise: "If ever your poor infants be driven to wildernesses, to hollow caves, to faggot (old word for a bundle of sticks or twigs) and fire, or to sorrows of any kind, they will thank God and you that they were well catechised!" This would also apply to Christian students who go off to university: When they are under fire for their faith and facing fierce battles with the sceptics of our day, they will need the strongest possible foundation in biblical doctrine.

## **9. Catechise to *teach logical thinking.***

In our age of information overload, logical thinking and coherent reasoning are in short supply. Yet our God is not a God "of confusion", and He calls us to be mature in our thinking, not fuzzy or unclear (1 Cor. 14:20,33). We are made in the image of this logical God, and He calls us to love Him also "with all our minds" (Matt. 22:37) and to "think on what is...true" (Php. 4:8). Pastors and elders are to set the example for all believers, being able to clearly articulate biblical truth, "to exhort in sound doctrine and refute those who contradict" (Tit. 1:9).

A great tool for teaching inductive, logical thinking is the catechism. The question-and-answer method trains children and disciplines all of us to read Scripture more carefully and to think precisely about Christian doctrine.

## **10. Catechise to *unify homes and churches.***

Unless we want churches with a shallow unity (around personalities, activities, appeasement, etc.), we will have to work at cultivating a deep, lasting unity around truth. Nothing glues us together more in our marriages, homes, or churches, than shared beliefs and common convictions. Scripture speaks repeatedly about churches having a "one heart, one soul, one mind, one spirit, one voice" kind of spiritual unity that is all too rare (Acts 2:42-47; 5:32; Rom. 15:5-6; Eph. 4:1-6; Php. 1:27). But that kind of deeply knit community becomes more of a reality when we confess one gospel and share together in one common faith and set of core doctrines.

1 Cor. 1:10 mandates that, in our churches, we avoid divisions by thinking and speaking "the same thing". But that means we must be learning and believing the same thing, and catechisms are a great way to do that. B.H. Carrol writes, "A church with a little creed is a church with a little life. The more doctrines a church can agree on, the greater its power, and the wider its usefulness. The fewer its articles of faith, the fewer its bonds of union and compactness."

Not only can a common catechism foster unity in churches and homes, but also amongst other churches. It becomes easier to find truly "likeminded" churches when we know which churches take certain biblical truths seriously enough for them and their children to be catechised in them.

## **Conclusion**

Families are encouraged to use this booklet and learn this catechism as a regular habit at mealtimes or whenever they conduct family worship. We have purposefully tried to preserve most of the original wording of the *Shorter Catechism*. It uses older English language which will stretch all of us at times; but with a little effort, it can be explained and still understood by most, young or old, and the effort will surely be rewarded. For smaller children, parents may want to start by teaching some of the simpler questions, or only a portion of the full answer, and/or some key memory verses (Or there are good mini-catechisms for small kids available as a preliminary step).

Churches may also use this catechism booklet as a teaching tool in a brief regular slot during small groups, Bible Hour (Sunday School) classes, and worship services. Once older children and adults have memorised all the answers and key Scriptures, they can start over again and work on memorising additional Scriptures that support each answer. In our home, our younger children recite the initial answers, followed by our older children then reciting the key supporting verse.



My wife and I grew up in churches unfamiliar with catechisms. Yet we praise God for the seeds that were sown by parents and pastors that revered and modelled God's Word, as well as a love for church history. This eventually led us to rediscover the catechism as a great tool for passing on the heritage of sound doctrine to the next generation.

Sincere believers are in for a surprise when they begin to study the *Shorter Catechism*. You will soon find you are inhaling a very different kind of air from today's Christianity. Instead of clichés and shallow phrases, you'll find sentences pulsating with life and truth in every word. What a joy to stand with centuries of our Protestant forefathers and heroes of the faith in rehearsing again the great truths of the gospel, the heartbeat of our home and church life, and the best comforts for our souls!

### Recommended Resources:

*Teaching Truth, Training Hearts,*  
by Tom Nettles (Calvary Press)

*Grounded in the Gospel,*  
by Packer & Parret (Baker Press)

*The Gospel We Almost Forgot:  
Rediscovering the Gospel in a 16<sup>th</sup> Century Catechism,*  
by Kevin de Young (Moody Press)

*Family Religion,*  
by Matthew Henry (Christian Focus)

*Rediscovering Catechism,*  
by Donald Van Dyken (P&R)

*Teach Your Family the Truth,*  
by Brian Stone (DayOne)

For this hybrid catechism, credit must be given largely to the *Westminster Shorter Catechism*, but also to the *Heidelberg Catechism* and the *A Catechism for Boys and Girls* (Carey Publ., 1969). The readers will also note that, due to our own theological position, we have altered some of the covenantal (incl. infant baptism), sabbatarian and sacramentalist tendencies of the *Shorter Catechism*, while still (we believe) preserving the core biblical truths and rich heritage of this catechism. For a more full statement of our own doctrinal stance, see at the back our church's *Declaration of Faith*.

All key memory verses are from the  
**New American Standard Bible**  
and all footnotes are from the  
**English Standard Version**

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## WHAT IS THE CHIEF END OF MAN?



**A:** Man's chief end is to glorify God<sup>1</sup>, and to enjoy Him forever.<sup>2</sup>

### **1 Corinthians 10:31**

Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do,  
do all to the glory of God.

#### 1

- Whom have I in heaven *but You*? And besides You, I desire nothing on earth. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. (Psalms 73:25-26)
- Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created. (Revelation 4:11)
- Your people shall all be righteous; they shall possess the land forever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I might be glorified. (Isaiah 60:21)
- For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen. (Romans 11:36)
- For you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. (1 Corinthians 6:20)
- So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31)

#### 2

- The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance. I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. (Psalms 16:5-11)
- Blessed are the people to whom such blessings fall! Blessed are the people whose God is the LORD! (Psalms 144:15)
- "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation." (Isaiah 12:2)
- And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. (Luke 2:10)
- Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. (Philippians 4:4)



## WHAT RULE 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<sup>3</sup>, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy Him.<sup>4</sup>

### Psalm 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

#### 3

- Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." (Luke 24:44)
- Knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:20-21)

#### 4

- You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you. (Deuteronomy 4:2)
- The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. (Psalms 19:7-11)
- These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. (John 15:11)
- Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (John 20:30-31)
- And how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:15-17)
- And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. (1 John 1:4)
- Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. (Ps 119:105)



**A) WHO WROTE THE BIBLE?**

**B) HOW DID GOD GIVE US THE BIBLE?**

**C) CAN WE TRUST THE BIBLE**

## **Q. 2**

**A, B, C**

- A:**
- a) All Scripture is breathed out by God.<sup>A</sup>
  - b) Men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.<sup>B</sup>
  - c) Yes, the Bible is all-sufficient and without error.<sup>C</sup>

### **2 Peter 1:21**

For no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will,  
but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

#### **A**

- All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness. (2 Timothy 3:16)

#### **B**

- For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:21)

#### **C**

- God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it? (Numbers 23:19)
- The words of the Lord are pure words, like silver refined in a furnace on the ground, purified seven times. (Psalms 12:6)
- Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. Do not add to his words, lest he rebuke you and you be found a liar. (Proverbs 30:5-6)



## WHAT DO THE SCRIPTURES PRINCIPALLY TEACH?



**A:** The Scriptures principally teach, what man is to believe concerning God,<sup>5</sup> and what duty God requires of man.<sup>6</sup>

### **Ecclesiastes 12:13**

The conclusion, when all has been heard, *is*: fear God and keep His commandments, because this *applies to every person*.

**5**  
• In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1)

• You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life. (John 5:39)

• Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (John 20:30-31)

• So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. (Romans 10:17)

• And how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. (2 Timothy 3:15)

• **6**

The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. (Ecclesiastes 12:13)

• And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am commanding you today for your good? (Deuteronomy 10:12-13)

• This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. (Joshua 1:8)

• How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. (Psalms 119:9, 11)

• He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8)

• All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)



## WHAT IS GOD?



### Q. 4

**A:** God is a spirit,<sup>7</sup> infinite,<sup>8</sup> eternal,<sup>9</sup> and unchangeable,<sup>10</sup> in His being,<sup>11</sup> wisdom,<sup>12</sup> power,<sup>13</sup> holiness,<sup>14</sup> justice,<sup>15</sup> goodness,<sup>16</sup> and truth.<sup>17</sup>

#### 1 Timothy 6:15b-16

...He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him *be* honor and eternal dominion! Amen.

7

• God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. (John 4:24)

8

• Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure. (Psalms 147:5)

• Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. (Psalms 145:3)

• Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD. (Jeremiah 23:24)

9

• Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. (Psalms 90:2)

10

• The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations. (Psalms 33:11)

• For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. (Malachi 3:6)

• Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. (Hebrews 13:8)

11

• To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. (1 Timothy 1:17)

12

• Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor? (Romans 11:33-34)

13

• Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God. (Psalms 62:11)

• Ah, Lord GOD! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you. (Jeremiah 32:17)

14

• And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come! (Rev 4:8)

15

• Before the LORD, for he comes, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in his faithfulness. (Psalms 96:13)

16 + 17

• The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation. (Exodus 34:6-7)



**A) WHERE IS GOD?**

**B) CAN YOU SEE GOD?**

**C) DOES GOD KNOW ALL THINGS?**

**D) CAN GOD DO ALL THINGS?**

## **Q. 4**

**A, B, C, D**

- A:** a) God is everywhere.<sup>A</sup>  
b) No, I cannot see God, but He always sees me.<sup>B</sup>  
c) Yes, nothing can be hidden from God.<sup>C</sup>  
d) Yes, God does all things according to His perfect will.<sup>D</sup>

### **Jeremiah 23:24**

"Can a man hide himself in hiding places so I do not see him?"  
declares the LORD.

"Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?" declares the LORD.

#### **A**

- "Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him?" declares the Lord. "Do I not fill heaven and earth?" declares the Lord. (Jeremiah 23:24)
- Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night, even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you." (Psalm 139:7-12)

#### **B**

- For a man's ways are before the eyes of the Lord, and he ponders all his paths. (Proverbs 5:21)
- Who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen. (1 Timothy 6:16)

#### **C**

- And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. (Hebrews 4:13)
- He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep." (John 21:17)

#### **D**

- I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. (Job 42:2)





## ARE THERE MORE GODS THAN ONE?



**A:** There is but one only,<sup>18</sup> the living and true God<sup>19</sup>

### Deuteronomy 6:4

"Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!"

#### 18

- Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. (Deuteronomy 6:4)
- Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god." (Isaiah 44:6)
- Declare and present your case; let them take counsel together! Who told this long ago? Who declared it of old? Was it not I, the LORD? And there is no other god besides me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none besides me. "Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other." (Isaiah 45:21-22)
- Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "an idol has no real existence," and that "there is no God but one." For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth--as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords" yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. (1 Corinthians 8:4-6)

#### 19

- But the LORD is the true God; he is the living God and the everlasting King. At his wrath the earth quakes, and the nations cannot endure his indignation. (Jeremiah 10:10)
- And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. (John 17:3)
- For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God. (1 Thessalonians 1:9)
- And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. (1 John 5:20)



## HOW MANY PERSONS ARE THERE IN THE GODHEAD?



**A:** There are three persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost;<sup>20</sup> and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.<sup>21</sup>

### **2 Corinthians 13:14**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

#### **20**

- And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him. (Matthew 3:16)
- Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (Matthew 28:19)
- The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Corinthians 13:14)
- According to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you. (1 Peter 1:2)

#### **21**

- Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness. (Psalms 45:6)
- In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1)
- "And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed." (John 17:5)
- But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God." (Acts 5:3-4)
- To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen. (Romans 9:5)
- For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily. (Colossians 2:9)
- Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy. (Jude 1:24)



## WHAT ARE THE DECREES OF GOD?



**A:** The decrees of God are, His eternal purpose, according to the counsel of His will, whereby, for His own glory, He has foreordained whatsoever comes to pass.<sup>22</sup>

### **Ephesians 1:11**

In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will.

#### **22**

- The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations. (Psalms 33:11)
- The LORD of hosts has sworn: "As I have planned, so shall it be, and as I have purposed, so shall it stand. (Isaiah 14:24)
- This Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. (Acts 2:23)
- In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. (Ephesians 1:11-12)
- For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen. (Romans 11:36)
- Declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose.' (Isaiah 46:10)
- The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord. (Proverbs 16:33)
- As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. (Genesis 50:20)



## HOW DOES GOD EXECUTE HIS DECREES?

### Q. 8

**A:** God executes His decrees in the works of creation and providence.<sup>23</sup>

#### **Revelation 4:11**

"Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created."

#### **23**

- Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and mist, stormy wind fulfilling his word! (Psalms 148:7-8)
- Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name, by the greatness of his might, and because he is strong in power not one is missing. (Isaiah 40:26)
- All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?" (Daniel 4:35)
- And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, "Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, "Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed"-- for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. (Acts 4:24-28)
- Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created. (Revelation 4:11)



## WHAT IS THE WORK OF CREATION?



**A:** The work of creation is, God's making all things of nothing, by the word of His power,<sup>24</sup> in the space of six days, and all very good.<sup>25</sup>

### **Hebrews 11:3**

By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.

