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CATECHISM

FOR

SUNDAY SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES.

In Fifty Two Lessons.

By PHILIP SCHAFF, D.D.

From Home to the School; from the School to the Church;
from the Church to Heaven.

PHILADELPHIA:
LINDSAY & BLAKISTON.
CHAMBERSBURG, PA.: M. KIEFFER & CO.
1862.

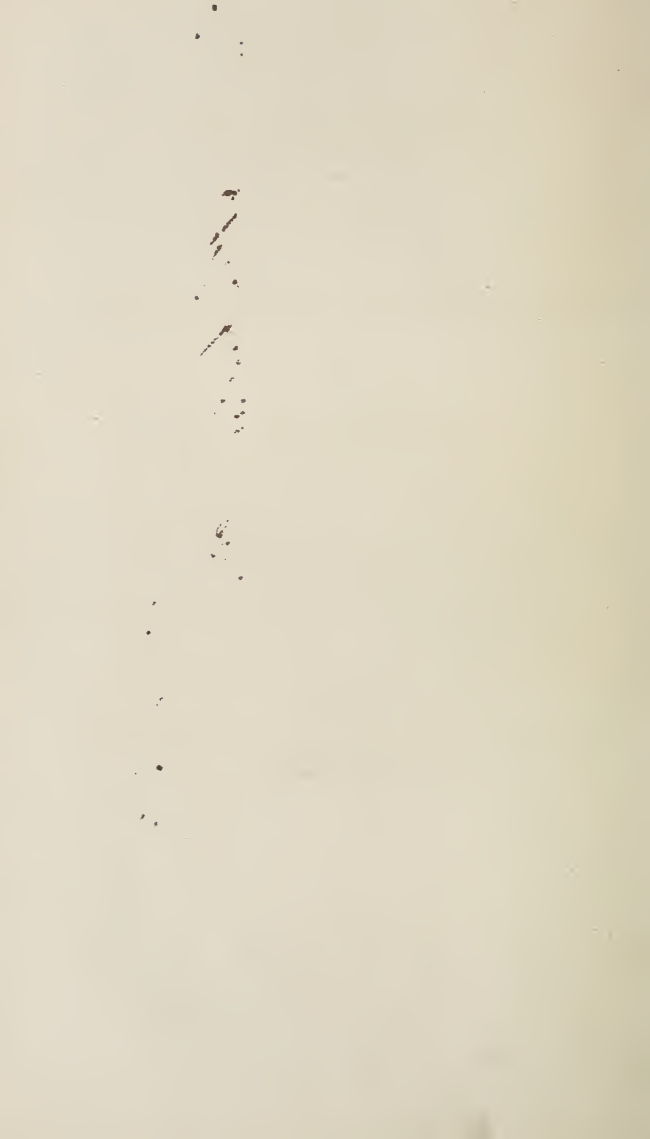
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A

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17

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PREFACE.

THE preparation of this Catechism was to the author a labor of love and a spiritual recreation. Every Christian feels the need of going back, from time to time, to the simplest elements of religion, and becoming a child again among children. "Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength." "Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." The best part of our knowledge of divine things is contained in those familiar verses of the Bible and the hymn-book which we learned at home and in school; and, when we come to die, we willingly exchange the most learned systems of theology for the Lord's Prayer and the Creed, which recall to our heart the sacred memories and traditions of childhood.

A Catechism on the Christian religion should present the articles of faith fresh from the fountain of the word of God to the mind and heart of the pupil, for his instruction and comfort in life and in death. It should give no undue proportion to any particular doctrine, but should move in the central current of Christian truth. The more important denominational differences may be stated for historical information, but in a kind and charitable spirit, and with a view to promote rather than to diminish unity and harmony among the various branches of Christ's kingdom. There is room, however, for a variety of Catechisms, corresponding to the different degrees of Christian nurture, which commences at home under the eye of the mother, is carried forward in the school under the instruction of the teacher, and is completed in the catechetical class under the care of the pastor.

We have endeavored in the present work to combine the advantages of a historical with those of a merely doctrinal Catechism, and clearness and simplicity of style with fulness of matter. Whether, and to what extent, we have succeeded, and what position this Catechism may assume in the Sunday-school literature of our age and country, can only be determined by actual use. In commencing with the exposition of the Lord's Prayer, we deviated from catechetical usage, but conformed to the natural educational order; for children are gene-

rally first taught the Lord's Prayer, or how to pray, then the Apostles' Creed, or what to believe, and last, the Ten Commandments, or how to act. The division into fifty-two lessons was not made with reference to the number of Sundays in the year (as in the modern editions of the Heidelberg Catechism), but naturally grew out of the internal order and arrangement of the material, and was gladly accepted as an appropriate, and perhaps useful, coincidence.

To satisfy different wants and tastes, we thought proper to issue two editions,—a small one, which contains only the questions and answers, and a large one, with proof-texts and notes for teachers and more advanced scholars. The latter has imperceptibly grown almost to the extent and character of a popular outline of theology. Those Scripture passages which should be committed to memory, are marked by a (*). Occasional explanations are carefully distinguished from the text by brackets.

Although independent in method, order, and design, this book will be found to agree in every essential doctrine with the HEIDELBERG CATECHISM, which was first published three hundred years ago, in January, 1563. For spirituality, depth, unction, freshness, and wise moderation, this venerable symbol of the Reformed Church has no superior in the catechetical literature of Christendom. Born of genuine evangelical inspiration in the pentecostal days of Protestantism, it has stood the test of three centuries, gathering strength and honor with advancing age, and bids fair long to continue its mission of peace, both as a guide of catechetical instruction and as a standard of public doctrine. It gives us pleasure to make this statement, from a somewhat careful comparison of ancient and modern Catechisms of different denominations, in view of the approaching tri-centenary celebration of the formation of the Heidelberg Catechism, for which preparations are now making in the German and Dutch Reformed Churches of Europe and America.

We now commit this new Catechism to the hands of pastors and teachers, unto whom the chief Shepherd has intrusted the feeding of His lambs.

P. S.

THEOL. SEMINARY, MERCERSBURG, PA.

May 10, 1862.

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The Lord's Prayer.

Our Father who art in heaven :

Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on 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, forever. Amen.

The Creed.

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ his only begotten Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hades; the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven; and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Ten Commandments.

God spake all these words, saying:

I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

I. Thou shalt have no other gods' before Me.

II. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them.

For I the Lord thy 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 shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love Me, and keep My commandments.

III. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.

For the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain.

IV. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy man=servant, nor thy maid=servant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates.

For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

V. Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

VI. Thou shalt not kill.

VII. Thou shalt not commit adultery.

VIII. Thou shalt not steal.

IX. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

X. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's

wife, nor his man=serbant, nor his maid=serbant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor's.

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment.

And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

A

CHRISTIAN CATECHISM.

I. The True End of Man.

1. *Who made you?*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father.

2. *Who redeemed you?*

Our Lord Jesus Christ.

3. *Who sanctifies you?*

The Holy Spirit.

4. *For what end were you created?*

For the glory of God and for eternal blessedness.

5. *What, then, should be your chief concern in this life?*

To do the will of God, and to save my soul.

II. The Way of Salvation.

1. *Is it the will of God, that you should be saved?*

Yes.

2. *Why so?*

Because God is love, and will have all men to be saved.

3. *How has God revealed his love to you?*

By giving his only begotten Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

4. *Can you be saved by your own strength?*

No; but only by the grace of God in Christ.

5. *What must you do to be saved?*

I must believe in Jesus Christ and follow him.

