

Shorter Catechism – Modified by TBC

NKJV

1. Q. What is the chief end of man?

A. Man's chief end is to glorify God ¹ and to enjoy him forever. ²

1. **1 Corinthians 10:31** Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

2. **Psalms 73:25** Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You.

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

A. The Word of God which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments ¹ is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify God and enjoy him. ²

1&2. **2 Timothy 3:16** All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness..

3. Q. What do the Scriptures principally teach?

A. The Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man. ¹

1. **Deuteronomy 10:12-13** "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 and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, ⁽¹³⁾ and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good?"

4. Q. What is God?

A. God is Spirit, ¹ infinite, ² eternal, ³ and unchangeable ⁴ in his being, wisdom, ⁵ power, ⁶ holiness, ⁷ justice, ⁸ goodness, ⁹ and truth. ¹⁰

1. **John 4:24** God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

3. **Psalms 90:2** Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

4. **Malachi 3:6** For I am the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.

2, 5&6. **Psalms 147:5** Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite.

7. **Isaiah 6:3** And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!"

8, 9&10. **Psalms 100:5** For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations.

5. Q. Are there more Gods than one?

A. There is but one only, ¹ the living and true God. ²

1 & 2. **Isaiah 44:6** 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.

6. Q. How many persons are there in the Godhead?

A. There are three persons in the Godhead, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and these three are one God, the same in essence, equal in power and glory. ¹

Shorter Catechism - continued

1. **Matthew 28:19** Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

7. Q. What are the decrees of God?

A. The decrees of God are his eternal purpose according to the counsel of his own will, whereby for his own glory he has foreordained whatever comes to pass.¹

1. **Ephesians 1:11-12** In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, ⁽¹²⁾ that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

8. Q. How does God execute his decrees?

A. God executes his decrees in the works of creation¹ and providence.²

1. **Revelation 4:11** "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."
2. **Ephesians 1:11** In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,

9. Q. What is the work of creation?

A. The work of creation is God's making all things¹ of nothing, by the Word of his power,² in six normal consecutive days,³ and all very good.⁴

- 1.&2. **Hebrews 11:3** By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.
- 3.&4. **Genesis 1:31** Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

10. Q. How did God create man?

A. God created man, male and female, after his own image,¹ in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness² with dominion over the creatures.³

1. & 2. **Genesis 1:27** So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

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

A. God's works of providence are his most holy,¹ wise,² and powerful³ preserving and governing all his creatures, and all their actions.⁴

1. **Psalms 103:19** The LORD has established His throne in heaven, And His kingdom rules over all.

12. Q. What special act of providence did God exercise toward man in the state wherein he was created?

A. When God had created man, he entered into a covenant of life with him, upon condition of perfect obedience;¹ forbidding him to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, upon pain of death.²

Shorter Catechism - continued

1 & 2. **Genesis 2:17** but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.

13. Q. Did our first parents continue in the state wherein they were created?

A. Our first parents being left to the freedom of their own will, fell from the state wherein they were created, by sinning against God,¹ by eating the forbidden fruit.²

1. **Genesis 3:6** So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

14. Q. What is sin?

A. Sin is any want of conformity to, or transgression of the law of God.¹

1. **1 John 3:4** Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.

15. Q. Did all mankind fall in Adam's first transgression?

A. The covenant being made with Adam, not only for himself but for his posterity,¹ all mankind descending from him by ordinary generation, sinned in him, and fell with him in his first transgression.²

1 & 2. **Romans 5:12** Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned--

16. Q. Into what estate did the fall bring mankind?

A. The fall brought mankind into a state of sin and misery.¹

Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned--

17. Q. Wherein consists the sinfulness of that state whereinto man fell?

A. The sinfulness of that state whereinto man fell, consists in the guilt of Adam's first sin,¹ the want of original righteousness,² and the corruption of his whole nature, which is commonly called original sin,³ together with all actual transgressions which proceed from it.⁴

1-4. **Ephesians 2:1-3** And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ⁽²⁾ in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ⁽³⁾ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

Shorter Catechism - continued

18. Q. What is the misery of that state whereinto man fell?

A. All mankind, by their fall, lost communion with God,¹ are under his wrath and curse,² and so made liable to all the miseries in this life, to death itself, and to the pains of hell for ever.³

1. **Romans 6:23** For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

19. Q. Did God leave all mankind to perish in the state of sin and misery?

A. God having, out of his good pleasure from all eternity, elected some to everlasting life,¹ did enter into a covenant of grace to deliver them out of the state of sin and misery, and to bring them into a state of salvation by a Redeemer.²

1-2. **Ephesians 1:4-7** just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,⁽⁵⁾ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,⁽⁶⁾ to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.⁽⁷⁾ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

20. Q. Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?

A. The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ,¹ who being the eternal Son of God, became man,² and so was and continues to be God and man, in two distinct natures and one person for ever.³

1. **1 Timothy 2:5** For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,

2-3. **Colossians 2:9** For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;

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

A. Christ, the son of God, became man by taking to himself a true body,¹ and a reasonable soul,² being conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit in the Virgin Mary, and born of her,³ yet without sin.⁴

1. **John 1:14** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

22. Q. What offices does Christ execute as our Redeemer?

A. Christ as our Redeemer executes the offices of a prophet,¹ of a priest,² and of a king,³ both in his state of humiliation and exaltation.⁴