#### **24**

- In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1)
- By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host. (Psalms 33:6)
- For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm. (Psalms 33:9)
- By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. (Hebrews 11:3)

#### **25**

- And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. (Genesis 1:31)
- 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. (Exodus 20:11)



## HOW DID GOD CREATE MAN?

### Q. 10

**A:** God created man male and female, after His own image,<sup>26</sup> in knowledge,<sup>27</sup> righteousness, and holiness,<sup>28</sup> with dominion over the creatures.<sup>29</sup>

#### **Genesis 1:27**

God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

#### 26

• So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:27)

#### 27

• And have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. (Colossians 3:10)

#### 28

• And to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. (Ephesians 4:24)

#### 29

• And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." (Genesis 1:28)

• O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger. When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man<sup>40</sup>that you care for him? Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

(Psalms 8:1-9)



## WHAT ARE GOD'S WORKS OF PROVIDENCE?

### Q. 11

**A:** God's works of providence are, His most holy,<sup>30</sup> wise,<sup>31</sup> and powerful<sup>32</sup> preserving<sup>33</sup> and governing<sup>34</sup> all His creatures, and all their actions.<sup>35</sup>

#### Proverbs 16:9

The mind of man plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps.

#### 30

• The LORD is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works. (Psalms 145:17)

#### 31

• O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. (Psalms 104:24)

#### 32

• He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. (Hebrews 1:3)

#### 33

• You are the LORD, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you. (Nehemiah 9:6)

#### 34

• And what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church. (Ephesians 1:19-22)

• The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all. (Ps 103:19)

• Whatever the Lord pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps. (Ps 135:6)

#### 35

• The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps. (Proverbs 16:9)

• Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; your judgments are like the great deep; man and beast you save, O LORD. (Psalms 36:6)

• The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD. (Proverbs 16:33)

• But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. (Matthew 10:30)

• The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; he turns it wherever he will. (Proverbs 21:1)

• Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. (Matthew 10:29)



## WHAT DO YOU UNDERSTAND BY THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD?

### Q. 12

**A:** God's providence is His almighty and ever present power, whereby, as with His hand, He still upholds heaven and earth and all creatures, and so governs them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and barren years, food and drink, health and sickness, riches and poverty, indeed, all things, come not by chance<sup>4</sup> but by His fatherly hand.<sup>36</sup>

#### Matthew 10:29

"Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father."

#### 36

- "Am I a God who is near," declares the LORD, "And not a God far off? (Jeremiah 23:23)
- "The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all *people* life and breath and all things; and He made from one *man* every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined *their* appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His children.'" (Acts 17:24-28)
- And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. (Hebrews 1:3)
- They do not say in their heart, "Let us now fear the LORD our God, who gives rain in its season, both the autumn rain and the spring rain, who keeps for us the appointed weeks of the harvest." (Jeremiah 5:24)
- And saying, "Men, why are you doing these things? We are also men of the same nature as you, and preach the gospel to you that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, WHO MADE THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH AND THE SEA AND ALL THAT IS IN THEM. "In the generations gone by He permitted all the nations to go their own ways; and yet He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good and gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness." (Acts 14:15-17)
- The rich and the poor have a common bond, the LORD is the maker of them all. (Proverbs 22:2)
- The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD. (Proverbs 16:33)
- Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. (Matthew 10:29)





**DID OUR FIRST PARENTS CONTINUE  
IN THE ESTATE WHEREIN THEY WERE  
CREATED?**

**Q. 13**

**A:** Our first parents, being left to the freedom of their own will, fell from the estate wherein they were created, by sinning against God.<sup>37</sup>

**Ecclesiastes 7:29**

"Behold, I have found only this, that God made men upright,  
but they have sought out many devices."

**37**

- Behold, I have found only this, that God made men upright, but they have sought out many devices. (Ecclesiastes 7:29)
- So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. (Genesis 3:6-8)
- Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." (Genesis 3:13)
- But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. (2 Corinthians 11:3)



## WHAT IS SIN?



### Q. 14

**A:** Sin is any want [lack] of conformity unto, or transgression of, the law of God.<sup>38</sup>

#### **1 John 3:4**

Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness;  
and sin is lawlessness.

#### **38**

- If anyone sins, doing any of the things that by the LORD's commandments ought not to be done, though he did not know it, then realizes his guilt, he shall bear his iniquity. (Leviticus 5:17)
- So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin. (James 4:17)
- Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (1 John 3:4)



**WHAT WAS THE SIN WHEREBY OUR  
FIRST PARENTS FELL FROM THE ESTATE  
WHEREIN THEY WERE CREATED?**

**Q. 15**

**A:** The sin whereby our first parents fell from the estate wherein they were created, was their eating the forbidden fruit.<sup>39</sup>

**Genesis 3:6**

When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

**39**

• When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings. They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. (Genesis 3:6-8)



## DID ALL MANKIND FALL IN ADAM'S FIRST TRANSGRESSION?

# Q. 16

**A:** Yes, all mankind sinned in Adam,<sup>40</sup> as his natural descendants, and fell with him, in his first transgression.<sup>41</sup>

### **Romans 5:12**

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world,  
and death through sin, and so death spread to all men,  
because all sinned.

#### **40**

• For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. (1 Corinthians 15:22)

#### **41**

• Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come. But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 5:12-21)



## INTO WHAT ESTATE DID THE FALL BRING MANKIND?



# Q. 17

**A:** The fall brought mankind into an estate of sin and misery.<sup>42</sup>

### **Romans 5:18**

So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men.

#### **42**

- To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return." (Genesis 3:16-19)
- To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." (Genesis 3:16)
- In their paths are ruin and misery. (Romans 3:16)
- Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned. (Romans 5:12)
- And you were dead in the trespasses and sins. (Ephesians 2:1)
- So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. (Romans 5:18)



## WHEREIN CONSISTS THE SINFULNESS OF THAT ESTATE WHERE INTO MAN FELL?

### Q. 18

**A:** The sinfulness of that estate where into man fell, consists in the guilt of Adam's first sin,<sup>43</sup> the want [lack] of original righteousness,<sup>44</sup> and the corruption of his whole nature,<sup>45</sup> which is commonly called original sin; together with all actual transgressions which proceed from it.<sup>46</sup>

#### Romans 5:19

For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.

#### 43

- Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned. (Romans 5:12)
- For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. (Romans 5:19)

#### 44

- As it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; (Romans 3:10)
- And have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. (Colossians 3:10)
- And to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. (Ephesians 4:24)

#### 45

- Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. (Psalms 51:5)
- And you were dead in the trespasses and sins. (Ephesians 2:1)
- Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:19)
- That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. (John 3:6)
- "There is no fear of God before their eyes." (Romans 3:18)
- For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. (Romans 8:7-8)
- Among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. (Ephesians 2:3)

#### 46

- The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. (Genesis 6:5)
- The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, doing abominable iniquity; there is none who does good. (Psalms 53:1)
- For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. (Matthew 15:19)
- for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)
- Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. (Galatians 5:19-21)
- But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. (James 1:14-15)



## WHAT IS THE MISERY OF THAT ESTATE WHEREINTO MAN FELL?

### Q. 19

**A:** All mankind by their fall lost communion with God,<sup>47</sup> are under His wrath<sup>48</sup> and curse,<sup>49</sup> and so made liable to all the miseries of this life,<sup>50</sup> to death<sup>51</sup> itself, and to the pains of hell forever.<sup>52</sup>

#### **Ephesians 2:3**

Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh,  
indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind,  
and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

#### **47**

- And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. (Genesis 3:8)
- He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life. (Genesis 3:24)
- You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. (John 8:44)
- Remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. (Ephesians 2:12)
- They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. (Ephesians 4:18)

#### **48**

- Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. (John 3:36)
- For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. (Romans 1:18)
- Among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. (Ephesians 2:3)

#### **49**

- For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them." (Galatians 3:10)

#### **50**

- What has a man from all the toil and striving of heart with which he toils beneath the sun? For all his days are full of sorrow, and his work is a vexation. Even in the night his heart does not rest. This also is vanity. (Ecclesiastes 2:22-23)

#### **51**

- For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)
- Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. (Matthew 25:41)

#### **52**

- They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might. (2 Thessalonians 1:9)



## DID GOD LEAVE ALL MANKIND TO PERISH IN THE ESTATE OF SIN AND MISERY?

### Q. 20

**A:** God, having out of His mere good pleasure, from all eternity, elected some to everlasting life,<sup>53</sup> to deliver them out of the estate of sin and misery, and to bring them into an estate of salvation by a Redeemer.<sup>54</sup>

#### **Ephesians 1:4**

Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world,  
that we would be holy and blameless before Him.

#### **53**

- And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. (Acts 13:48)
- Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will. (Ephesians 1:4-5)
- But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Thessalonians 2:13-14)

#### **54**

- So that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 5:21)
- I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel. (Genesis 3:15)
- But everyone shall die for his own sin. Each man who eats sour grapes, his teeth shall be set on edge. "Behold, the days are coming", declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband", declares the LORD. "But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." (Jeremiah 31:30-34)
- Even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Matthew 20:28)
- In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." (1 Corinthians 11:25)
- Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. (Hebrews 9:15)





## WHO IS THE REDEEMER OF GOD'S ELECT?



### Q. 21

**A:** The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ,<sup>55</sup> who, being the eternal Son of God,<sup>56</sup> became man,<sup>57</sup> and so was, and continues to be, God and man in two distinct natures, and one person, forever.<sup>58</sup>

#### 1 Timothy 2:5

For there is one God, *and* one mediator also between God and men, *the* man Christ Jesus.

#### 55

- Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)
- And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)
- For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. (1 Timothy 2:5-6)

#### 56

- I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you. (Psalms 2:7)
- And behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:17)
- He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." (Matthew 17:5)
- No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known. (John 1:18)

#### 57

- For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)
- "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). (Matthew 1:23)
- And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)
- But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law. (Galatians 4:4)

#### 58

- And said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." (Acts 1:11)
- But he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. (Hebrews 7:24-25)



## HOW DID CHRIST, BEING THE SON OF GOD, BECOME MAN?



### Q. 22

**A:** Christ, the Son of God, became man, by taking to Himself a true body, and a reasonable soul,<sup>59</sup> being conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, in the womb of the virgin Mary, and born of her,<sup>60</sup> yet without sin.<sup>61</sup>

#### Philippians 2:6-7

Who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men.

#### 59

- Who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. (Philippians 2:6-7)
- Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil. (Hebrews 2:14)
- Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. (Hebrews 2:17)

#### 60

- To a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. (Luke 1:27)
- "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus." (Luke 1:31)
- And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy--the Son of God." (Luke 1:35)

#### 61

- For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21)
- For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. (Hebrews 4:15)
- For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. (Hebrews 7:26)
- You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. (1 John 3:5)



## WHAT OFFICES DOES CHRIST EXECUTE AS OUR REDEEMER?

### Q. 23

**A:** As our Redeemer, Christ executes the offices of a prophet,<sup>62</sup> of a priest,<sup>63</sup> and of our king,<sup>64</sup> both in His estate of humiliation and exaltation.

#### Acts 3:22

Moses said, 'THE LORD GOD WILL RAISE UP FOR YOU A PROPHET LIKE ME FROM YOUR BRETHREN; TO HIM YOU SHALL GIVE HEED to everything He says to you.'

#### Hebrews 5:6

Just as He says also in another *passage*, 'YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK.'

#### Psalms 2:6

'But as for Me, I have installed My King upon Zion, My holy mountain.'

#### 62

- I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. (Deuteronomy 18:18)
- Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. (Acts 2:33)
- Moses said, 'The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.' (Acts 3:22-23)
- Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. (Hebrews 1:1-2)

#### 63

- Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. (Hebrews 4:14-15)
- So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek." (Hebrews 5:5-6)

#### 64

- "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill." (Psalm 2:6)
- For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. (Isaiah 9:6-7)
- He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." (Luke 1:32-33)
- Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." (John 18:37)
- For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. (1 Corinthians 15:25)



## HOW DOES CHRIST EXECUTE THE OFFICE OF A PROPHET?

### Q. 24

**A:** Christ executes the office of a prophet, in revealing to us, by His Word<sup>65</sup> and Spirit,<sup>66</sup> the will of God for our salvation.<sup>67</sup>

#### 2 Timothy 3:15

And that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

#### 65

- No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known. (John 1:18)
- "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Luke 4:18-19)
- In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. (Acts 1:1-2)
- How shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard. (Hebrews 2:3)

#### 66

- "But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning. (John 15:26-27)
- But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8)
- And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. (1 Corinthians 2:13)

#### 67

- And how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. (2 Timothy 3:15)
- And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world." (John 4:41-42)
- Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (John 20:30-31)



## HOW DOES CHRIST EXECUTE THE OFFICE OF A PRIEST?



**A:** Christ executes the office of a priest, in His once offering up of Himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice,<sup>68</sup> and reconcile us to God,<sup>69</sup> and in making continual intercession for us.<sup>70</sup>

### 1 Peter 3:18

For Christ also died for sins once for all, *the* just for *the* unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit.