6. *Where is the way of salvation pointed out to us?*

In the Holy Scriptures.

III. Of the Holy Scriptures.

1. *Where has God revealed himself?*

In the works of creation, in the conscience of man, and in the history of nations, but most fully and clearly in his infallible word.

2. *What is the word of God?*

The Bible, or the Holy Scriptures.

3. *What does the word Bible mean?*

The book of books, or the best and most important of all books.

4. *Who wrote the Bible?*

Prophets and apostles, under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost.

5. *What are the contents of the Bible?*

The revelation of the triune God in the creation, the redemption, and the sanctification of the world.

6. *What is the use of the Bible?*

It shows us the way of salvation, and is the infallible rule of the Christian faith and life.

7. *Who enables you to understand the Bible?*

The same Holy Spirit who inspired the Bible, and is given to them that ask it.

8. *What should you do with the Bible?*

We should diligently and devoutly hear and read the Bible, lay it to heart, and keep it.

IV. The Old and the New Testament.

1. *How is the Bible divided?*

Into the Old, and the New Testament.

2. *What does the word Testament mean?*

The covenant which God made with man.

3. *What covenants did God make with man?*

First the covenant of the law through his servant Moses, and then the covenant of the gospel through his Son Jesus Christ.

4. *What does the Old Testament contain?*

The law and the promise.

5. *What does the New Testament contain?*

The gospel and the fulfilment.

6. *How, then, are both related to each other?*

The Old Testament is the preparation for the New, and the New Testament is the perfection of the Old.

7. *In what language was the Bible originally written?*

The Old Testament was written in Hebrew, the New Testament in Greek; but both are now translated into almost every language of the world.

8. *What is the sum and substance of both Testaments?*

Jesus Christ.

V. The Old Testament.

1. *How many books does the Old Testament contain?*
Thirty-nine.

2. *How are they divided?*

Into historical, poetical, and prophetic books.

3. *Name the historical books.*

First, the five books of Moses, severally called Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

4. *Name the other historical books.*

Joshua, Judges, Ruth, First and Second Samuel, First and Second Kings, First and Second Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther.

5. *Which are the poetical books?*

Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes or the Preacher, and the Song of Solomon.

6. *Which are the prophetic books?*

The prophecies of the four greater, and the twelve minor prophets.

7. *Name the greater prophets.*

Isaiah, Jeremiah (with the Lamentations), Ezekiel, and Daniel.

8. *Name the minor prophets.*

Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.

9. *What are all these books called?*

The canonical books of the Old Testament.

10. *Why so?*

Because they are divinely inspired, and, together with the New Testament, constitute the rule of faith.

VI. The New Testament.

1. *How many books does the New Testament contain?*

Twenty-seven.

2. *How is the New Testament divided?*

Into historical, doctrinal, and prophetic books.

3. *Which are the historical books of the New Testament?*

The four Gospels and the Acts.

4. *Who wrote the Gospels?*

The Apostles and Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

5. *What does the word Gospel mean?*

The glad tidings of salvation by Christ.

6. *Of what do the Gospels treat?*

Of the life and doctrine, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

7. *Who is the author of the Acts of the Apostles?*

Luke, the Evangelist.

8. *What do the Acts contain?*

The history of the founding and spread of Christianity under the Apostles, especially St. Peter and St. Paul.

9. *Which are the doctrinal or didactic books?*

Fourteen epistles of Paul, and seven catholic or general epistles.

10. *Name the Epistles of St. Paul.*

The Epistle to the Romans, First and Second Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, First and Second Thessalonians, First and Second Timothy, Titus, Philemon, and Hebrews.

11. *Name the catholic or general Epistles.*

Two Epistles of Peter, three of John, one of James, and one of Jude.

12. *Of what do the doctrinal books treat?*

Of the Christian faith and life.

13. *Which is the prophetic book of the New Testament?*

The Revelation of St. John.

14. *What are the contents of the Revelation?*

A prophetic description of the conflicts and triumphs of the Christian Church till the glorious coming of Christ.

PART FIRST.

The Lord's Prayer.

VII. Of Prayer.

1. *What is prayer?*

The raising of the heart to God, and communing with him.

2. *Why should we pray?*

Because we are poor, needy creatures, and receive all gifts of body and soul from the goodness of God.

3. *Is prayer simply a duty?*

It is not only a sacred duty, but also a precious privilege of the children of God.

4. *What are the different kinds of prayer?*

Petition, intercession, thanksgiving, and praise.

5. *To whom should we pray?*

Only to God, who is both able and willing to give us all we need.

6. *How should we pray?*

In the name of Jesus, humbly and devoutly, with childlike faith in God's mercy, and resignation to his holy will.

7. *For what may we pray?*

For all spiritual and temporal blessings, but not for any thing which is contrary to the will of God.

8. *For whom should we pray?*

For ourselves, for our brethren, and for all men, even our enemies.

9. *Where can and should we pray?*

Everywhere, but especially in the church, in the family, and in the closet.

10. *How often should we pray?*

At all times, but especially every morning and evening, and at every meal.

11. *Does God hear our prayers?*

Yes: God heareth all our prayers, for he is omnipresent and omniscient.

12. *Does God answer our prayers?*

Yes: God answers our prayers for Christ's sake, because he is our merciful Father.

13. *But when does God refuse our prayers?*

When we ask amiss, or for things injurious to us.

VIII. The Lord's Prayer.

1. *Which is the model prayer?*

The Lord's Prayer, which Jesus himself has taught his disciples.

2. *Repeat the Lord's Prayer.*

Our Father who art in heaven :

Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on 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, forever. Amen.

3. *How many parts has the Lord's Prayer?*

Three parts: an address, six petitions, and a doxology.

4. *How do you divide the petitions?*

Into two classes, each consisting of three petitions.

5. *To what do the first three petitions refer?*

To the riches and glory of God, which we call down in prayer from heaven upon earth.

6. *To what do the last three petitions refer?*

To the poverty and need of man, from which we rise up to God in prayer.

IX. The Address.

1. *What is the address of the Lord's Prayer?*

Our Father who art in heaven.

2. *Why do you address God as Father?*

Because he is our reconciled Father in

Christ, and because we should approach him with childlike reverence and trust.

3. *Why do you say, "Our Father," and not, "My Father"?*

Because we should pray not only for ourselves, but also for our kindred and friends, and for all men.

4. *Why do you add, "who art in heaven"?*

Because God is far above all earthly fathers, and because in praying we should raise the heart to heaven, where God dwells in eternal glory, and where our true home is.

5. *Is God not also on earth?*

God is everywhere: the heaven is his throne, and the earth is his footstool.

X. The First Three Petitions.

1. *What is the first petition of the Lord's Prayer?*

Hallowed be Thy name.

2. *What does this mean?*

Grant that we may rightly know and worship Thee, the only true and living God, and glorify Thee in thought, word, and deed.

3. *How is God's name dishonored?*

By cursing and swearing; by ingratitude to God, and contempt of his word and authority; by false doctrine and wicked practice.

4. *What is the second petition?*

Thy kingdom come.

5. *What does this mean?*

Reign in us more and more by Thy word and Thy Spirit, and spread the gospel over the whole world, until all men become true Christians, and God be all in all.

6. *Why should we pray for the coming of the kingdom of God, since it has already come in Christ?*

Because we ourselves are not yet perfect Christians, and because a great part of mankind are either no Christians, or false Christians.

7. *Who are not Christians?*

The heathens, Jews, Mohammedans, and infidels.

8. *Who are false Christians?*

Those who profess Christ with their lips, but deny him in their lives.