#### 68

- For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit. (1 Peter 3:18)
- Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. (Acts 8:32-35)
- For then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. (Hebrews 9:26-28)
- But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God. (Hebrews 10:12)

#### 69

- For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. (Romans 5:10-11)
- All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; (2 Corinthians 5:18)
- And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him. (Colossians 1:21-22)

#### 70

- Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died--more than that, who was raised--who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. (Romans 8:34)
- Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. (Hebrews 7:25)
- For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. (Hebrews 9:24)



## HOW DOES CHRIST EXECUTE THE OFFICE OF A KING?

### Q. 26

**A:** Christ executes the office of a king, in subduing us to Himself, in ruling and defending us,<sup>71</sup> and in restraining and conquering all His and our enemies.<sup>72</sup>

#### 1 Corinthians 15:25-26

For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.  
The last enemy that will be abolished is death.

#### 71

- Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your power, in holy garments; from the womb of the morning, the dew of your youth will be yours. (Psalms 110:3)
- And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)
- And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel. (Matthew 2:6)

- Since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. (John 17:2)
- He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son. (Colossians 1:13)

#### 72

- "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill." I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." (Psalms 2:6-9)
- A Psalm of David. The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool." The LORD sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of your enemies! (Psalms 110:1-2)
- But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. (Matthew 12:28)
- Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. (1 Corinthians 15:24-26)
- He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him. (Colossians 2:15)



## WHEREIN DID CHRIST'S HUMILIATION CONSIST?

### Q. 27

**A:** Christ's humiliation consisted in His being born, and that in a low condition,<sup>73</sup> made under the law,<sup>74</sup> undergoing the miseries of this life,<sup>75</sup> the wrath of God,<sup>76</sup> and the cursed death of the cross;<sup>77</sup> in being buried, and continuing under the power of death for a time.<sup>78</sup>

#### Philippians 2:8

Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

#### 73

- And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. (Luke 2:7)
- For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. (2 Corinthians 8:9)

#### 74

- But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law. (Galatians 4:4)

#### 75

- He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. (Isaiah 53:3)
- And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head". (Luke 9:58)
- Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. (John 4:6)
- Jesus wept. (John 11:35)
- For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. (Hebrews 2:18)

#### 76

- To the choirmaster: according to The Doe of the Dawn. A Psalm of David. My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning? (Psalms 22:1)
- 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 27:46)
- Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. (Isaiah 53:10)
- He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. (1 John 2:2)

#### 77

- Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us-- for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree". (Galatians 3:13)
- And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (Philippians 2:8)

#### 78

- For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. (Matthew 12:40)
- For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)





## WHEREIN CONSISTS CHRIST'S EXALTATION



### Q. 28

**A:** Christ's exaltation consists in His rising again from the dead on the third day,<sup>79</sup> in ascending up into heaven,<sup>80</sup> in sitting at the right hand<sup>81</sup> of God the Father, and in coming to judge the world at the last day.<sup>82</sup>

#### **Ephesians 1:20**

Which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*.

#### **79**

• That he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. (1 Corinthians 15:4)

#### **80**

• And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." (Acts 1:9-11)

• You ascended on high, leading a host of captives in your train and receiving gifts among men, even among the rebellious, that the LORD God may dwell there. (Psalms 68:18)

• Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." (Ephesians 4:8)

#### **81**

• That he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 1:20)

• A Psalm of David. The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool." (Psalms 110:1)

• Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, "The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand. (Acts 2:33-34)

• He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. (Hebrews 1:3)

#### **82**

• For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. (Matthew 16:27)

• Because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead." (Acts 17:31)





## HOW ARE WE MADE PARTAKERS OF THE REDEMPTION PURCHASED BY CHRIST?

### Q. 29

**A:** We are made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ, by the effectual application of it to us by His Holy Spirit.<sup>83</sup>

#### **John 1:12**

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name.

#### **83**

- But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. (John 1:12)
- But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. (Titus 3:4-7)



## HOW DOES THE SPIRIT APPLY TO US THE REDEMPTION PURCHASED BY CHRIST?

### Q. 30

**A:** The Spirit applies to us the redemption purchased by Christ, by working faith in us,<sup>84</sup> and thereby uniting us to Christ in our effectual calling.<sup>85</sup>

#### Ephesians 2:8

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God.

#### 84

- So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. (Romans 10:17)
- It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. (John 6:63)
- Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. (1 Corinthians 2:12)
- For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, (Ephesians 2:8)
- For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake. (Philippians 1:29)

#### 85

- I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:5)
- God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (1 Corinthians 1:9)
- So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith--that you, being rooted and grounded in love. (Ephesians 3:17)



## WHAT IS EFFECTUAL CALLING?



# Q. 31

**A:** Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit, whereby, convincing us of our sin and misery, enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ,<sup>86</sup> and renewing our wills,<sup>87</sup> He does persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ,<sup>88</sup> freely offered to us in the gospel.<sup>89</sup>

### 2 Timothy 1:9

...God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity.

#### 86

- To open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me. (Acts 26:18)
- These things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. (1 Corinthians 2:10)
- Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. (1 Corinthians 2:12)
- For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 4:6)
- That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints. (Ephesians 1:17-18)

#### 87

- And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live. (Deuteronomy 30:6)
- And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. (Ezekiel 36:26-27)
- Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." (John 3:5)
- He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit. (Titus 3:5)

#### 88

- No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. It is written in the Prophets, 'And they will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. (John 6:44-45)
- One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. (Acts 16:14)

#### 89

- "Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. (Isaiah 45:22)
- Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)
- The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price. (Revelation 22:17)



**WHAT BENEFITS DO THEY THAT ARE  
EFFECTUALLY CALLED PARTAKE OF IN  
THIS LIFE?**

**Q. 32**

**A:** They that are effectually called do in this life partake of justification, adoption, and sanctification, and the several benefits which in this life do either accompany or flow from them.<sup>90</sup>

**Romans 8:30**

And these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

**90**

- And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. (Romans 8:30)
- And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption. (1 Corinthians 1:30)
- In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace. (Ephesians 1:7)
- And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. (1 Corinthians 6:11)
- He predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will. (Ephesians 1:5)
- For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21)
- Yet we know that a person is not justified<sup>a</sup> by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified. (Galatians 2:16)



## WHAT IS JUSTIFICATION?



# Q. 33

**A:** Justification is an act of God's free grace,<sup>91</sup> wherein He pardons all our sins,<sup>92</sup> and accepts us as righteous in His sight,<sup>93</sup> only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us,<sup>94</sup> and received by faith alone.<sup>95</sup>

### Romans 5:1

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

#### 91

- And are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. (Romans 3:24)
- Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:1)

#### 92

- That is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. (2 Corinthians 5:19)
- In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace. (Ephesians 5:1)

#### 93

- For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

#### 94

- just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works. (Romans 4:6)
- He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well. (Romans 4:11)
- For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. (Romans 5:19)

#### 95

- Yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified. (Galatians 2:16)
- And be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith. (Philippians 3:9)



# Q. 33

A

## A) HOW ARE YOU RIGHTEOUS BEFORE GOD?



**A:** Only by true faith in Jesus Christ.<sup>A</sup> Although my conscience accuses me that I have grievously sinned against all God's commandments, have never kept any of them,<sup>B</sup> and am still inclined to all evil,<sup>C</sup> yet God, without any merit of my own,<sup>D</sup> out of mere grace,<sup>E</sup> imputes to me the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Jesus Christ.<sup>F</sup>

### Titus 3:5

He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

A

• Yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified. (Galatians 2:16)

• For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

• Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. (Philippians 3:8-11)

B

• What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, as it is written: None is righteous, no, not one. (Romans 3:9-10)

C

• But I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. (Romans 7:23)

D

• Know, therefore, that the Lord your God is not giving you this good land to possess because of your righteousness, for you are a stubborn people. (Deuteronomy 9:6)

• But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit. (Titus 3:4-5)

E

• And are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. (Romans 3:24)

F

• For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness. (Romans 4:3-5)

• Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

(2 Corinthians 5:17-19)



# Q. 33

## B

### B) DOES THAT MEAN THAT YOUR FAITH IS A WORK THAT MERITS SALVATION?



**A:** I am not accepted by God on account of the worthiness of my faith, for only the satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ is my righteousness before God.<sup>A</sup> I can receive this righteousness and make it my own by faith only.<sup>B</sup>

#### **Romans 10:10**

For with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

#### **A**

- And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord." (1 Corinthians 1:30-31)
- For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. (1 Corinthians 2:2)

#### **B**

- For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. (Romans 10:10)
- Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. (1 John 5:10-12)



# Q. 33

C

**C) BUT WHY CAN YOUR GOOD WORKS  
NOT BE YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS  
BEFORE GOD, OR AT LEAST A PART OF IT?**



**A:** Because the righteousness which can stand before God's judgment must be absolutely perfect and in complete agreement with the law of God,<sup>A</sup> whereas even our best works in this life are all imperfect and defiled with sin.<sup>B</sup>

**Isaiah 64:6**

For all of us have become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment;  
and all of us wither like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind,  
take us away.

**A**

• Cursed be anyone who does not confirm the words of this law by doing them. And all the people shall say, 'Amen'.  
(Deuteronomy 27:26)

• For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them." (Galatians 3:10)

**B**

• We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. (Isaiah 64:6)





# Q. 33

D



## D) DOES THIS MEAN GOOD WORKS ARE UNIMPORTANT AND THAT A CHRISTIAN CAN LIVE HOWEVER HE WANTS?

**A:** No. We are justified by faith alone, but the faith that saves is never alone, but is always accompanied by fruit which evidences the true child of God.<sup>A</sup>

### John 15:5

I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

**A**

- A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits. Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord', will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 7:18-21)
- I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:5)
- And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him. (1 John 2:3-4)
- What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled" without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. (James 2:14-17)
- What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. (Romans 6:1-4)



## WHAT IS ADOPTION?



### Q. 34

**A:** Adoption is an act of God's free grace, whereby we are received into the number, and have a right to all the privileges, of the sons of God.<sup>96</sup>

#### **1 John 3:1a**

See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and *such* we are.

#### **96**

- See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. (1 John 3:1)
- But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. (John 1:12)
- The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. (Romans 8:16-17)



## WHAT IS SANCTIFICATION?



### Q. 35

**A:** Sanctification is the work of God's free grace,<sup>97</sup> whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God,<sup>98</sup> and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.<sup>99</sup>

#### **Ephesians 4:24**

And put on the new self, which in *the likeness of God* has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

#### **97**

- And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. (Ezekiel 36:27)
- For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. (Philippians 2:13)
- But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. (2 Thessalonians 2:13)

#### **98**

- Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- And to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. (Ephesians 4:23-24)
- Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

#### **99**

- I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. (Ezekiel 36:25-27)
- We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. (Romans 6:4)
- We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. (Romans 6:6)
- Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. (Romans 6:12-14)
- Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God. (2 Corinthians 7:1)
- He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. (1 Peter 2:24)



**WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS WHICH IN THIS LIFE DO ACCOMPANY OR FLOW FROM JUSTIFICATION, ADOPTION, AND SANCTIFICATION?**

**A:** The benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification, are, assurance of God's love,<sup>100</sup> peace of conscience,<sup>101</sup> joy in the Holy Ghost,<sup>102</sup> increase of grace,<sup>103</sup> and perseverance therein to the end.<sup>104</sup>

**Romans 5:5**

And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

**100**

• And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. (Romans 5:5)

**101**

• Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:1)

**102**

• For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. (Romans 14:17)

**103**

• But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. (2 Peter 3:18)

• But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day. (Proverbs 4:18)

**104**

• And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. (Philippians 1:6)

• Who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (1 Peter 1:5)

• Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. (2 Peter 1:10)



## WHAT BENEFITS DO BELIEVERS RECEIVE FROM CHRIST AT DEATH?

### Q. 37

**A:** The souls of believers are at their death made perfect in holiness,<sup>105</sup> and do immediately pass into glory;<sup>106</sup> and their bodies, being still united to Christ,<sup>107</sup> do rest in their graves, till the resurrection.<sup>108</sup>

#### 2 Corinthians 5:8

We are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

#### 105

• And to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect. (Hebrews 12:23)

#### 106

• And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." (Luke 23:43)

• So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. (2 Corinthians 5:6)

• Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. (2 Corinthians 5:8)

• I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. (Philippians 1:23)

#### 107

• For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. (1 Thessalonians 4:14)

#### 108

• And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. (Daniel 12:2)

• Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment. (John 5:28-29)

• Having a hope in God, which these men themselves accept, that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust. (Acts 24:15)



## WHAT BENEFITS DO BELIEVERS RECEIVE FROM CHRIST AT THE RESURRECTION?

### Q. 38

**A:** At the resurrection, believers, being raised up in glory,<sup>109</sup> shall be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the day of judgment,<sup>110</sup> and made perfectly blessed in the full enjoying of God<sup>111</sup> to all eternity.<sup>112</sup>

#### **Matthew 10:32**

Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven.

#### **109**

• So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. (1 Corinthians 15:42-43)

#### **110**

- And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. (Matthew 25:33-34)
- So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 10:32)
- And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." (Matthew 25:46)

#### **111**

- 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. (Romans 8:29)
- Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. (1 John 3:2)
- For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. (1 Corinthians 13:12)

#### **112**

- You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. (Psalms 16:11)
- Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. (1 Thessalonians 4:17)



## WHAT IS THE DUTY WHICH GOD REQUIRES OF MAN?

### Q. 39

**A:** The duty which God requires of man, is obedience to his revealed will.<sup>113</sup>

#### **Micah 6:8**

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you, but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

#### **113**

- The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law. (Deuteronomy 29:29)
- He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8)
- By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. (1 John 5:2-3)
- The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. (Ecclesiastes 12:13)



## WHAT DID GOD AT FIRST REVEAL TO MAN FOR THE RULE OF HIS OBEDIENCE?

### Q. 40

**A:** The rule which God at first revealed to man for his obedience, was the moral law.<sup>114</sup>

#### **Romans 10:5**

For Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on law shall live by that righteousness.

#### **114**

- For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them (Romans 2:14-15)
- For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them. (Romans 10:5)
- So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. (Galatians 3:24)





## WHEREIN IS THE MORAL LAW SUMMARISED?



### Q. 41

**A:** The moral law is summarised in the ten commandments.<sup>115</sup>

#### **Exodus 31:18**

When He had finished speaking with him upon Mount Sinai, He gave Moses the two tablets of the testimony, tablets of stone, written by the finger of God.

#### **115**

- And he declared to you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, that is, the Ten Commandments, and he wrote them on two tablets of stone. (Deuteronomy 4:13)
- And he said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." He said to him, "Which ones?" And Jesus said, "You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 19:17-19)
- And he gave to Moses, when he had finished speaking with him on Mount Sinai, the two tablets of the testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God. (Exodus 31:18)



## WHAT IS THE SUM OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS?

### Q. 42

**A:** The sum 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.<sup>116</sup>

#### **Matthew 22:37-40**

And He said to him, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.

This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF. On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.

#### **116**

• And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets." (Matthew 22:37-40)



## WHAT IS THE PREFACE TO THE TEN COMMANDMENTS?

### Q. 43

**A:** The preface to the ten commandments is in these words, "I am the Lord your God, which have brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage."<sup>117</sup>

#### **Matthew 22:37-40**

And He said to him, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.

This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF. On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.

<sup>117</sup>

• I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.  
(Exodus 20:2 & Deuteronomy 5:6)



## WHAT DOES THE PREFACE TO THE TEN COMMANDMENTS TEACH US?

### Q. 44

**A:** The preface to the ten commandments teaches us, that because God is the Lord, and our God, and Redeemer, therefore we are bound to keep all His commandments.<sup>118</sup>

#### **1 Corinthians 6:20**

For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God  
in your body.

#### **118**

- That we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. (Luke 1:74-75)
- As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. (1 Peter 1:14-19)
- For you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. (1 Corinthians 6:20)
- And the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God. (Joshua 24:18)



## Q. 45

### WHICH IS THE FIRST COMMANDMENT?



**A:** The first commandment is, "You shall have no other gods before me."<sup>119</sup>

**Exodus 20:3**

You shall have no other gods before Me.



## WHAT IS REQUIRED IN THE FIRST COMMANDMENT?



### Q. 46

**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.<sup>120</sup>

#### **Matthew 4:10**

Then Jesus said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.'"

#### **120**

- And you, Solomon my son, know the God of your father and serve him with a whole heart and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches all hearts and understands every plan and thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will cast you off forever. (1 Chronicles 28:9)
- Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, you survivors of the nations! They have no knowledge who carry about their wooden idols, and keep on praying to a god that cannot save. Declare and present your case; let them take counsel together! Who told this long ago? Who declared it of old? Was it not I, the LORD? And there is no other god besides me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none besides me. Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. By myself I have sworn; from my mouth has gone out in righteousness a word that shall not return: 'To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance.' Only in the LORD, it shall be said of me, are righteousness and strength; to him shall come and be ashamed all who were incensed against him. In the LORD all the offspring of Israel shall be justified and shall glory. (Isaiah 45:20-25)
- Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'" (Matthew 4:10)



## WHAT IS FORBIDDEN IN THE FIRST COMMANDMENT?

### Q. 47

**A:** The first commandment forbids the denying,<sup>121</sup> or not worshipping and glorifying, the true God as God,<sup>122</sup> and our God;<sup>123</sup> and the giving of that worship and glory to any other, which is due to Him alone.<sup>124</sup>

#### **Romans 1:21**

For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

#### **121**

• There is no God. They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none who does good. (Psalms 14:1)

#### **122**

• 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. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. (Romans 1:20-21)

#### **123**

• I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it. But my people did not listen to my voice; Israel would not submit to me. (Psalms 81:10-11)

#### **124**

• For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it, for how should my name be profaned? My glory I will not give to another. (Isaiah 48:11)

• And he brought me into the inner court of the house of the LORD. And behold, at the entrance of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about twenty-five men, with their backs to the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east, worshipping the sun toward the east. Then he said to me, "Have you seen this, O son of man? Is it too light a thing for the house of Judah to commit the abominations that they commit here, that they should fill the land with violence and provoke me still further to anger? Behold, they put the branch to their nose. Therefore I will act in wrath. My eye will not spare, nor will I have pity. And though they cry in my ears with a loud voice, I will not hear them." (Ezekiel 8:16-18)

• Because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. (Romans 1:25)



**WHAT ARE WE SPECIALLY TAUGHT  
BY THESE WORDS "BEFORE ME" IN THE  
FIRST COMMANDMENT?**

**Q. 48**

**A:** These words "before Me" in the first commandment teach us, that God, who sees all things, takes notice of, and is much displeased with, the sin of having any other God.<sup>125</sup>

**Hebrews 4:13**

And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

**125**

- And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. (Hebrews 4:13)
- But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. (Deuteronomy 30:17-18)
- If we had forgotten the name of our God or spread out our hands to a foreign god, would not God discover this? For he knows the secrets of the heart. (Psalms 44:20-21)
- Then he said to me, "Son of man, have you seen what the elders of the house of Israel are doing in the dark, each in his room of pictures? For they say, 'The LORD does not see us, the LORD has forsaken the land.'" (Ezekiel 8:12)
- Little children, keep yourselves from idols. (1 John 5:21)
- They stirred him to jealousy with strange gods; with abominations they provoked him to anger. (Deuteronomy 32:16)





## WHICH IS THE SECOND COMMANDMENT?

### Q. 49

**A:** The second commandment is, "You shall not make unto yourself any graven 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 yourself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love Me, and keep My commandments."<sup>126</sup>

#### **Exodus 20:4-5a**

You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God.

#### **126**

• 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.

(Exodus 20:4-6 & Deuteronomy 5:8-10)



## WHAT IS REQUIRED IN THE SECOND COMMANDMENT?



# Q. 50

**A:** The second commandment requires the receiving, observing, and keeping pure and entire, all such religious worship and ordinances as God has appointed in His Word.<sup>127</sup>

### **Deuteronomy 12:32**

Whatever I command you, you shall be careful to do; you shall not add to nor take away from it.

#### **127**

- Everything that I command you, you shall be careful to do. You shall not add to it or take from it. (Deuteronomy 12:32)
- "Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20)



## WHAT IS FORBIDDEN IN THE SECOND COMMANDMENT?

### Q. 51

**A:** The second commandment forbids the worshiping of God by images,<sup>128</sup> or any other way not appointed in His Word.<sup>129</sup>

#### Deuteronomy 4:15-16

So watch yourselves carefully, since you did not see any form on the day the LORD spoke to you at Horeb from the midst of the fire, so that you do not act corruptly and make a graven image for yourselves in the form of any figure, the likeness of male or female.

#### 128

- Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! (Psalm 95:6)
- Therefore watch yourselves very carefully. Since you saw no form on the day that the LORD spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire, beware lest you act corruptly by making a carved image for yourselves, in the form of any figure, the likeness of male or female, the likeness of any animal that is on the earth, the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the air, the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground, the likeness of any fish that is in the water under the earth. And beware lest you raise your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the host of heaven, you be drawn away and bow down to them and serve them, things that the LORD your God has allotted to all the peoples under the whole heaven. (Deuteronomy 4:15-19)

- Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. (Romans 1:22-23)

#### 129

- Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense on it and offered unauthorized fire before the LORD, which he had not commanded them. And fire came out from before the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD. (Leviticus 10:1-2)
- Because the people have forsaken me and have profaned this place by making offerings in it to other gods whom neither they nor their fathers nor the kings of Judah have known; and because they have filled this place with the blood of innocents, and have built the high places of Baal to burn their sons in the fire as burnt offerings to Baal, which I did not command or decree, nor did it come into my mind. (Jeremiah 19:4-5)
- Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God. If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations. Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch (referring to things that all perish as they are used) according to human precepts and teachings? These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh. (Colossians 2:18-23)



## WHAT ARE THE REASONS ANNEXED TO [GIVEN FOR] THE SECOND COMMANDMENT?

### Q. 52

**A:** The reasons annexed to [given for] the second commandment are, God's sovereignty over us,<sup>130</sup> His propriety [correct behaviour] in us,<sup>131</sup> and the zeal He has for His own worship.<sup>132</sup>

#### Psalm 95:6

Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the  
LORD our Maker.

#### 130

- Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. (Psalms 95:2-3)
- Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. Today, if you hear his voice. (Psalms 95:6-7)
- Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth! Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns! Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity." (Psalms 96:9-10)

#### 131

- Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine. (Exodus 19:5)
- And the king will desire your beauty. Since he is your lord, bow to him. (Psalms 45:11)
- For your Maker is your husband, the LORD of hosts is his name; and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called. (Isaiah 54:5)

#### 132

- For you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God. (Exodus 34:14)
- Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he? (1 Corinthians 10:22)



## WHICH IS THE THIRD COMMANDMENT?

### Q. 53

**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 that takes His name in vain".<sup>133</sup>

#### **Exodus 20:7**

You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain,  
for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes  
His name in vain.

#### **133**

• 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.  
(Exodus 20:7 & Deuteronomy 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,<sup>134</sup> attributes,<sup>135</sup> ordinances,<sup>136</sup> Word,<sup>137</sup> and works.<sup>138</sup>

#### Revelation 15:4

Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy; for ALL THE NATIONS WILL COME AND WORSHIP BEFORE YOU, FOR YOUR RIGHTEOUS ACTS HAVE BEEN REVEALED."

#### 134

- You shall fear the LORD your God. You shall serve him and hold fast to him, and by his name you shall swear. (Deuteronomy 10:20)
- Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness. (Psalms 29:2)
- Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. (Matthew 6:9)
- Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides through the deserts; his name is the Lord; exult before him! (Psalm 68:4)

#### 135

- Therefore David blessed the LORD in the presence of all the assembly. And David said: "Blessed are you, O LORD, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever. Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name." (1 Chronicles 29:10-13)
- And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, "Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed." (Revelation 15:3-4)

#### 136

- And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. (Acts 2:42)
- Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. (1 Corinthians 11:27-28)

#### 137

- I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word. (Psalms 138:2)
- I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. (Revelation 22:18-19)

#### 138

- Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man! And let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving, and tell of his deeds in songs of joy! (Psalms 107:21-22)
- "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created." (Revelation 4:11)
- Remember to extol his work, of which men have sung. (Job 36:24)



## Q. 55

### WHAT IS FORBIDDEN IN THE THIRD COMMANDMENT?



**A:** The third commandment forbids all profaning or abusing of anything whereby God makes Himself known.<sup>139</sup>

#### **James 5:12**

But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath; but your yes is to be yes, and your no, no, so that you may not fall under judgment.

#### **139**

- "A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am a father, where is my honor? And if I am a master, where is my fear?" says the Lord of hosts to you, O priests, who despise my name. But you say, 'How have we despised your name?' By offering polluted food upon my altar. But you say, 'How have we polluted you?' By saying that the Lord's table may be despised. (Malachi 1:6-7)
- You have said, "It is vain to serve God. What is the profit of our keeping his charge or of walking as in mourning before the Lord of hosts?" (Malachi 3:14)
- You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD. (Leviticus 19:12)
- Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.' But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil. (Matthew 5:33-37)
- But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your "yes" be yes and your "no" be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation. (James 5:12)



**WHAT IS THE REASON ANNEXED  
TO [GIVEN FOR] THE THIRD  
COMMANDMENT?**

**Q. 56**

**A:** The reason annexed to [given for] the third commandment is, that however the breakers of this commandment may escape punishment from men, yet the Lord our God will not suffer them to escape His righteous judgment.<sup>140</sup>

**Deuteronomy 28:58-59**

If you are not careful to observe all the words of this law which are written in this book, to fear this honored and awesome name, the LORD your God, then the LORD will bring extraordinary plagues on you and your descendants, even severe and lasting plagues, and miserable and chronic sicknesses.

**140**

- If you are not careful to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and awesome name, the LORD your God, then the LORD will bring on you and your offspring extraordinary afflictions, afflictions severe and lasting, and sicknesses grievous and lasting. (Deuteronomy 28:58-59)
- And I declare to him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. (1 Samuel 3:13)
- And the ark of God was captured, and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died. (1 Samuel 4:11)





## Q. 57

### WHICH 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 the sabbath of the Lord your God: in it you shall not do any work, you, nor your son, nor your daughter, your manservant, nor your maidservant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger that is within your gates: For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it".<sup>141</sup>

#### **Exodus 20:8-10a**

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 of the LORD your God.

#### **141**

• 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. (Exodus 20:8-11 & Deuteronomy 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, by taking one day out of seven for rest from our normal labours, for remembering our Creator, and for looking forward to our eternal, heavenly rest in Christ.<sup>142</sup>

#### **Mark 2:27**

Jesus said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man,  
and not man for the Sabbath."