9. *What is the third petition?*

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

10. *What does this mean?*

Grant that we may renounce our own evil will, and cheerfully obey Thine only good and perfect will, even as the angels and saints in heaven.

11. *What is the will of God concerning us?*

That we should be holy, even as he is holy, and that by faith in Christ we should obtain eternal life.

XI. The Last Three Petitions.

1. *What is the fourth petition?*

Give us this day our daily bread.

2. *What does this mean?*

Grant us all things necessary for the body; make us content with little, and grateful for all Thy gifts.

3. *What is the fifth petition?*

Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

4. *What does this mean?*

Cleanse us from all our sins through the blood of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

5. *Why do you add: as we forgive our debtors?*

Because we should always be ready from the heart to forgive our neighbor, and to do good even to our enemy.

6. *What is the sixth petition?*

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

7. *What does this mean?*

Guard and strengthen us against the temptations of the flesh, the world, and the devil, and save us at last in heaven, where we shall be free from all sin and evil, and enjoy thee forever.

8. *What is the doxology?*

Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

9. *What does this mean?*

That God is both able and willing to give us all good things, and that we should give him all glory and praise for ever and ever.

10. *What do you express by the concluding word, Amen?*

My fervent desire and strong faith that God, who is faithful and true, will surely answer my prayer.

PART SECOND.

The Christian Faith.

XII. Of the Christian Faith.

1. *What is Christian faith?*

A VITAL union of the soul with Christ, by which we become partakers of his life and all his benefits.

2. *What belongs to true faith?*

A knowledge of God and of Christ, a belief in his word, and a hearty confidence in his mercy.

3. *What are the contents and object of faith?*

The triune God and his holy word, especially the gospel of Christ.

4. *Who works faith in us?*

The Holy Spirit.

5. *How does the Holy Spirit work faith?*

By the means of grace, especially the preaching of the gospel.

6. *What is the effect of faith?*

Faith justifies and saves.

7. *Is, then, faith the ground or cause of salvation?*

No; Jesus Christ is the only ground of our salvation.

8. *What, then, has faith to do with salvation?*

It is the condition of salvation, because it accepts and appropriates Jesus Christ and his merit to our personal benefit.

9. *What is the nature of justifying and saving faith?*

It must be living, and bring forth good works.

10. *Is there also a dead faith?*

Yes; the devils also believe and tremble.

11. *Should we also confess our faith?*

Yes; we should openly confess Christ before men, and never be ashamed of him.

XIII. The Apostles' Creed.

1. *What is the Apostles' Creed?*

A summary of the chief articles of the Christian faith which are necessary to our salvation.

2. *Why is it called the Apostles' Creed?*

Because it agrees with the doctrine of the apostles.

3. *Repeat this Creed.*

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ his only begotten
Son our Lord; who was conceived by the
Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary;
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified,
dead, and buried; He descended into hell**

[hades]; the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven; and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

4. *How is the Creed divided?*

Into three parts, which correspond to the three persons of the Holy Trinity.

5. *Of what does the first part treat?*

Of God the Father, and our creation.

6. *Of what does the second part treat?*

Of God the Son, and our redemption.

7. *Of what does the third part treat?*

Of God the Holy Ghost, and our sanctification.

8. *Why do you say: I believe?*

Because I must believe for myself, and become personally united to Christ, in order to be saved.

XIV. The Existence and Attributes of God.

1. *What do you believe concerning God the Father?*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

2. *What is God?*

God is the uncreated and infinite Spirit, the

greatest and most perfect Being, the Author and Giver of all good.

3. *Whence do you know the existence of God?*

From the works of creation, the conscience of man, the history of the world, and from the Holy Scripture.

4. *Are there any sensible men who deny the existence of God?*

No; only the fool says in his heart: There is no God.

Ps. 14, 1.

5. *What are the principal attributes of God?*

God is eternal, almighty, omnipresent, omniscient, most wise, holy, righteous, longsuffering, and full of love, mercy, and truth.

XV. The Unity and Trinity of God.

1. *Are there more gods than one?*

No: there is but one living and true God.

2. *But is God not triune?*

Yes: God is one in essence or being, and triune in person.

3. *Name the three persons in the one Divine being.*

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one.

4. *Why do you believe in the Holy Trinity?*

Because God has so revealed himself in his word, and continues so to reveal himself.

5. *How does God reveal himself?*

As Father in the work of creation, as Son in the work of redemption, and as Holy Spirit in the work of sanctification.

XVI. The Creation of the World.

1. *Who created the world?*

God the Father Almighty.

2. *What do you mean by the world which God made?*

The heaven and the earth, and all that in them is, things visible and invisible, men and angels.

3. *Through whom did God create the world?*

Through his Son, the eternal Word.

4. *When did God create the world?*

In the beginning of time.

5. *Of what did God create the world?*

Out of nothing, by his almighty will.

6. *How was the world when God made it?*

Very good.

7. *For what end did God create the world?*

For his own glory, and for the happiness of his creatures.

8. *What does the article of creation teach you?*

That in all the works of creation I should admire and adore the majesty, power, wisdom, and goodness of God.

XVII. Preservation and Providence.

1. *What do you mean by the preservation of the world?*

That God, by his almighty and omnipresent power, keeps the world in existence, and, by his goodness, provides all his creatures with food, raiment, and shelter.

2. *Does God Almighty care even for the smallest of his creatures?*

Yes, even for the fowls of the air, and the lilies of the field: how much more, then, for man, his favorite creature!

3. *What do you mean by the providence of God and the government of the world?*

That God rules the world according to an eternal plan of infinite wisdom and love, and causes all things, even sin and evil, to work together for the glory of his name and the welfare of his children.

4. *Is there, then, no such thing as chance?*

No: all things come from the wise and fatherly will of God; seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, wealth and poverty, health and sickness, life and death.

5. *What should the belief in Providence teach you?*

To be thankful in prosperity, patient in adversity, and at all times to put our trust in God, who does all things well.

XVIII. The State of Innocence.

1. *Of what parts does man consist?*

Of a material body, and a rational immortal soul.

2. *How did God create man?*

God created man in his own image.

3. *What does this mean?*

God made man pure and holy, with dominion over nature, and endowed him with the capacity for intellectual and moral perfection.

4. *What is the original state of man called?*

The state of innocence.

5. *Why so?*

Because man was free from sin, and knew no sin.

6. *What were the names of our first parents?*

Adam and Eve.

7. *Where did they live in the state of innocence?*

In paradise, in blessed communion with God.

8. *Are there other rational beings besides men?*

Yes: the angels.

9. *What are the angels?*

Holy and blessed spirits in heaven, who serve God, and co-operate for the salvation of men.

10. *Did all angels remain holy?*

No: some fell from their first estate, and were cast out of heaven.

XIX. The Fall.

1. *Did our first parents remain in the state of innocence?*

No : they fell, and became sinners.

2. *Wherein did the fall consist?*

In disobedience to God.

3. *What had God commanded them?*

Not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

4. *Why did God give them this commandment?*

In order to try them, and to confirm them in goodness.

5. *What were the stages of the fall?*

First, doubt of the word of God ; then, pride and lust ; and finally, the actual transgression by eating of the forbidden fruit.

6. *Who seduced Adam and Eve to sin?*

The devil, in the disguise of a serpent.

7. *Who is the devil?*

The chief of the fallen angels, and the prince of darkness.

8. *Was it necessary that man should fall?*

No : he might and ought to have resisted the temptation, as the good angels did before, and as Jesus did in the wilderness.

9. *What were the consequences of the fall?*

Death, and expulsion from paradise.

10. *What is death?*

All temporal and eternal evil, but more particularly the extinction of physical life.