#### **142**

- And he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath." (Mark 2:27-28)
- Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation. (Genesis 2:1-3)
- So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. (Hebrews 4:9-10)
- And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!" (Revelation 14:13)



## WHY IS SUNDAY CALLED THE LORD'S DAY?



### Q. 59

**A:** Sunday is called the Lord's Day because Christ rose from the dead on the first day of the week, and the early church gathered on that day for corporate worship in Jesus' name.<sup>143</sup>

#### **Revelation 1:10**

I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like *the sound* of a trumpet.

#### **143**

- I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet. (Revelation 1:10)
- On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight. (Acts 20:7)
- On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come. (1 Corinthians 16:2)



## WHICH IS THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT?

### Q. 60

**A:** The fifth commandment is, "Honour your father and your mother: that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God gives you."<sup>144</sup>

#### **Ephesians 6:1-3**

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

**HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER**

(which is the first commandment with a promise),

**SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG  
ON THE EARTH.**

#### **144**

• Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. (Exodus 20:12 & Deuteronomy 5:16)

• Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother (this is the first commandment with a promise), that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land. (Ephesians 6:1-3)



## WHAT IS REQUIRED IN THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT?

### Q. 61

**A:** That I show all honour, love, and faithfulness to my father and mother and to all those in authority over me, submit myself obediently to their good instruction and discipline, and also have patience with their weaknesses and shortcomings, since it is God's will to govern us by their hand.<sup>145</sup>

#### **Colossians 3:20**

Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.

#### **145**

- Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching. (Proverbs 1:8)
- Hear, O sons, a father's instruction, and be attentive, that you may gain insight. (Proverbs 4:1)
- Listen to your father who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old. (Proverbs 23:22)
- Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. (Ephesians 6:1)
- Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. Slaves, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ. (Ephesians 6:4-5)
- Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him. (Ephesians 6:9)
- Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor. Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. (1 Peter 2:17-18)
- Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. (Romans 13:1-8)
- They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." (Matthew 22:21)
- Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. (Colossians 3:20)



## WHAT IS FORBIDDEN IN THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT?

### Q. 62

**A:** The fifth commandment forbids the neglecting of, or doing anything against, the honor and duty which belongs to everyone in their several places and relations.<sup>146</sup>

#### **Romans 12:10**

*Be devoted to one another in brotherly love;  
give preference to one another in honor.*

#### **146**

- For God commanded, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.' But you say, 'If anyone tells his father or his mother, "What you would have gained from me is given to God," he need not honor his father.' So for the sake of your tradition you have made void the word of God. (Matthew 15:4-6)
- Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. (Romans 13:8)
- If one curses his father or his mother, his lamp will be put out in utter darkness. (Proverbs 20:20)
- The eye that mocks a father and scorns to obey a mother will be picked out by the ravens of the valley and eaten by the vultures. (Proverbs 30:17)
- Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. (Romans 12:10)



## Q. 63

### WHAT ARE THE REASONS ANNEXED TO [GIVEN FOR] THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT?



**A:** The reason annexed [given for] to the fifth commandment is, a promise of long life and prosperity (as far as it shall serve for God's glory and their own good) to all such as keep this commandment.<sup>147</sup>

#### **Deuteronomy 5:16**

Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, that your days may be prolonged and that it may go well with you on the land which the LORD your God gives you.

#### **147**

- Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. (Exodus 20:12)
- Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may go well with you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. (Deuteronomy 5:16)
- Honor your father and mother, (this is the first commandment with a promise), that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land. (Ephesians 6:2-3)
- Whoever curses his father or his mother shall be put to death. (Exodus 21:17)



**WHICH IS THE SIXTH  
COMMANDMENT?**



**Q. 64**

**A:** The sixth commandment is, "You shall not kill."<sup>148</sup>

**Exodus 20:13**  
You shall not murder.





## WHAT IS REQUIRED IN THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT?

### Q. 65

**A:** The sixth commandment requires all lawful endeavors to preserve our own life,<sup>149</sup> and the life of others.<sup>150</sup>

#### **Psalm 82:3**

Vindicate the weak and fatherless; do justice to the afflicted and destitute.

#### **149**

• In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church. (Ephesians 5:28-29)

#### **150**

• Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked. (Psalm 82:3-4)



## WHAT IS FORBIDDEN IN THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT?

### Q. 66

**A:** The sixth commandment forbids the taking away of our own life,<sup>151</sup> or the life of our neighbor unjustly<sup>152</sup> or whatsoever tends thereunto.<sup>153</sup>

#### **Romans 12:19**

Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY,” says the Lord.

#### **151**

- But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." (Acts 16:28)

#### **152**

- Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image. (Genesis 9:6)

#### **153**

- But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire. (Matthew 5:22)
- Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. (1 John 3:15)
- A tranquil heart gives life to the flesh, but envy makes the bones rot. (Proverbs 14:30)
- They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips. (Romans 1:29)
- Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord. (Romans 12:19)
- Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. (Galatians 5:19-21)
- For the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. (James 1:20)
- Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. (1 John 2:9)



**WHICH IS THE SEVENTH  
COMMANDMENT?**

**Q. 67**

**A:** The seventh commandment is, "You shall not commit adultery."<sup>154</sup>

**Exodus 20:14**

You shall not commit adultery.



## WHAT IS REQUIRED IN THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT?

### Q. 68

**A:** The seventh commandment requires the preservation of our own and our neighbour's chastity,<sup>155</sup> in heart,<sup>156</sup> speech,<sup>157</sup> and behaviour.<sup>158</sup>

#### **Matthew 5:27-28**

You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY'; but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

#### **155**

- So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. (2 Timothy 2:22)
- When they see your respectful (chaste) and pure conduct. (1 Peter 3:2)

#### **156**

- You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. (Matthew 5:27-28)

#### **157**

- Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person. (Colossians 4:6)

#### **158**

- But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. (1 Corinthians 7:2-3)
- For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God. (1 Thessalonians 4:3-5)



## Q. 69

### WHAT IS FORBIDDEN IN THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT?



**A:** The seventh commandment forbids all unchaste thoughts, words, and actions.<sup>159</sup>

#### **Ephesians 5:3-4**

But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints; and *there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.*

#### **159**

- But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. (Matthew 5:28)
- But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. (Ephesians 5:3-4)
- But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire. (Matthew 5:22)



## WHAT IS MARRIAGE?



### Q. 70

**A:** Marriage is a God-ordained creation ordinance in which a man and a woman are joined together in a holy covenant of companionship.<sup>160</sup>

#### **Ephesians 5:33**

Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must *see to it* that she respects her husband.

#### **160**

- Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. (Genesis 2:24)
- But you say, “Why does he not?” Because the Lord was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth. “For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her, says the Lord, the God of Israel, covers his garment with violence, says the Lord of hosts. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not be faithless. (Malachi 2:14)
- Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. (Hebrews 13:4)
- So you will be delivered from the forbidden woman, from the adulteress with her smooth words, who forsakes the companion of her youth and forgets the covenant of her God. (Proverbs 2:17)
- However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. (Ephesians 5:33)
- For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. (Romans 1:26-27)



## WHICH IS THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT?

### Q. 71

A: The eighth commandment is, "You shall not commit steal."<sup>161</sup>

**Exodus 20:15**  
You shall not steal.



## Q. 72

### WHAT IS REQUIRED IN THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT?



**A:** The eighth commandment requires the lawful procuring and furthering the wealth and outward estate of ourselves<sup>162</sup> and others.<sup>163</sup>

#### **Ephesians 4:28**

He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have *something* to share with one who has need.

#### **162**

- Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. (Romans 12:17)
- Know well the condition of your flocks, and give attention to your herds. (Proverbs 27:23)

#### **163**

- If your brother becomes poor and cannot maintain himself with you, you shall support him as though he were a stranger and a sojourner, and he shall live with you. (Leviticus 25:35)
- Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. (Ephesians 4:28)
- Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. (Philippians 2:4)





## Q. 73

### WHAT IS FORBIDDEN IN THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT?



**A:** The eighth commandment forbids whatsoever does, or may, unjustly hinder our own,<sup>164</sup> or our neighbor's wealth or outward estate.<sup>165</sup>

#### **1 Timothy 5:8**

But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

#### **164**

- But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. (1 Timothy 5:8)
- Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits will have plenty of poverty. A faithful man will abound with blessings, but whoever hastens to be rich will not go unpunished. To show partiality is not good, but for a piece of bread a man will do wrong. A stingy man hastens after wealth and does not know that poverty will come upon him. Whoever rebukes a man will afterward find more favor than he who flatters with his tongue. Whoever robs his father or his mother and says, "That is no transgression," is a companion to a man who destroys. A greedy man stirs up strife, but the one who trusts in the LORD will be enriched. Whoever trusts in his own mind is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom will be delivered. Whoever gives to the poor will not want, but he who hides his eyes will get many a curse. (Proverbs 28:19-27)

#### **165**

- But rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. (Ephesians 4:28)
- For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. (2 Thessalonians 3:10)



**WHICH IS THE NINTH  
COMMANDMENT?**



**Q. 74**

**A:** The ninth commandment is, "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour."<sup>166</sup>

**Exodus 20:16**

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.



## Q. 75

### WHAT IS REQUIRED IN THE NINTH COMMANDMENT?



**A:** The ninth commandment requires the maintaining and promoting of truth between man and man,<sup>167</sup> and of our own<sup>168</sup> and our neighbor's good name,<sup>169</sup> especially in witness-bearing.<sup>170</sup>

#### **Proverbs 14:25**

A truthful witness saves lives,  
But he who utters lies is treacherous.

#### **167**

• These are the things that you shall do: Speak the truth to one another; render in your gates judgments that are true and make for peace. (Zechariah 8:16)

#### **168**

• Having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. (1 Peter 3:16)

#### **169**

• Demetrius has received a good testimony from everyone, and from the truth itself. (3 John 12)

• But Paul said, "I am standing before Caesar's tribunal, where I ought to be tried. To the Jews I have done no wrong, as you yourself know very well. (Acts 25:10)

• Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul. (3 John 1:2)

#### **170**

• A faithful witness does not lie, but a false witness breathes out lies. (Proverbs 14:5)

• A truthful witness saves lives, but one who breathes out lies is deceitful. (Proverbs 14:25)



## WHAT IS FORBIDDEN IN THE NINTH COMMANDMENT?

### Q. 76

**A:** The ninth commandment forbids whatsoever is prejudicial to truth<sup>171</sup> or injurious to our own,<sup>172</sup> or our neighbor's, good name.<sup>173</sup>

#### **Leviticus 19:16**

You shall not go about as a slanderer among your people,  
and you are not to act against the life of your neighbor;  
I am the LORD.

#### **171**

• Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive. The venom of asps is under their lips. (Romans 3:13)

#### **172**

• Who does not slander with his tongue and does no evil to his neighbor, nor takes up a reproach against his friend. (Psalms 15:3)

• Far be it from me to say that you are right; till I die I will not put away my integrity from me. (Job 27:5)

#### **173**

• There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers. (Proverbs 6:16-19)

• Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages." (Luke 3:14)

• You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD. (Leviticus 19:16)



## WHICH IS THE TENTH COMMANDMENT?

### Q. 77

**A:** The tenth commandment is, "You shalt not covet your neighbour's house, you shalt not covet your neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is your neighbour's."<sup>174</sup>

#### **Exodus 20:17**

You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

#### **174**

• You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's. (Exodus 20:17 & Deuteronomy 5:21)



## Q. 78

### WHAT IS REQUIRED IN THE TENTH COMMANDMENT?



**A:** The tenth commandment requires full contentment with our own condition,<sup>175</sup> with a right and charitable frame of spirit toward our neighbour, and all that is his.<sup>176</sup>

#### **Philippians 4:11**

Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content  
in whatever circumstances I am.

#### **175**

- I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. (Psalms 34:1)
- Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. (Philippians 4:11)
- Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment. (1 Timothy 6:6)
- Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you. (Hebrews 13:5)

#### **176**

- And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' (Luke 15:6)
- Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor. (1 Corinthians 10:24)
- And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' (Luke 15:9)
- Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. (Romans 12:15)
- Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. (Philippians 2:4)



## WHAT IS FORBIDDEN IN THE TENTH COMMANDMENT?

### Q. 79

**A:** The tenth commandment forbids all discontentment with our own estate,<sup>177</sup> envying or grieving at the good of our neighbour,<sup>178</sup> and all inordinate motions and affections to anything that is his.<sup>179</sup>

#### **James 3:16**

For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist,  
there is disorder and every evil thing.

#### **177**

• Nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. (1 Corinthians 10:10)

#### **178**

• But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. (James 3:14-16)

#### **179**

- Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another. (Galatians 5:26)
- Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. (Colossians 3:5)
- So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. (1 Peter 2:1)



## IS ANY MAN ABLE PERFECTLY TO KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD?

### Q. 80

**A:** No mere man, since the fall, is able in this life perfectly to keep the commandments of God,<sup>180</sup> but does daily break them in thought,<sup>181</sup> word,<sup>182</sup> and deed.<sup>183</sup>

#### **Ecclesiastes 7:20**

Indeed, there is not a righteous man on earth who *continually* does good and who never sins.

#### **180**

- Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins. (Ecclesiastes 7:20)
- What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one." "Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive." "The venom of asps is under their lips." "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness." "Their feet are swift to shed blood; in their paths are ruin and misery, and the way of peace they have not known." "There is no fear of God before their eyes." Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it-- the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:9-23)

#### **181**

- And when the LORD smelled the pleasing aroma, the LORD said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done. (Genesis 8:21)

#### **182**

- But no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. (James 3:8)

#### **183**

- For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. (James 3:2)





## ARE ALL TRANSGRESSIONS OF THE LAW EQUALLY HEINOUS?



### Q. 81

**A:** Some sins in themselves, and by reason of several aggravations, are more heinous in the sight of God than others.<sup>184</sup>

#### **John 19:11**

Jesus answered, "You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above; for this reason he who delivered Me to you has *the* greater sin."

#### **184**

- And he said to me, "Son of man, do you see what they are doing, the great abominations that the house of Israel are committing here, to drive me far from my sanctuary? But you will see still greater abominations." (Ezekiel 8:6)
- He said also to me, "You will see still greater abominations that they commit." (Ezekiel 8:13)
- Then he said to me, "Have you seen this, O son of man? You will see still greater abominations than these." (Ezekiel 8:15)
- Then he began to denounce the cities where most of his mighty works had been done, because they did not repent. "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You will be brought down to Hades. For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I tell you that it will be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom than for you." (Matthew 11:20-24)
- Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin." (John 19:11)



## WHAT DOES EVERY SIN DESERVE?



# Q. 82

**A:** Every sin deserves God's wrath and curse, both in this life, and that which is to come.<sup>185</sup>

### **Galatians 3:10**

For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT ABIDE BY ALL THINGS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW, TO PERFORM THEM."

#### **185**

- Then he will say to those on his left, "Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels." (Matthew 25:41)
- For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, 'Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.' (Galatians 3:10)
- Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. (Ephesians 5:6)
- For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. (James 2:10)



## Q. 83

A, B, C

**A) OF WHAT USE ARE THE TEN  
COMMANDMENTS TO US?**



**B) CAN ANYONE GO TO HEAVEN WITH  
A SINFUL NATURE?**

**C) WHAT IS THAT CHANGE OF HEART  
CALLED?**

- A:** a) They teach us our duty and show us our guilt and our need of a Saviour.<sup>A</sup>  
b) No, our hearts must be changed before we can be fit for heaven.<sup>B</sup>  
c) The new birth, which the Holy Spirit alone can produce.<sup>C</sup>

**Jeremiah 31:33**

I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it;  
and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

**A**

- So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. (Galatians 3:24)
- Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. (Romans 3:19-20)
- The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. (Ecclesiastes 12:13)

**B**

- But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. (Jeremiah 31:33)

**C**

- Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. (John 3:3-5)
- Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. (1 Peter 1:3)
- Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. (James 1:18)



**WHAT DOES GOD REQUIRE OF US,  
THAT WE MAY ESCAPE HIS WRATH AND  
CURSE, DUE TO US FOR SIN?**

**Q. 84**

**A:** To escape the wrath and curse of God, due to us for sin,<sup>186</sup> we must repent and be saved by God's grace alone,<sup>187</sup> through faith alone in Christ alone.<sup>188</sup>

**John 3:36**

He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.

**186**

• Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. (John 3:36)

**187**

- And saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." (Mark 1:15)
- Testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 20:21)
- For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

**188**

• And be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith. (Philippians 3:9)



## WHAT IS FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST?



### Q. 85

**A:** Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace,<sup>189</sup> whereby we receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation, as He is offered to us in the gospel.<sup>190</sup>

#### **Romans 4:16**

For this reason *it is* by faith, in order that *it may be* in accordance with grace, so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants.

#### **189**

- For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)
- That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all. (Romans 4:16)

#### **190**

- Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (John 20:30-31)
- But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. (John 1:12)
- We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified. (Galatians 2:15-16)
- For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh-- though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith-- that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. (Philippians 3:3-11)



## WHAT IS REPENTANCE UNTO LIFE?



### Q. 86

**A:** Repentance unto life is a saving grace,<sup>191</sup> whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ,<sup>192</sup> does, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God,<sup>193</sup> with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience.<sup>194</sup>

#### 2 Corinthians 7:10

For the sorrow that is according to *the will of God* produces a repentance without regret, *leading to salvation*, but the sorrow of the world produces death

#### 191

- When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life." (Acts 11:18)
- Correcting his opponents with gentleness, that God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth. (2 Timothy 2:25)
- Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. (Psalms 51:1-4)
- And rend your hearts and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. (Joel 2:13)
- Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. (Luke 15:7)

#### 192

- Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37)

#### 193

- Then you will remember your evil ways, and your deeds that were not good, and you will loathe yourselves for your iniquities and your abominations. (Ezekiel 36:31)
- And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared." (Luke 1:16-17)
- For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God. (1 Thessalonians 1:9)

#### 194

- If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. (2 Chronicles 7:14)
- Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. (Matthew 3:8)
- For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. (2 Corinthians 7:10)



## HOW IS THE WORD MADE EFFECTUAL TO SALVATION?

### Q. 87

**A:** The Spirit of God makes the reading, but especially the preaching, of the Word, an effectual means of convincing and converting sinners,<sup>196</sup> and of building them up in holiness and comfort,<sup>197</sup> through faith, unto salvation.<sup>198</sup>

#### **2 Timothy 3:15**

And that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

#### **196**

- The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. (Psalm 19:7a)
- They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep. For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law. (Nehemiah 8:8-9)

#### **197**

- And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. (Acts 20:32)
- How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. (Romans 10:14-17)

#### **198**

- And how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:15-17)



**HOW IS THE WORD TO BE READ  
AND HEARD, THAT IT MAY BECOME  
EFFECTUAL TO SALVATION?**

**Q. 88**

**A:** That the Word may become effectual to salvation, we must attend thereunto with diligence, preparation,<sup>199</sup> and prayer;<sup>200</sup> receive it with faith<sup>201</sup> and love,<sup>202</sup> lay it up in our hearts,<sup>203</sup> and practice it in our lives.<sup>204</sup>

**Psalm 119:18**

Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Your law.

**199**

- Blessed is the one who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting beside my doors. (Proverbs 8:34)
- So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation. (1 Peter 2:1-2)

**200**

- Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law. (Psalms 119:18)

**201**

- For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened. (Hebrews 4:2)

**202**

- And with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. (2 Thessalonians 2:10)

**203**

- I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. (Psalms 119:11)

**204**

- But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. (James 1:22-25)





## WHAT ARE THE MEANS OF GRACE THAT GOD HAS GIVEN TO HIS PEOPLE?

### Q. 89

**A:** The means of grace are the activities within the fellowship of the church that God uses to give more grace to Christians, such as Scripture, prayer, obedience and the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.<sup>205</sup>

#### **Acts 2:42**

They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

#### **205**

- But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. (2 Peter 3:18)
- And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. (Acts 2:42)
- Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. (Psalm 1:1-2)
- I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. (Psalm 119:11)
- Pray without ceasing. (1 Thessalonians 5:17)
- Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. (James 5:16)



## HOW DO BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER BECOME EFFECTUAL MEANS OF GRACE?

### Q. 90

**A:** Baptism and the Lord's Supper become effectual means of grace, not from any virtue in them, or in him that administers them; but only by the blessing of Christ, and the working of his Spirit in them that by faith receive them.<sup>206</sup>

#### **1 Corinthians 3:6-7**

I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth.

#### **206**

- I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. (1 Corinthians 3:6-7)
- Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him. (1 Peter 3:21-22)
- What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. (1 Corinthians 1:12-17)



## WHAT IS BAPTISM?



### Q. 91

**A:** Baptism is an ordinance of Christ in which the believer is immersed in water in the name of the triune God and as a public confession of their union with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection.<sup>207</sup>

#### **Romans 6:4**

Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

#### **207**

- Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. (Romans 6:3-5)
- For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. (Galatians 3:26-27)
- And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)



## TO WHOM IS BAPTISM TO BE ADMINISTERED?

### Q. 92

**A:** Baptism is to be administered to all those who actually profess repentance towards God, and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ,<sup>208</sup> and to none other.<sup>209</sup>

#### **Acts 8:12**

But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike.

#### **208**

- And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." (Acts 2:38-39)
- But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. (Acts 8:12)
- "Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days. (Acts 10:47-48)

#### **209**

- Let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. (Acts 4:10-12)



## WHAT IS THE DUTY OF THOSE WHO ARE RIGHTLY BAPTISED?

### Q. 93

**A:** It is the duty of those who are rightly baptised to give up themselves to some particular and orderly church of Jesus Christ, that they may walk in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.<sup>210</sup>

#### **Acts 2:47**

Praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

#### **210**

- And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. (Acts 2:47)
- None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women. (Acts 5:13-14)
- And when he (Saul/Paul) had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. (Acts 9:26)



## WHAT IS THE LORD'S SUPPER?



### Q. 94

**A:** The Lord's Supper is an ordinance of Christ, wherein, by giving and receiving the bread and the cup, according to Christ's appointment, His death is shown forth;<sup>211</sup> and the worthy receivers are, not physically but spiritually by faith made partakers of His body and blood, with all His benefits, to their spiritual nourishment, and growth in grace.<sup>212</sup>

#### **1 Corinthians 10:16**

Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ?

#### **211**

- And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. (Luke 22:19-20)
- For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

#### **212**

- The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? (1 Corinthians 10:16)



## Q. 95

### WHAT IS REQUIRED TO THE WORTHY RECEIVING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER?



**A:** It is required of them that would worthily partake of the Lord's Supper, that they examine themselves of their knowledge to discern the Lord's body, of their faith to feed upon Him, of their repentance, love, and new obedience; lest, coming unworthily, they eat and drink judgment to themselves.<sup>213</sup>

#### **1 Corinthians 11:27**

Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord.

#### **213**

- Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. (1 Corinthians 11:27-31)
- Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? Unless indeed you fail to meet the test! (2 Corinthians 13:5)
- Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. (1 Corinthians 5:8)



## WHAT IS A CHURCH?



### Q. 96

**A:** A church is an assembly of believers joined by a covenant of discipline and witness who meet together regularly for the preaching of the Word of God, prayer and for the partaking of the ordinances.<sup>214</sup>

#### **Hebrews 10:24-25**

And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

#### **214**

- And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (Hebrews 10:24-25)
- And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. (Acts 2:42)





## WHAT IS PRAYER?



### Q. 97

**A:** Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God,<sup>215</sup> for things agreeable to His will,<sup>216</sup> in the name of Christ,<sup>217</sup> with confession of our sins,<sup>218</sup> and thankful acknowledgment of His mercies.<sup>219</sup>

#### Philippians 4:6

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

#### 215

- O LORD, you hear the desire of the afflicted; you will strengthen their heart; you will incline your ear (Psalms 10:17)
- Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us. Selah (Psalms 62:8)
- "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened." (Matthew 7:7-8)

#### 216

- And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. (1 John 5:14)
- And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. (Romans 8:27)

#### 217

- In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. (John 16:23-24)

#### 218

- I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him. (Psalms 32:5-6)
- The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. (John 1:9)
- I prayed to the Lord my God and made confession, saying, "O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, we have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and rules." (Daniel 9:4-5)

#### 219

- Of David. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. (Psalms 103:1-5)
- Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. (Philippians 4:6)



## WHY DO WE PRAY IN THE NAME OF CHRIST?

### Q. 98

**A:** We pray in Jesus' name because we have no authority of our own but can only approach God under Christ's authority and based on His merits alone, and according to His character and consistent with His will.<sup>220</sup>

#### **1 John 5:14**

This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

#### **220**

- Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it. (John 14:13-14)
- You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. (John 15:16)
- In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. (John 16:23-24)
- And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. (1 John 5:14)



## WHAT RULE HAS GOD GIVEN FOR OUR DIRECTION IN PRAYER?

### Q. 99

**A:** The whole Word of God is of use to direct us in prayer; but the special rule of direction is that form of prayer which Christ taught His disciples, commonly called the Lord's Prayer.<sup>221</sup>

#### **Matthew 6:9-13 (KJV)**

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as *it is* in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever.  
Amen.

#### **221**

- And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. (1 John 5:14)
- Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. (Matthew 6:9-13)



## WHAT DOES THE PREFACE OF THE LORD'S PRAYER TEACH US?

# Q. 100

**A:** The preface of the Lord's Prayer, which is, "Our Father which art in heaven",<sup>222</sup> teaches us to draw near to God with all holy reverence<sup>223</sup> and confidence,<sup>224</sup> as children to a father,<sup>225</sup> able and ready to help us;<sup>226</sup> and that we should pray with and for others.<sup>227</sup>

### Romans 8:15

For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"

#### 222

• Pray then like this: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. (Matthew 6:9)

#### 223

• Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! (Psalms 95:6)

#### 224

• In whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. (Ephesians 3:12)  
• He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he also hears their cry and saves them. (Psalm 145:19)

#### 225

• Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him! (Matthew 7:9-11)  
• What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Luke 11:11-13)  
• For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" (Romans 8:15)

#### 226

• Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us. (Ephesians 3:20)

#### 227

• Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints. (Ephesians 6:18)



## WHAT DO WE PRAY FOR IN THE FIRST PETITION?

### Q. 101

**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 that whereby He makes Himself known;<sup>228</sup> and that He would dispose all things to His own glory.<sup>229</sup>

#### **Romans 11:36**

For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.  
To Him *be* the glory forever. Amen.