11. *Was the fall of man confined to our first parents?*

No: sin and death have passed upon all the descendants of Adam.

12. *Is there, then, no single human being without sin?*

Not one, except only Jesus Christ, who redeemed us from sin.

XX. Of Sin.

1. *What is sin?*

The transgression of the law of God.

2. *Whence do you know sin?*

From the natural law of conscience, but more fully from the revealed law of God.

3. *Against whom can we sin?*

Against God, against our neighbor, and against ourselves.

4. *How do you divide sin?*

Into original sin, and actual sin.

5. *What is original, or hereditary sin?*

The natural depravity or sinful disposition which we inherit from our first parents.

6. *Wherein does this natural depravity consist?*

In this, that man is by nature incapable of good, and prone to all evil.

7. *What is actual sin?*

All evil thoughts, words, and deeds.

8. *How do you distinguish actual sins?*

Into sins of commission, and sins of omission.

9. *What is a sin of commission?*

The doing of a thing which God has forbidden.

10. *What is a sin of omission?*

The leaving undone what God has commanded us to do.

11. *How again are actual sins divided?*

Into sins of weakness, and sins of malice.

12. *What is a sin of weakness?*

A sin of ignorance or carelessness, followed by sincere repentance, as in the cases of David and Peter.

13. *What is a sin of malice?*

A sin which is committed knowingly and wilfully, as the treason of Judas.

14. *Can all sins be forgiven?*

All sins can be forgiven for Christ's sake on condition of repentance, with the only exception of the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost, or total and final impenitence.

XXI. Punishment of Sin.

1. *What have we deserved by our sins?*

God's righteous wrath and punishment.

2. *Why does God punish sin?*

Because he is holy and just.

3. *Wherewith does God punish sin?*

With temporal and eternal death.

4. *What are the temporal punishments of sin?*

A bad conscience, sickness, all sorts of evil and misery, and, finally, physical death.

5. *But have not also the children of God to suffer affliction and death?*

Yes; but by the wisdom and love of God all the sufferings of this present life are made to advance the believer in holiness, and to prepare him for the joys of eternity.

6. *Wherein does the eternal punishment of sin consist?*

In the entire separation of the sinner from God, and the endless pains of hell.

7. *Will God punish all sinners alike?*

No: he punishes every sinner according to the degree of his guilt.

8. *Can we deliver ourselves from sin?*

By no means; but we daily increase our guilt.

XXII. Preparation for Salvation.

1. *Did God leave man to the power of sin and death?*

No: God wrought out an everlasting salvation.

2. *What do you mean by salvation?*

Deliverance from sin and death, and the reunion of man with God through Jesus Christ.

3. *Why has God wrought out such a salvation?*

Because God is love, and has no pleasure in the death of the sinner.

4. *Will, then, all men be saved?*

No: only those who truly believe in Jesus Christ and accept his benefits.

5. *When did God determine to save men?*

From eternity.

6. *When did he first promise salvation?*

Immediately after the fall, when he said that the seed of the woman should bruise the serpent's head.

7. *What does this mean?*

Christ will destroy the power of sin and the devil.

8. *Through whom did God further promise salvation?*

Through the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, through Moses, and the prophets of the old dispensation.

9. *Did God also foreshadow this salvation?*

Yes: in the law, in the worship, and the whole history, of the people of Israel.

10. *Who was the last prophet of the old dispensation?*

John the Baptist.

11. *What was the mission of John the Baptist?*

He prepared the way of the Lord, and pointed to the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world.

12. *When did God carry out the plan of salvation?*

When the time of preparation was fulfilled.

13. *Through whom did God carry out the plan of salvation?*

Through his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

XXIII. Jesus Christ.—His Names.

1. *What do you believe concerning Jesus Christ?*

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hades; the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven; and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

2. *What does the name Jesus signify?*

Jesus means a Saviour.

3. *Why is he so called?*

Because he has saved us from sin and death.

4. *What does the name Christ signify?*

Christ, or Messiah, means the Anointed.

5. *Why is he so called?*

Because he was anointed with the Holy Spirit to be our perfect and eternal prophet, priest, and king.

6. *Why are you called a Christian?*

Because I am united to Christ by faith, and a partaker of his anointing, that I should follow his example and become more and more like him.

XXIV. Of the Person of Christ.

1. *What do you believe concerning the person of Christ?*

Jesus Christ is the God-man, or true God and true man in one person, forever.

2. *Why must he unite the divine and human natures in his person?*

That he might be the mediator between God and man, and reconcile them.

3. *How do you prove the true divinity of Christ?*

From the divine names, the divine attributes, the divine works, and the divine honors, of Christ.

4. *How do you prove the true humanity of Christ?*

From his birth, his growth, his temptation, his sufferings, his death and burial.

5. *Did Christ become like us in all things?*

Yes: in all things, sin only excepted.

6. *What do you mean by the sinlessness of Jesus?*

His freedom from original and actual sin, and his perfect holiness.

7. *Was, then, Christ not tempted like the first Adam?*

Yes: he was tempted by the devil, but he overcame temptation, fulfilled the law, and revealed righteousness and life.

XXV. The Two States of Christ.

1. *What are the two states or conditions in the history of Christ?*

The state of humiliation, and the state of exaltation.

2. *What do you mean by the humiliation of Christ?*

From infinite love to us, he freely laid aside his divine glory and majesty, and took upon himself the form of a servant.

3. *What belongs to the state of humiliation?*

Christ's conception and birth, his passion and death, his burial, and descent into hades.

4. *What do you mean by the exaltation of Christ?*

After completing the work of redemption, he returned to the full possession of his eternal divine glory, and raised human nature to a share in this glory.

5. *What are the stages of his exaltation?*

His resurrection, his ascension, his sitting at the right hand of God, and his return to judgment.

6. *What do you learn from the two states of Christ?*

That I should follow my Saviour in the path of humility and self-denial, so that I may become partaker also of his divine glory and majesty.

XXVI. Birth and Childhood of Jesus.

1. *What do you believe concerning the birth of Jesus?*

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary, of the house of David, a true man, yet without sin.

2. *Why did the eternal Son of God take up our human nature into fellowship with his divine person?*

In order that he might live, suffer, die, and rise again for us, and thus accomplish in our nature the redemption of man.

3. *When was Jesus born?*

During the reign of Augustus, the Roman emperor, and Herod the Great, the king of the Jews.

4. *Where was Jesus born?*

In a stable at Bethlehem in Judea.

5. *Why was Jesus born in such poverty?*

That by his poverty he might make us rich, and draw even the humblest to himself.

6. *What did the angels in heaven do at the birth of Jesus?*

They rejoiced, and sang: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

7. *What else happened at the birth of Jesus?*

The Jewish shepherds from the fields, and the heathen sages from the East, came and worshipped the child in the manger.

8. *What occurred on the eighth day after Christ's birth?*

He was circumcised according to the custom of the Jews, and called Jesus.

9. *What do you know of the childhood of Jesus?*

When he was twelve years old, he sat in the temple of Jerusalem, in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them and asking them questions, and had his chief delight in religion.

10. *What else is reported of Jesus in his youth?*

That he was subject to his parents, and increased in wisdom, and stature, and in favor with God and men.

11. *What benefit do you derive from the birth and childhood of Jesus?*

He has redeemed our birth and childhood, and consecrated it to God, and has left to all children a perfect pattern of obedience and piety.

XXVII. Public Life and Work of Christ.

1. *Where and how did Jesus grow up?*

At Nazareth in Galilee, in poverty and humility, as the son of a carpenter.