#### **228**

- A Song. May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, Selah that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! (Psalms 67:1-3)
- Let them praise your great and awesome name! Holy is he! (Psalms 99:3)
- 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. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! (Psalms 100:3-4)

#### **229**

- Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! (Romans 11:33)
- Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created. (Revelation 4:11)
- For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen. (Romans 11:36)



## WHAT DO WE PRAY FOR IN THE SECOND PETITION?

# Q. 102

**A:** In the second petition, which is, "Thy kingdom come", we pray that Satan's kingdom may be destroyed;<sup>230</sup> and that the kingdom of grace may be advanced,<sup>231</sup> ourselves and others brought into it, and kept in it;<sup>232</sup> and that the kingdom of glory may be hastened.<sup>233</sup>

### Revelation 22:20

He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming quickly."  
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

#### 230

- God shall arise, his enemies shall be scattered; and those who hate him shall flee before him! (Psalm 68:1)
- Knowing their thoughts, he said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand. And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. (Matthew 12:25-28)
- The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. (Romans 16:20)
- Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. (1 John 3:8)

#### 231

- May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth! May desert tribes bow down before him, and his enemies lick the dust! May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts! May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him! (Psalms 72:8-11)
- And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. (Matthew 24:14)
- And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. "So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand)". (Matthew 24:14-15)

#### 232

- Oh that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes! (Psalms 119:5)
- But I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers." (Luke 22:32)
- Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you. (2 Thessalonians 3:1)

#### 233

- He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! (Revelation 22:20)



## WHAT DO WE PRAY FOR IN THE THIRD PETITION?

# Q. 103

**A:** In the third petition, which is, "Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven", we pray that God, by His grace, would make us able and willing to know, obey,<sup>234</sup> and submit to His will in all things,<sup>235</sup> as the angels do in heaven.<sup>236</sup>

### Hebrews 13:20-21

Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, *even* Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom *be* the glory forever and ever. Amen.

#### 234

• Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law. (Psalm 119:18)

#### 235

• Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer. (Psalms 19:14)

• Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." (Matthew 26:41)

• And since he would not be persuaded, we ceased and said, "Let the will of the Lord be done." (Acts 21:14)

• And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." (Job 1:21)

• Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom *be* glory forever and ever. Amen. (Hebrews 13:20-21)

#### 236

• Bless the LORD, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word! Bless the LORD, all his hosts, his ministers, who do his will! (Psalms 103:20-21)

• Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation? (Hebrews 1:14)



## WHAT DO WE PRAY FOR IN THE FOURTH PETITION?

### Q. 104

**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 competent portion of the good things of this life, and enjoy His blessing with them.<sup>237</sup>

#### **Philippians 4:11**

Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.

#### **237**

- Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, lest I be full and deny you and say, "Who is the LORD?" or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God. (Proverbs 30:8-9)
- Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble. (Matthew 6:31-34)
- Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. (Philippians 4:11)
- And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:19)
- Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. (1 Timothy 6:6-8)





## WHAT DO WE PRAY FOR IN THE FIFTH PETITION?

### Q. 105

**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;<sup>238</sup> which we are the rather encouraged to ask, because by His grace we are enabled from the heart to forgive others.<sup>239</sup>

#### Colossians 3:13

Bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

#### 238

• Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! (Psalms 51:1-2)

• Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. (Psalms 51:7)

• In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace. (Ephesians 1:7)

• Now therefore, O our God, listen to the prayer of your servant and to his pleas for mercy, and for your own sake, O Lord, make your face to shine upon your sanctuary, which is desolate. O my God, incline your ear and hear. Open your eyes and see our desolations, and the city that is called by your name. For we do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy. O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive. O Lord, pay attention and act. Delay not, for your own sake, O my God, because your city and your people are called by your name. (Daniel 9:17-19)

• And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)

• But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:7)

#### 239

• Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. (Ephesians 4:32)

• Bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. (Colossians 3:13)

• Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven. "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart." (Matthew 18:21-35)



## WHAT DO WE PRAY FOR IN THE SIXTH PETITION?

### Q. 106

**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,<sup>240</sup> or support and deliver us when we are tempted.<sup>241</sup>

#### 1 Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

#### 240

- Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression. (Psalms 19:13)
- Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. (Matthew 26:41)
- I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. (John 17:15)

#### 241

- "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers." (Luke 22:31-32)
- No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. (1 Corinthians 10:13)
- So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. (2 Corinthians 12:7-9)
- For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. (Hebrews 2:18)
- Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. (Psalm 51:10-12)



## WHAT DOES THE CONCLUSION OF THE LORD'S PRAYER TEACH US?

### Q. 107

**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,<sup>242</sup> and in our prayers to praise Him, ascribing kingdom, power, and glory to Him;<sup>243</sup> and, in testimony of our desire, and assurance to be heard, we say, Amen.<sup>244</sup>

#### 1 Chronicles 29:11

Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O LORD, and You exalt Yourself as head over all.

#### 242

- I prayed to the LORD my God and made confession, saying, "O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments." (Daniel 9:4)
- O Lord, according to all your righteous acts, let your anger and your wrath turn away from your city Jerusalem, your holy hill, because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and your people have become a byword among all who are around us. Now therefore, O our God, listen to the prayer of your servant and to his pleas for mercy, and for your own sake, O Lord, make your face to shine upon your sanctuary, which is desolate. O my God, incline your ear and hear. Open your eyes and see our desolations, and the city that is called by your name. For we do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy. O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive. O Lord, pay attention and act. Delay not, for your own sake, O my God, because your city and your people are called by your name. (Daniel 9:16-19)
- And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. (Luke 18:1)
- And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth? (Luke 18:7-8)

#### 243

- Therefore David blessed the LORD in the presence of all the assembly. And David said: "Blessed are you, O LORD, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever. Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name." (1 Chronicles 29:10-13)
- To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. (1 Timothy 1:17)
- Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" (Revelation 5:11-13)

#### 244

- Otherwise, if you give thanks with your spirit, how can anyone in the position of an outsider say "Amen" to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying? (1 Corinthians 14:16)
- He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! (Revelation 22:20)



## WHERE IS CHRIST NOW AND WHAT IS HE DOING?



# Q. 108

**A:** Christ is in heaven, seated at the right hand of God the Father, interceding for His children.<sup>245</sup>

### **Colossians 3:1**

Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

#### **245**

- Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. (Romans 8:34)
- If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. (Colossians 3:1-4)



## WILL CHRIST COME AGAIN?



# Q. 109

**A:** Yes. At the last day He will come to judge the world.<sup>246</sup>

### **2 Timothy 4:1**

I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom.

#### **246**

- This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed. (2 Thessalonians 1:5-10)
- I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom. (2 Timothy 4:1)



**WHAT COMFORT IS IT TO YOU THAT  
CHRIST WILL COME TO JUDGE THE  
LIVING AND THE DEAD?**

**Q. 110**

**A:** In all my sorrow and persecution I lift up my head and eagerly await as judge from heaven the very same person who before has submitted Himself to the judgment of God for my sake, and has removed all the curse from me.<sup>247</sup> He will cast all His and my enemies into everlasting condemnation, but He will take me and all His chosen ones to Himself into heavenly joy and glory.<sup>248</sup>

**Luke 21:28**

But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.

**247**

- Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. (Luke 21:28)
- For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. (Romans 8:22-25)
- But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. (Philippians 3:20-21)
- Waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. (Titus 2:13-14)

**248**

- When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. (Matthew 25:31-34)
- For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)
- Since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed. (2 Thessalonians 1:6-10)



## WHAT HAPPENS TO MEN WHEN THEY DIE?

### Q. 111

**A:** The body returns to dust, and the soul goes to be with God or to a place of suffering and waiting for judgment.<sup>249</sup>

#### **Hebrews 9:27**

And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this *comes* judgment.

#### **249**

- By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return. (Genesis 3:19)
- And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment. (Hebrews 9:27)



**WILL THE BODIES OF THE DEAD BE  
RAISED TO LIFE AGAIN?**

**Q. 112**

**A:** Yes. There shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.<sup>250</sup>

**Acts 24:15**

Having a hope in God, which these men cherish themselves,  
that there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the  
righteous and the wicked.

**250**

- Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice. (John 5:28)
- Having a hope in God, which these men themselves accept, that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust. (Acts 24:15)





## WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE WICKED IN THE DAY OF JUDGMENT?

# Q. 113

**A:** They shall be cast into hell which is a place of dreadful and endless punishment.<sup>251</sup>

### **2 Thessalonians 1:9**

These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.

#### **251**

- They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed. (2 Thessalonians 1:9-10)
  - When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'
- "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life. (Matthew 25:31-46)



## WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE RIGHTEOUS IN THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT?

### Q. 114

**A:** They shall live with Christ forever, in a new heaven and a new earth.<sup>252</sup>

#### **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

#### **252**

- For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)
- For as the new heavens and the new earth that I make shall remain before me, says the Lord, so shall your offspring and your name remain. (Isaiah 66:22)



## IN LIGHT OF THIS TRUTH, OF CHRIST'S RETURN, WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

# Q. 115

**A:** I should strive with all my energy to repent of sin and believe savingly in the Lord Jesus Christ, and then to have compassion on the lost and to pray and proclaim Christ to them that they might be saved.<sup>253</sup>

### Luke 13:23-24

And someone said to Him, "Lord, are there *just* a few who are being saved?" And He said to them, "Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able."

#### 253

- And someone said to him, "Lord, will those who are saved be few?" And he said to them, "Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able." (Luke 13:23-24)
- Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal. (John 6:27)
- And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." (Acts 16:31)
- Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19)
- But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. (Acts 1:8)
- And he did not permit him but said to him, "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." (Mark 5:19)



## WHAT IS YOUR ONLY COMFORT IN LIFE AND DEATH?

# Q. 116

**A:** That I am not my own,<sup>254</sup> but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death,<sup>255</sup> to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ.<sup>256</sup> He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood,<sup>257</sup> and has set me free from all the power of the devil.<sup>258</sup> He also preserves me in such a way<sup>259</sup> that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head;<sup>260</sup> indeed, all things must work together for my salvation.<sup>261</sup> Therefore, by His Holy Spirit He also assures me of eternal life<sup>262</sup> and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for Him.<sup>263</sup>

### 1 Corinthians 6:20

For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

#### 254

• Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

#### 255

• For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. (Romans 14:7-9)

#### 256

• And you are Christ's, and Christ is God's. (1 Corinthians 3:23)

#### 257

• But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:7)

#### 258

• Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. (1 John 3:8)

#### 259

• And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. (John 6:39)

#### 260

• You will be hated by all for my name's sake. But not a hair of your head will perish. (Luke 21:17-18)

#### 261

• And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)

#### 262

• For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. (Romans 8:15-16)

#### 263

• For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. (Romans 8:14)



**WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW IN  
ORDER TO LIVE AND DIE IN THE JOY  
OF THIS COMFORT?**

**Q. 117**

**A:** First, how great my sins and misery are;<sup>264</sup> second, how I am delivered from all my sins and misery;<sup>265</sup> third, how I am to be thankful to God for such deliverance.<sup>266</sup>

**Romans 7:24-25a**

Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

**264**

- What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, as it is written. (Romans 3:9-10)
- If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. (1 John 1:10)

**265**

- And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. (John 17:3)
- And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. (Acts 4:12)
- To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name. (Acts 10:43)

**266**

- 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. (Matthew 5:16)
- Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. (Romans 6:13)
- For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. (Ephesians 5:8-10)
- 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. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (1 Peter 2:9-10)
- Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! (Romans 7:24-25a)

# ANTIOCH DECLARATION OF FAITH

ADOPTED 30 JUNE 2009, IN RANDBURG, JOHANNESBURG

Together with the Church in all ages,

*We believe in one God the Father Almighty; Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and is seated on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.*

*And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And we believe in one holy universal and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.*  
(Nicene Creed, AD 325, 381.)

[All statements below in “quotation marks” are lines borrowed from the 1689 London Baptist Confession, much of which is drawn from the Westminster Confession of Faith of 1646, much of which was taken straight from the language of Scripture itself.]

## **1. Revelation & the Bible**

We believe that God has graciously revealed His existence and power in the created order; and that God has supremely revealed himself to fallen human beings in the person of his Son, the incarnate Word, who is now revealed to us in the written Word. We believe the Bible to be the Word of God; that its sixty-six books, as originally written, were fully and verbally inspired by the Spirit of God and were entirely free from error and have been providentially and reliably preserved for us. We believe that when the Bible speaks, God speaks; and that God speaks clearly in His Word so that by His Spirit the true meaning can be understood. We submit to the Bible as the final authority in all matters of faith and practice, as the standard of truth for every domain of knowledge to which it speaks, and as the true basis of Christian union. “The Holy Scriptures are the only sufficient, certain and infallible rule for saving knowledge, faith and obedience. ...The whole revelation of God concerning all things essential for His own glory, human salvation, faith and life, is either explicitly set down or implicitly contained in the Holy Scriptures. ...The supreme judge by which all religious controversies are to be settled...can be none other than the Holy Scriptures. In the verdict of Scripture, our faith is finally determined.” (*Rom. 1:19-20; Heb. 1:1-4; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:3-4,21; Matt. 12:3,5; John 8:31-32; 17:17; 20:31; Psalm 119:105; 1 Cor. 2:7-14; Heb. 4:12; 1 Thess. 2:13; Mark 13:31; Acts 20:32*)

## **2. The Trinity**

We believe that “the Lord our God is the one and only true and living God,” the triune God, Creator of all things visible and invisible; that He is sovereign, eternal, and infinitely perfect in both His holiness and love, His greatness and His goodness, and thus worthy of all praise and adoration. We believe that our one God exists eternally in three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We believe these three Persons of the Trinity are equal in every divine perfection, while performing distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence and redemption. “This doctrine of the Trinity is the foundation of all our communion with God, and [our] comfortable dependence on Him.” (*Gen. 1:1,26; Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; John 1:1-3; 4:24; 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 1:3-14; 4:5-6; 1 Peter 1:2*)

### **3. God the Father**

We believe in God the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, who orders and sustains all things according to His own sovereign, wise and good purposes to redeem a people for Himself and restore His fallen creation, to the praise of His glorious grace. We rejoice that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and eternal death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. (*Gen. 50:20; Ps. 103:19; 135:6; Isa. 46:10; Dan. 4:35; Acts 2:23; 4:28; Rom. 8:28-29; Eph. 1:3-14; Col. 1:20; Rom. 8:18-25; 1 Pet. 1:2-3*)

### **4. God the Son**

We believe in the absolute and essential deity of Jesus Christ, in His eternal existence with the Father in pre-incarnate glory, in His virgin birth, true humanity, sinless life, and His miracles and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, His bodily resurrection, His triumphant ascension, His ongoing intercession for us, His headship over His body the church, and His personal, visible return to this earth to reclaim His own, to reign on the throne of David and to judge all men. He is the only Mediator, our Prophet, Priest and King, uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections and is therefore in every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Saviour. (*Matt. 1:18-25; John 1:1-3,12,14; 20:28; Romans 3:21-26; 8:34; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 7:25; Eph. 1:22; Col. 1:18; 1 Cor. 15:1-19; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Isa. 9:6; Lk. 1:31-33; Matt. 25:14-46; John 5:22-23; Acts 17:30-31; Heb. 2:18; 4:14-16*)

### **5. God the Holy Spirit**

We believe in the absolute and essential deity and personality of the Holy Spirit, who was sent by Christ to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. We believe the Spirit of God, the "other" Paraclete (Helper, Advocate), was sent to illuminate, regenerate, comfort, teach, indwell, revive, sanctify, seal and empower believers and to supply spiritual gifts for the building up of the body of Christ. (*2 Cor. 3:17; John 3:5; 14:26; 15:26-27; 16:8,13,14; Acts 1:8; Romans 8:9; 1 Cor. 12-14; Eph. 1:11-14; 4:7-16*)

### **6. Satan**

We believe that Satan is an evil personality, a created but fallen angel, the author of sin, the arch-enemy of God, and the great deceiver of man. Yet Satan is also a defeated foe through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and he will be eternally punished in the lake of fire. (*Gen. 3:1-7; 1 Tim. 3:6; 2 Cor. 4:4; 1 Peter 5:8; Matt. 25:41; Rev. 20:10*)

### **7. Man & Sin**

We believe that God created man in His own image, male and female, giving to human life an inherent sanctity (from conception). We believe God made man holy under the law of his Maker; but man voluntarily transgressed the command of God and fell from that holy and happy state. As a result of Adam's sin, the whole human race was plunged into sin, guilt and ruin, so that all people deserve death spiritually, physically and eternally. We believe all mankind are sinners by nature, by choice, and by divine declaration; and that man is radically depraved in all areas of life and is spiritually dead and utterly incapable of pleasing God or saving himself, and thus is hopelessly lost unless God intervenes. The greatest need of humanity is to be reconciled to the God under whose just and holy wrath we stand; the only hope for humanity is the undeserved love of this same God, who alone can rescue us and restore us to Himself. (*Gen. 1-3; Jam. 3:9; Eccl. 2:11; John 3:14, 18-19,36; Romans 1:18-32; 3:10-23; 5:6-10; 6:23; Eph. 2:1-3*)

## **8. Salvation & Justification**

Because of man's lost and sinful state, we believe that salvation is totally of God, not of man, through the redemption accomplished by Jesus Christ on the cross. We believe that we are saved because God, by His free and sovereign grace alone, has chosen from eternity past to regenerate us by His Spirit and to grant us faith and repentance by which we freely embrace Christ. We believe that by faith alone in Christ alone, apart from any human merit or works, the believing sinner is justified and declared righteous as an act of God through an astonishing transfer, in which our sins are imputed to Christ and His righteousness is imputed to us. Thus, we are given eternal life and adopted into God's family to be conformed to the image of Christ, to the praise of his glorious grace. (*Eph. 1:3-14; 2:8,9; John 1:12; 3:5, 6, 16; 6:37-40, 44; Acts 13:48; Romans 3:21-26; 5:1; 8:28-29; 1 Cor. 1:30; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Pet. 1:18-19; John 3:3-7; Titus 3:4-7*)

## **9. Sanctification & Perseverance**

We believe that we are positionally sanctified ("set apart") and viewed by God as "saints" from the day of conversion. We also believe that Christians, by God's grace and His indwelling Spirit, will progressively live out their new identity in Christ through God's appointed means of grace, especially the local church, Scripture, prayer, and daily obedience. We believe we are saved by faith alone, yet the faith that saves is never alone but is always accompanied by fruit which evidences the true child of God. "So believers grow in grace, moving towards mature holiness in the fear of God, pressing on towards the heavenly life in gospel obedience to all the commands which Christ as Head and King has prescribed for them in His Word. ...repentance is to continue throughout the whole course of our lives." Thus, we believe that every Christian ought to separate from the worldliness and apostasy of our day and live a transformed life to the glory of God as we faithfully fulfil our God-given callings in society and live as salt and light in a dark and decaying world. (*Acts 20:32; 1 Cor. 1:2; 6:11; Matt. 7:21-23; Jam. 2:17-26; Gal. 5:6, 16-25; Eph. 4:22-24; Php. 3:12; Col. 3:9-10; Mark 13:13; 1 Jn. 2:19; 2 Pet. 3:18; 2 Cor. 3:18; 7:1; 1 John 1:9; Rom. 12:1-2; 2 Cor. 6:14-18; 1 John 2:15-17*)

We also believe that all the redeemed will "certainly persevere in grace to the end and be eternally saved"; that the child of God is kept secure by His power until safely home in Heaven because nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. We believe this assurance is not a cause for "loose living" but for making one's calling and election sure and for gladly risking our lives in the cause of Christ. (*John 10:28; 1 Pet. 1:5; Romans 8; 1 John 3; 5:13; 2 Pet. 1:5-11; 1 Cor. 15:58; Heb. 10:32-39*)

## **10. The Church**

We believe in the universal church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe members of this one spiritual body are directed to associate themselves together in local assemblies. We believe the local church consists of a gathering of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible profession of faith and associated for the purpose of exalting God through evangelising the lost and edifying and equipping the saints for service. We believe that the church is distinguished by her gospel message, her sacred ordinances, her discipline, her great mission, and, above all, by her love for God and by her members' love for one another and for the world. We believe that the church should display to the world a spiritual, Christ-centred unity that transcends ethnicity, age, or any other barrier, a unity that can only be produced through the gospel. (*Acts 2:41-47; 1 Cor. 12; John 13:34-35; Eph. 2:11-22; 4:1-16; 5:19-21; Heb. 10:23-25*)



We believe that the reading and expounding of Scripture must be central to the life of the church, as the fountain from which all other ministry flows. We believe the local church is responsible to seek the restoration of sinning members and the purity of the church through corrective discipline as taught by our Lord in Matthew 18. We believe that Sunday is the Lord's Day, in which we gather for corporate worship in the name of our Saviour who rose on the first day of the week. (*Psalm 1, 19, 119; 1 Tim. 4:13 2 Tim. 4:1-5; Matt. 18:15-22; 1 Cor. 5; 2 Thess. 3:6-15; Rev. 1:10; Acts 20:7*)

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church, baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of the believer in water in the name of the triune God and as a confession of identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. We believe that the Lord's Supper is a time of communing with Christ and remembering Him through the bread and the cup that depict His broken body and shed blood on our behalf. (*Matt. 26:26-29; 28:18-20; Acts 2:42; Rom. 6:3-5; 1 Cor. 10:16-22; 11:23-26*)

We believe in the autonomy of the local church, free from any external authority or control, with the right to appoint its own leaders. We believe the only scriptural offices in the local church, under Christ's headship and according to the biblical qualifications, are: elders/pastors who give teaching and oversight in shepherding the flock, along with deacons who coordinate ministries of mercy and care for practical needs in the church. We believe it is good for likeminded local churches to fellowship and cooperate with one another in the cause of the gospel; and that we ought to "pray continually for the good and prosperity of Christ's churches everywhere." (*1 Tim. 3; Titus 1:5-9; Heb. 13:7,17; Acts 6:1-6; Matt. 6:9-10; Mark 9:40; Acts 15; Php. 1:12-18*)

## **11. Missions**

We believe that God's glory and fame must be spread to the ends of the earth for the joy of all peoples. We believe that apart from conscious faith in Christ, there is no hope of salvation for the nations. We believe God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary task of proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world; and that God, in His sovereignty, has placed us in this city, among these people, at this time, for the advance of His kingdom. We believe that missions is the process of evangelising the lost and planting churches; and we believe that it is our great privilege and responsibility to participate in this cause both locally and internationally. (*Ps. 47, 67; Matt. 16:18; 28:18-20; Acts 1:8ff; 17:26-27*)

## **12. Marriage & the Family**

We believe that, according to God's good and wise design, He created men and women equal in value and dignity but distinct and complementary in their function and roles in the home, church, and society. We believe that God has ordained marriage as a heterosexual relationship between a natural man and a natural woman. We believe that marriage and children are gifts from God and that the sexual relationship is only to be enjoyed within the bounds of marriage. We believe God has designed the family and the home to be the primary building block for all of society. (*Gen 1-3; 1 Cor. 11:7-9; 1 Tim. 2:11-15; Eph 5:22-33; Rom 1:26-27; Heb. 13:4*)

### 13. The Future

We believe in the personal, bodily and glorious return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His kingdom and the hope of the new heaven and the new earth when the curse of sin will be removed forever and God will be all in all to His people. We believe in the resurrection of the bodies of the just and unjust, in the eternal blessedness of the redeemed and in the judgment and conscious, eternal punishment of the wicked. "As Christ would have us to be certainly persuaded that there shall be a day of judgment, both to deter all men from sin, and for the greater consolation of the godly in their adversity, so will He have that day unknown to men, that they may shake off all carnal security, and be always watchful, because they know not at what hour the Lord will come, and may ever be prepared to say, 'Come Lord Jesus, come quickly! Amen.'" (Acts 1:11; Php. 3:20; 1 Thess. 4:15-16; 2 Tim. 4:1; Titus 2:13; 1 Cor. 15; 2 Thess. 1:7-10; Matt. 25:46; John 5:28-29; 14:3; Luke 12:35-40; Rev. 20-22)

This Declaration of Faith is a summary of two larger, *more detailed doctrinal statements* by which the eldership at Antioch are guided in much of their beliefs and teaching:

(a) The 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith:

[www.grace.org.uk/faith/bc1689/1689bc00](http://www.grace.org.uk/faith/bc1689/1689bc00)

(a) The "What We Teach" statement of Grace Community Church:

[http://www.gracechurch.org/home/doclib.asp?ministry\\_id=1&dlcat=Doctrinal+Statement](http://www.gracechurch.org/home/doclib.asp?ministry_id=1&dlcat=Doctrinal+Statement)

# **ANTIOCH CHURCH COVENANT**

ADOPTED 30 JUNE 2009, IN RANDBURG, JOHANNESBURG

- (1) Having been brought by divine grace to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and to surrender ourselves to Him, and having been baptized upon our profession of faith, in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, we do now, relying on His gracious aid, solemnly and joyfully renew our covenant with one another.
- (2) We will work and pray for the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace as one body in Christ, being slow to take offence and eager for reconciliation. We will submit to our church leaders in the Lord and avoid grumbling or divisive behaviour.
- (3) We will walk together in brotherly love, as is fitting for members of a Christian church, exercising an affectionate care and watchfulness over each other and faithfully admonishing and encouraging one another as needed. We will rejoice in each others' happiness and endeavour with tenderness and sympathy to bear each other's burdens and sorrows.
- (4) We will seek to use our time, gifts and talents to serve others and to build up this body of Christ. We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, nor forsake attending to the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper, nor neglect to pray for one another.
- (5) We will be faithful in regular Bible reading and prayer and growing in love for God and others. We will seek to fulfil our biblical responsibilities in marriage and in the home, bringing up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.
- (6) We will seek, by our example and our witness, the salvation of family, friends and others. We will also endeavour to disciple those in the church who are younger in the faith.
- (7) We will seek, by God's enabling grace, to walk in personal holiness in the world, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, remembering that we have been buried with Christ in baptism and raised to walk in newness of life. We will seek to not be conformed to this world but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds and to be salt and light in our community.
- (8) We will work together for the continuance of a faithful Bible-teaching ministry in this church, as we sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines. We will contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of this church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.
- (9) We will, when we move from this place, as soon as possible, unite with another likeminded church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.
- (10) May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.

# Antioch

Bible Church

Acts 11:20  
"Preaching the Lord Jesus"

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