2. *What took place before he commenced his public ministry?*

He was baptized in Jordan by John the Baptist.

3. *Why was he baptized?*

That he might fulfil all righteousness, and be solemnly consecrated to his public ministry.

4. *What happened at the baptism of Jesus?*

The Holy Ghost descended upon him like a dove, and a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

5. *What followed after the baptism of Jesus?*

He was tempted by the devil in the wilderness, as Adam and Eve were tempted in paradise, but he overcame the temptation.

6. *When did Christ enter upon his public ministry?*

In the thirtieth year of his age.

7. *How long did his public life last?*

About three years.

8. *Wherein did it consist?*

He called and trained twelve apostles, taught the purest doctrine, and confirmed it by the holiest life, and by many miracles of power and mercy.

9. *What was the design of Christ?*

To found the kingdom of heaven on earth, which was to embrace the whole human family, and to last forever.

10. *By what means was Christ's kingdom to be founded and promoted?*

Not by force or any carnal weapons, but by spiritual and moral means, even his passion and death.

11. *Of what benefit is the public life of Christ to you?*

It is an exemplar of the highest piety and virtue, or of perfect love to God and man, for our imitation.

XXVIII. The Passion and Death of Jesus.

1. *When did Jesus suffer?*

During the whole time of his life on earth.

2. *What did he suffer?*

Poverty and sorrow, and the hatred and opposition of the ungodly world.

3. *When did he suffer most?*

At the end of his earthly life, in the garden of Gethsemane, before Caiaphas and Pontius Pilate, and on the cross.

4. *What did he suffer there?*

He suffered unutterable pains in body and soul, and bore the guilt of the whole world.

5. *Name the chief events of his passion.*

He was betrayed by Judas, taken prisoner, denied by Peter, dragged before the Jewish and heathen tribunals, mocked, scourged, crowned with thorns, unjustly condemned, and crucified between two malefactors.

6. *What death did Christ die?*

The most painful and ignominious death of the cross.

7. *How did he suffer all this?*

Like an innocent lamb, with the greatest meekness, patience, and resignation to the will of God.

8. *Why did Christ thus suffer and die?*

Not for his sake, but in our stead, and for our benefit, out of free and boundless love.

9. *What benefit do you derive from Christ's passion and death?*

He has redeemed us from the guilt and power of sin, and reconciled us to God.

10. *What other benefit do you derive from it?*

He has left us a perfect example of gentleness, meekness, and patience under suffering.

11. *What should you learn from Christ's passion?*

To be forever thankful to him, and to live no longer unto sin, but unto him only who died for us.

XXIX. The Burial of Christ, and his Descent into Hades.

1. *What took place after the death of Jesus?*

His body was laid in a new sepulchre in a garden, by his disciples, Joseph of Arimathea, and Nicodemus, but did not see corruption.

2. *What does the burial of Christ teach you?*

That he truly died, and completed the full measure of man's lot on earth.

3. *What comfort do you derive from the burial of Jesus?*

That he has taken away the terrors from the grave, and consecrated it for believers, so that their bodies sleep in Jesus in the hope of a blissful resurrection.

4. *But where was the soul of Christ while his body rested in the grave?*

He descended into hades; that is, the lower world, or the region of the dead.

5. *For what purpose did Christ descend into hades?*

In order to announce the work of redemption to those who died before his coming, and to triumph over the powers of hell.

6. *What comfort do you derive from this fact?*

That Christ has delivered us from the terrors of hell and the power of the devil.

XXX. The Resurrection and Ascension of Christ.

1. *What does the Bible teach concerning the resurrection of Christ?*

On the third day after his crucifixion, Christ rose from the grave with his glorified body, by his own power, as the conqueror of death, and the prince of life, and appeared repeatedly to his disciples.

2. *What is the import of this event?*

By his resurrection, Christ completed the work of redemption, brought life and immortality to light, and gave us a sure pledge of our blessed resurrection.

3. *How should this faith move you?*

To arise from the sleep of sin, and to walk with Christ in newness of life.

4. *What do you believe concerning the ascension of Christ?*

Forty days after his resurrection, Christ visibly ascended to heaven from Mount Olivet, in the presence of the apostles, and sat down at the right hand of God.

5. *Is Christ, then, absent from us on earth?*

Certainly not; he is always invisibly present with his people by his word and Spirit, in the full power of his mediatorial life and work, to the end of the world.

6. *What should the ascension of Christ teach you?*

To seek those things which are above, so that we may become partakers at last of his heavenly glory.

XXXI. Christ's Sitting at the Right Hand of God, and His Return to Judgment.

1. *What do you mean by saying: "He sitteth at the right hand of God"?*

That Christ, as the God-man, has part in the eternal glory and almighty power of God.

2. *What is the work of Christ in heaven?*

He rules and keeps his Church as a mighty King, and he intercedes for us as a merciful High-priest.

3. *What comfort do you derive from this faith?*

That at all times, even in tribulation and persecution, we are sure of the almighty protection of our Saviour, who rules and overrules all things for our good, and will take us up at last to himself in heaven.

4. *What does the Bible teach concerning the second coming?*

On the last day, Christ will appear in great power and glory, raise the dead, and judge the world in righteousness.

5. *What will he judge?*

The thoughts, words, and deeds of men.

6. *How will he hold judgment?*

He will separate the righteous from the

wicked, bring to light all their works, and award everlasting life and everlasting punishment.

7. *Do we know the time of the second coming of Christ?*

No; God alone knows the day and the hour when the Son of man shall come.

8. *What should you do, therefore?*

We should always watch, and be ready for the great day of judgment.

9. *Need the pious be afraid of that day?*

No; to the ungodly it will indeed be a day of terror, but to the godly, a day of joy and complete redemption.

XXXII. The Threefold Office and Work of Christ.

1. *What are the three offices of Christ?*

He is our Prophet, Priest, and King.

2. *Were there such offices before Christ?*

Yes: there were prophets, priests, and kings in the Jewish dispensation, who were types and forerunners of Christ.

3. *How is Christ distinguished from them?*

Christ unites all these offices in one person, and is the last and perfect Prophet, Priest, and King of redeemed humanity, forever.

4. *What do you mean by the prophetic office of Christ?*

Christ is the light of the world, and the

truth itself, and has fully revealed to us the will and counsel of God by his doctrine and example.

5. *What belongs to his prophetic office?*

His doctrine, prophecies, and miracles.

6. *What do you mean by the priestly office of Christ?*

Christ has reconciled us to God forever by his own perfect sacrifice on the cross, and intercedes continually for us at the right hand of the Father, as our eternal High-priest.

7. *What do you mean by the kingly office of Christ?*

Christ is the head of the Church in heaven and on earth, ruling it by his word and Spirit, protecting it against all enemies, and directing all things for his glory and the good of his people.

XXXIII. Of the Holy Spirit.

1. *What do you believe concerning the Holy Spirit?*

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

2. *Is not the work of Christ sufficient for our salvation?*

Certainly it is; but it must be applied to our personal benefit by the Holy Spirit.

3. *How is this done?*

The Holy Spirit testifies of Christ as the

Saviour of sinners, unites us to him by faith, and makes us partakers of all his benefits.

4. *Who is the Holy Spirit?*

The third person in the Holy Trinity, proceeding from the Father, and the Son.

5. *Why do you believe in the Divinity of the Holy Spirit?*

Because the Bible makes him equal with the Father, and the Son, and ascribes to him divine names, attributes, works, and honors.

6. *What is the work or office of the Holy Spirit?*

The regeneration, and sanctification of the redeemed.

7. *What does this mean?*

The Holy Spirit creates, preserves, promotes, and perfects the Christian life in the children of God.

8. *Was the Holy Spirit active before Christ?*

Yes: He wrought in the creation, inspired the prophets, sanctified the pious under the Jewish dispensation, and comforted them by the hope of the future redemption.

9. *How does He work in the new dispensation?*

As the Spirit of Jesus Christ, applying to us the fulness of the accomplished redemption, and making us children of God and heirs of life everlasting.

10. *When was the Holy Spirit poured out in this fulness upon the apostles?*

On the day of Pentecost, the fiftieth day after the resurrection of Christ.

11. *Was the effusion of the Spirit confined to the day of Pentecost?*

No: He works continually in Christendom through the means of grace, and dwells in all true believers as their guide and comforter.

12. *How can you receive the precious gift of the Holy Spirit?*

By prayer, and the right use of the means of grace.

XXXIV. The Christian Church.

1. *Where does the Holy Spirit dwell and work?*

In the Christian Church.

2. *What is the Christian Church?*

The communion of all believers under Christ the head.

3. *Who founded the Christian Church?*

The exalted Saviour, on the fiftieth day after his resurrection, by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon his disciples, in Jerusalem.

4. *Can it ever perish?*

No: the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

5. *What are the essential attributes of the Church?*

The Church of Christ is one, holy, and universal in its nature and destination; and is to become so more and more in its manifestation.

6. *What is meant by the Church militant?*

The Church on earth, in conflict with the world, sin, and error, till the coming of Christ.

7. *What is meant by the Church triumphant?*

The perfect kingdom of glory in heaven.

8. *What is the mission of the Church on earth?*

To lead unbelievers to Christ, and to prepare believers for heaven.

9. *Is it enough to be in external communion with the Church in order to be saved?*

No: we must be living members of the body of Christ.

10. *What will become at last of the dead and hypocritical members of the Church?*

They will be cut off, and cast into the fire.

11. *What do you mean by the Communion of Saints?*

The true children of God in heaven and on earth, notwithstanding the differences of race, language, and denomination, are one in Christ their common head and Saviour, and should manifest this unity by mutual intercession and brotherly love.

XXXV. The Means of Grace.

1. *How does the Holy Spirit work in the Church?*

By the means of grace.

2. *What are the means of grace?*

The Word of God, and the Sacraments.

3. *How are these related to each other?*

By the word of God salvation is preached to us; by the sacraments it is sealed,—that is, confirmed and made available to us.

4. *What is the word of God?*

The revelation of God which is contained in the Holy Scriptures, and continually proclaimed by the preaching of the gospel.

5. *Who instituted the preaching of the gospel?*

Jesus Christ, when he sent out the apostles with the commission: "Preach the gospel to every creature."

6. *What is a sacrament?*

A holy ordinance instituted by Christ, whereby, under visible signs and seals, divine grace is offered and applied to believers.

7. *What are the typical sacraments of the Old Testament?*

Circumcision, and the Passover.

8. *What are the sacraments of the New Testament?*

Holy Baptism, and the Holy Communion or the Lord's Supper.

9. *How are these two sacraments related to each other?*

By Baptism we are introduced into the communion with Christ; by the Lord's Supper we are preserved and strengthened in it.

10. *What is the effect of the sacraments?*

They convey a blessing upon the worthy, a curse upon the unworthy, partaker.

11. *What is necessary for the worthy reception of the sacrament?*

Sincere repentance of our sins, and a hearty faith in Christ.

12. *Are the sacraments necessary to salvation?*

We are bound to the ordinances of God, but God is free.

XXXVI. Holy Baptism.

1. *When did Christ institute holy Baptism?*

After his resurrection, and shortly before his ascension.

2. *By what words?*

TEACH ALL NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY GHOST; TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE ALL THINGS WHATSOEVER I HAVE COMMANDED YOU.

. *What is the outward sign of Baptism?*

Water, by which the purifying and renewing power of the Holy Spirit is represented.

4. *What is the inward grace and spiritual benefit of Baptism?*

The remission of sins, and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

5. *What, then, is the nature of Baptism?*

Baptism is a covenant of grace of the triune God with man, whereby God promises forgiveness and salvation, and man vows obedience and devotion to him.

6. *Will, then, all baptized persons be saved?*

No; but those only who keep their baptismal vow and are faithful unto death.

7. *Is there forgiveness for sins committed after Baptism?*

Yes: if we at once sincerely repent and take refuge in Christ.

8. *May children of Christian parents be baptized?*

Yes: for the Saviour says: "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God."

9. *What is the duty of parents and pastors to baptized children?*

To train them up in the Christian religion, and prepare them for confirmation and full communion with the Church.

10. *What is confirmation?*

The solemn public renewal of the baptismal vow.

11. *What is the duty of those baptized and confirmed?*

They should be evermore thankful to God for receiving them into his covenant of grace, and never doubt his promises; but they should also renew their vows by daily repentance, and grow up to full manhood in Christ.

XXXVII. The Lord's Supper.

1. *What is the second sacrament of the Christian Church?*

The Lord's Supper or the Holy Communion.

2. *When did Christ institute this sacrament?*

In the night before his crucifixion.

3. *Give me the words of institution.*

Our Lord Jesus, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He brake it, and said:

TAKE, EAT: THIS IS MY BODY, WHICH IS BROKEN FOR YOU: THIS DO IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.

After the same manner also He took the cup, when He had supped, saying:

DRINK YE ALL OF IT: THIS CUP IS THE NEW TESTAMENT IN MY BLOOD, WHICH IS SHED FOR MANY FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS: THIS DO YE, AS OFT AS YE DRINK IT, IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.

4. *What are the visible signs or elements of the Lord's Supper?*

Bread and wine, by which the body and blood of Christ are set forth and sealed.

5. *What is the invisible grace of the Lord's Supper?*

The body of Christ broken for us, and his blood shed for the remission of sins.

6. *What is the meaning and design of this sacrament?*

It is a memorial of the blessed sacrifice of Christ, whereby we commemorate his passion and death, and appropriate anew the benefits of his atonement.

7. *What else is this sacrament?*

A communion of the body and blood of Christ, who died for us and lives forever,

whereby our souls are nourished unto everlasting life.

8. *What is it in addition to this?*

A communion of believers with each other, as members of the same mystical body of Christ.

9. *What, then, does the believer receive in the Lord's Supper?*

Jesus Christ, who is the bread of life and the manna from heaven, together with all his benefits.

10. *How do we receive this great blessing?*

Not in a natural or carnal manner, but by the power of the Holy Spirit through faith, which unites us to Christ.

11. *Who are invited to the Lord's Supper?*

All believers who heartily repent of their sins, repose their whole trust in Christ, and hunger and thirst after communion with him.

12. *What do unworthy communicants receive in the Lord's Supper?*

They eat and drink judgment to themselves, not discerning the Lord's body.

13. *Should those guilty of gross offences be admitted to the Lord's Supper?*

By no means; but they should be suspended, or even be cut off from the Church, until they repent.

14. *How should we prepare ourselves for a worthy communion?*

By prayer, by meditating on Christ's passion, and by earnest self-examination as to our repentance, faith, love to Christ, to the brethren, and to all men.

XXXVIII. The Order of Salvation.— Regeneration.

1. *What are the principal acts in the work of grace?*

Election, vocation, regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification.

2. *What is election, or predestination?*

The eternal purpose of free grace, whereby God has chosen us in Christ, that we should be holy and obtain salvation through him.

3. *What use should you make of this doctrine?*

It should increase our gratitude to God, make us more diligent and watchful in our conflict with sin, and give us comfort in our trials.

4. *What is vocation, or calling?*

The invitation made to the sinner, through the gospel, to enter into the kingdom of God.

5. *What is conversion?*

Conversion is a change of heart, by which we turn away from sin and turn to Christ, in true repentance and faith.

6. *What are the marks of true repentance?*

Knowledge of sin, hearty sorrow for it,

hatred of it, and a sincere purpose to lead a life of holy obedience.

7. *What are the marks of true faith?*

Knowledge of Christ, assent to the truth of his gospel, and hearty trust in him as our Saviour.

8. *Can you repent and believe in your own strength?*

By no means; but only by the power of the Holy Spirit, who enlightens our darkened understanding, and creates in us a new heart.

9. *What do you call this great change?*

Regeneration or the new birth, without which no man can enter into the kingdom of God.

10. *What do you mean by regeneration?*

That act of the Holy Ghost, by which we become partakers of the divine life, or new creatures in Christ Jesus.

11. *Why do all men need regeneration?*

Because they are all born of the flesh, are dead in sin, and hence disqualified by nature for communion with a holy God.

12. *What are the effects of regeneration?*

By regeneration we become children of God, and heirs of eternal life.

XXXIX. Justification and Sanctification.

1. *What is justification?*

The act of God, by which he pardons all

our sins, and applies to us the righteousness of Christ.

2. *How is the sinner justified?*

By the free grace of God in Christ through faith, which so unites us to Christ that he lives in us and we in him.

3. *What is the effect of justification upon the heart?*

Peace with God, which passes all understanding.

4. *What is the evidenee of justification?*

Good works, or a holy life and conversation.

5. *Can there be true faith without good works?*

No; true faith works by love, purifies the heart, overcomes the world, and abounds in the fruits of righteousness.

6. *What is sanctification?*

Our continual growth in grace through the indwelling and power of the Holy Spirit, until we attain to perfection in Christ Jesus.

7. *What are the chief Christian graces or virtues?*

Faith, hope, and love.

8. *What is glorification?*

The completion of the work of grace at the coming of Christ, when we shall share in his glory and enjoy him forever.

XL. The Resurrection of the Body, and the Life Everlasting.

1. *When will the work of grace be completed?*

At the glorious coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2. *What will take place at the coming of Christ?*

The resurrection of the dead, and the judgment of the world.

3. *Shall all men rise again?*

Yes; the righteous shall rise unto the resurrection of life, the wicked unto the resurrection of damnation.

4. *How will the resurrection be effected?*

By the almighty power of God, who first made man of the dust, and can also raise him from the dust.

5. *Where is the soul of the believer between death and the resurrection?*

In blessed communion with Christ, waiting for the glorious resurrection of the body, and for the consummation of the kingdom of God.

6. *On what ground do you rest your hope for a blessed resurrection?*

On the resurrection of Christ, and our living union with him.

7. *What will be the nature of the resurrection-body of believers?*

It will be a spiritual body, immortal, incorruptible, and like unto the glorious body of Jesus Christ.

8. *What will follow the resurrection of believers?*

The life everlasting, which begins already here with faith in Christ, but which will then be gloriously completed.

9. *What do you mean by the life everlasting in heaven?*

A state of perfect freedom from sin and death, and of unspeakable joy and glory in unbroken communion with the triune God and the innumerable company of saints and angels.

10. *What are the employments of the saints in heaven?*

They will perfectly know God, love, serve, and praise him forever.

11. *What effect should this hope have upon you?*

It should inspire me with increased zeal to lead a godly life in the constant fear and love of God, so that I may die in peace and attain at last to the glorious resurrection of the just.

PART THIRD.

The Christian Life.

XLI. The Ten Commandments.

1. *What is your duty in view of what God has done for you?*

To be thankful for so great a salvation from sin and death, and to present myself a living sacrifice unto God.

2. *How do you prove your thankfulness to God?*

By keeping God's holy law.

3. *What is the sum of the law of God?*

Love to God, and love to our neighbor.

4. *Where is the moral law briefly summed up?*

In the decalogue, or the ten commandments which God gave through Moses to the people of Israel from Mount Sinai, after their deliverance from Egypt, and before their entrance into the land of promise.

5. *What is the use and object of the law?*

It is to all men a mirror of the holy will of God, and their own sinfulness; to the unconverted, a wholesome restraint, and schoolmaster to bring them unto Christ; to the converted, a rule of holy living.

6. *But has Christ not abolished the law?*

No; he has fulfilled the law by his doctrine and example; he has redeemed us from its curse; and he enables us, by his Holy Spirit, to keep it in its true spiritual sense.

7. *How are the ten commandments divided?*

Into two tables.

8. *Of what does the first table treat?*

Of our duties to God, or of love to God.

9. *Of what does the second table treat?*

Of our duties to man, or of love to our neighbor.

10. *What does each commandment comprehend?*

Each commandment enjoins a virtue, and forbids the opposite sin.

XLII. The First Commandment.

1. *What is the preface to the ten commandments?*

I am the Lord thy God, who brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

2. *What does this mean?*

God reminds us thereby of his holy majesty, and of his redeeming mercy, that we might keep his law not only from fear, but from gratitude and love.

3. *What is the first commandment?*

Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.

4. *What does God forbid in this commandment?*

All kinds of idolatry, or creature-worship.

5. *What is idolatry?*

The worship of any thing which is not God, as the stars, or animals, or men, or angels.

6. *What else may be called idolatry?*

All immoderate attachment to ourselves, to the world, or to any creature, whereby we detract from the supreme honor and love due to God.

7. *What does God require in this commandment?*

That we should fear and love God above all things, worship him only, and find our highest joy and delight in him.

XLIII. The Second Commandment.

1. *What is the second commandment?*

Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them.

For I the Lord thy 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 shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love Me, and keep My commandments.

2. *What does God forbid in this commandment?*

The worship of images, and all false modes of worship which are contrary to the word of God.

3. *Are, then, all images forbidden by God?*

No: images of creatures are allowed, but not for idolatrous or superstitious uses.

4. *What does God enjoin in this commandment?*

That we should worship God, who is a Spirit, in spirit and in truth.

5. *What belongs to the true worship of God?*

The reading of the Holy Scriptures, the preaching of the gospel, prayer and praise, and the administration of the sacraments according to God's appointment.

6. *How does God enforce this commandment?*

By reminding us of his zeal for the purity of worship, by threatening his wrath, and promising his mercy unto children and children's children.

7. *Why does he thus enforce this commandment?*

Because apostasy from the true worship of the Lord our God is the fruitful source of all manner of superstition and vice.

XLIV. The Third Commandment.

1. *What is the third commandment?*

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.

For the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain.

2. *What do you understand by the name of God?*

Every thing by which he makes himself known to us,—his names, titles, attributes, words, works, and ordinances.

3. *What does God forbid in this commandment?*

False and rash oaths, blasphemy, cursing, swearing, and all profanity in thought and speech.

4. *In what cases are Christians allowed to swear?*

When the magistrate, as the minister of God, demands an oath for the defence of truth and justice.

5. *What is required in the third commandment?*

That we should think and speak with deep reverence of God and all holy things, and glorify the name of the Lord in our lives.

6. *Why is a special warning added to this commandment?*

Because sins of profanity are often over-

looked or slightly thought of by men, but are, nevertheless, an abomination to God, and expose us to his righteous judgment.

XLV. The Fourth Commandment.

1. *What is the fourth commandment?*

Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy man=serbant, nor thy maid=serbant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates.

For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

2. *What does God forbid in this commandment?*

All desecration of the sabbath, or day of holy rest, by secular labor or amusement, and by idleness or neglect of public worship.

3. *Are, then, all works prohibited on the sabbath?*

No: acts of worship, charity, and necessity are allowed, and commended by the example of our Saviour.

4. *How is the sabbath to be kept holy?*

By acts of public and private worship, by devotional reading and meditation, by godly conversation and works of Christian charity.

5. *Why was the Jewish sabbath celebrated on the seventh day of the week?*

In commemoration of the creation, and the redemption from the bondage of Egypt.

6. *Why is the Christian sabbath celebrated on the first day of the week?*

In commemoration of the resurrection of Christ, and our redemption from the bondage of sin and death, for which reason it is also called "the Lord's day."

7. *What is the object and use of the Lord's day?*

To maintain public worship, to give rest to body and soul, and to prepare us for the eternal sabbath in heaven.

XLVI. The Fifth Commandment.

1. *What is the fifth commandment?*

Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

2. *What does God enjoin in this commandment?*

That we should cheerfully render to our parents, teachers, and other superiors, all due honor, love, and obedience in the Lord.

3. *What is forbidden in this commandment?*

All disrespect, disobedience, or neglect of our parents, teachers, or any other superiors.

4. *What are the duties of parents?*

To bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, for usefulness in this world, and for eternal happiness in the world to come.

5. *What are the duties of superiors in general?*

To promote, both by precept and example, the temporal and spiritual welfare of those intrusted to their care.

6. *Why does God add a special promise to this commandment?*

Because the family is the foundation of society, and obedience to parents is the condition of all true happiness and prosperity.

XLVII. The Sixth Commandment.

1. *Of what do the last five commandments treat?*

Of love to our neighbor.

2. *Who is your neighbor?*

Every man with whom we come into contact, and to whom we can do good, without distinction of race, character, or condition.

3. *What is the sum of your duties to your neighbor?*

To love him as ourselves, and to do unto him as we wish him to do unto us.

4. *What is the sixth commandment?*

Thou shalt not kill.

5. *What is forbidden in this commandment?*

Murder and suicide, or the wilful destruction of human life, whether it be done by our own hands, or by the agency of another.

6. *Who alone has a right to take human life?*

The magistrate, who, as the minister of God, bears the sword for the punishment of evil-doers.

7. *Why are we forbidden to destroy human life?*

Because God alone is lord over life and death, and because man is made in the image of God, and is our brother.

8. *What else is forbidden in this commandment?*

All provoking words, and feelings of envy, hatred, wrath, and revenge towards our neighbor.

9. *What duties are required in the sixth commandment?*

That we should have a sacred regard for the life of our neighbor and for our own, cheerfully assist him in all distress, and return good for evil even to our enemy.

XLVIII. The Seventh Commandment.

1. *What is the seventh commandment?*

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

2. *What does God forbid in this commandment?*

All unchastity in thought, gesture, word, or deed, whether in or out of married life.

3. *What else is here forbidden?*

Bad company, intemperance in meat and drink, luxury and idleness, filthy conversation, obscene books, songs, and pictures, and whatsoever stimulates unchaste desires.

4. *Why is unchastity such a heinous sin?*

Because by unchastity we dishonor and corrupt our body and soul, which are the temple of God and of the Holy Ghost.

5. *What does God require in this commandment?*

To be chaste and temperate, whether in the married or the single state, and to keep our body pure, as a temple of the Holy Ghost.

6. *What does God especially enjoin upon married persons?*

Mutual esteem, love, and fidelity unto death.

7. *What is marriage?*

An inseparable union of life in love between one man and one woman, instituted by God in paradise, and reflecting the mystical union between Christ and his Church.

8. *For what purpose has God instituted marriage?*

For the mutual aid and happiness of married persons, for the propagation of the race, and for the building up of the kingdom of God through Christian nurture.

XLIX. The Eighth Commandment.

1. *What is the eighth commandment?*

Thou shalt not steal.

2. *What does God forbid in this commandment?*

Robbery, theft, fraud, and all injury to the property of our neighbor.

3. *What other sins are here prohibited?*

Covetousness, wastefulness, idleness, and whatever may lead to theft and fraud.

4. *What are the duties enjoined in the eighth commandment?*

Labor and industry, honesty and fidelity in our dealings, contentment with our lot, kindness and liberality to our neighbor.

L. The Ninth Commandment.

1. *What is the ninth commandment?*

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

2. *What does God forbid in this commandment?*

Not only false witness before a court of

justice, but also lying, slander, uncharitable judgment, and whatever tends to injure the good name of our neighbor.

3. *Why is lying such a great sin?*

Because God is truth, and the devil is the father of lies.

4. *What are the duties required in this commandment?*

Truthfulness, honesty, and good faith to our neighbor, and a sacred regard for his character and good name.

5. *Is it ever lawful to speak an untruth?*

No: all that we say must be true; but we may sometimes withhold the truth for the good of our neighbor.

6. *What is your duty concerning your own name?*

We should keep our name pure and blameless, and avoid even the appearance of evil.

7. *Is it lawful to indulge in pride and vanity?*

No: pride is a sin, vanity a weakness, and self-praise folly; but humility which gives all glory to God, is a cardinal Christian virtue.

LI. The Tenth Commandment.

1. *What is the tenth commandment?*

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his man-servant, nor his maid-servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor's.

2. *How does this commandment differ from the preceding commandments of the second table?*

By tracing sin to its root, the evil desires and passions of the heart, from which all evil words and deeds proceed.

3. *What does God forbid in this commandment?*

All envy and selfish desire after any thing that is our neighbor's.

4. *What is required in this commandment?*

That we should love our neighbor from the heart, wish him every blessing, and promote his temporal and eternal welfare.

5. *Repeat once more the sum of all commandments.*

To love God above all things, and our neighbor as ourselves.

6. *Are you able of yourself to keep these commandments?*

No; but only by the grace of God, and the power of the Holy Spirit, who makes us perfect in every good work.

7. *Is full perfection attainable in this life?*

No; but we should constantly strive after

it, and press onward toward the mark, for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

8. *To whom should you look as the great model of perfection?*

We should always look unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, and follow his example.

LII. Concluding Questions.

1. *What have you now been taught?*

I have been taught how to pray, what to believe, and how to live.

2. *How should you pray?*

I should pray without ceasing to our heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

3. *What is the sum of the Christian faith?*

The revelation of the infinite power, wisdom, and love of God in the creation, redemption, and sanctification of the world.

4. *What is the sum of the Christian life?*

To love God above all things, and our neighbor as ourselves.

5. *What is your unerring guide in faith and practice?*

No human wisdom, which passeth away, but the word of God, which abideth forever.

6. *What is your highest aim?*

The holy and blessed communion with God

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, one God, blessed forever.

7. *What is your greatest comfort?*

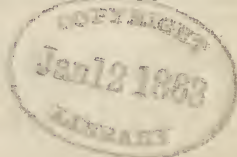
That Christ is mine, and I am his, in body and in soul, in life and in death, now and forever. Amen.

My blessed Saviour, Lord Divine,
I am Thine own, and Thou art mine.
I am Thine own: for Thou didst give
Thy precious life, that I might live.
And Thou art mine: with all my heart
I cleave to thee, my chosen part.
How dearly didst Thou purchase me!
Oh, let me never part from Thee!

The Apostolic Benediction.

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AND THE LOVE OF GOD, AND THE COMMUNION
OF THE HOLY GHOST, BE WITH US ALL. AMEN.

THE END.



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