1. **Isaiah 9:6** For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

23. Q. How does Christ execute the office of a prophet?

A. Christ executes the office of a prophet, in revealing to us,¹ by his Word,² and Spirit,³ the will of God for our salvation.⁴

Shorter Catechism - continued

1. **Luke 4:18** "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE HAS ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR; HE HAS SENT ME TO HEAL THE BROKENHEARTED, TO PROCLAIM LIBERTY TO THE CAPTIVES AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET AT LIBERTY THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED;

24. Q. How does Christ execute the office of a priest?

A. Christ executes the office of a priest, in his once offering up himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice,¹ and to reconcile us to God,² and in making continual intercession for us.³

1. **Hebrews 2:17** Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

25. Q. How does Christ execute the office of a king?

A. Christ executes the office of a king in subduing us to himself,¹ in ruling and defending us,² and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.³

1. **Isaiah 9:6-7** For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁽⁷⁾ Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

26. Q. Wherein did Christ's humiliation consist?

A. Christ's humiliation consisted in his being born, and that in a low condition,¹ made under the law,² undergoing the miseries of this life,³ the wrath of God,⁴ and the cursed death of the cross;⁵ in being buried, and continuing under the power of death for a time.⁶

1. **Philippians 2:6-8** who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁽⁷⁾ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. ⁽⁸⁾ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

27. Q. Wherein consists Christ's exaltation?

A. Christ's exaltation consists in his rising again from the dead on the third day,¹ in ascending up into heaven, and sitting at the right hand of God the Father,² and in coming to judge the world at the last day.³

1. **Philippians 2:9-10** Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ⁽¹⁰⁾ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,

28. Q. How are we made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ?

A. We are made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ, by the effectual application of it to us¹ by his Holy Spirit.²

Shorter Catechism - continued

1. **Titus 3:5** not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,

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

A. The Spirit applies to us the redemption purchased by Christ, by working faith in us,¹ and by it uniting us to Christ in our effectual calling.²

1. **Ephesians 2:8** For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

30. Q. What is effectual calling?

A. Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit¹ whereby, convincing us of our sin and misery,² enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ,³ and renewing our wills,⁴ he does persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ freely offered to us in the gospel.⁵

1. **2 Timothy 1:9** 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 given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,

31. Q. What benefits do they who are effectually called, partake of in this life?

A. They who are effectually called, do in this life partake of justification,¹ adoption,² sanctification, and the various benefits which in this life do either accompany, or flow from them.³

1. **1 Corinthians 6:11** And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

32. Q. What is justification?

A. Justification is an act of God's free grace, wherein he pardons all our sins,¹ and accepts us as righteous in his sight,² only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us,³ and received by faith alone.⁴

1. **2 Corinthians 5:21** For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

33. Q. What is adoption?

A. Adoption is an act of God's free grace,¹ whereby we are received into the number, and have a right to all the privileges of the sons of God.²

1. **John 1:12** But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

34. Q. What is sanctification?

A. Sanctification is the work of God's Spirit,¹ whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God,² and are enabled more and more to die to sin, and live to righteousness.³

Shorter Catechism - continued

1. **Philippians 2:13** for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

35. Q. What are the benefits which in this life do either accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification?

A. The benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification,¹ are assurance of God's love, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Spirit,² increase of grace,³ perseverance in it to the end.⁴

1. **Romans 5:1** Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

36. Q. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at their death?

A. The souls of believers are at their death made perfect in holiness¹ and do immediately pass into glory,² and their bodies, being still united to Christ,³ do rest in their graves⁴ till the resurrection.⁵

1. **2 Corinthians 5:8** We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

37. Q. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection?

A. At the resurrection, believers being raised up in glory,¹ shall be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the day of judgment, and made perfectly blessed both in soul and body in the full enjoying of God² to all eternity.³

1. **1 Corinthians 15:54** So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP IN VICTORY."

38. Q. What shall be done to the wicked at their death?

A. The souls of the wicked shall at their death be cast into the torments of hell,¹ and their bodies lie in their graves till the resurrection, and judgment of the great day.²

1. **2 Peter 2:9** then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,

39. Q. What shall be done to the wicked at the Day of Judgment?

A. At the Day of Judgment the bodies of the wicked being raised out of their graves, shall be sentenced, together with their souls, to unspeakable torments with the devil and his angels forever.¹

1. **2 Thessalonians 1:9** These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

40. Q. What did God reveal to man for the rule of his obedience?

A. The rule which God first revealed to man for his obedience, is the moral law,¹ which is summarized in the Ten Commandments.²

Shorter Catechism - continued

1. **Deuteronomy 10:4** And He wrote on the tablets according to the first writing, the Ten Commandments, which the LORD had spoken to you in the mountain from the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly; and the LORD gave them to me.

41. Q. What is the sum of the Ten Commandments?

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.¹

1. **Matthew 22:37-40.** Jesus said to him, 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

42. Q. Which is the first commandment?

A. The first commandment is, "You shall have no other gods before Me."¹

1. **Exodus 20:3**

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

A. The first commandment requires us to know¹ and acknowledge God to be the only true God, and our God,² and to worship and glorify him accordingly.³

1. **Isaiah 42:8.** I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images.

44. Q. Which is the second commandment?

A. The second commandment is, "You shall not make for yourself a carved image - 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 nor serve them."¹

1. **Exodus 20:4-5a**

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

A. The second commandment requires the receiving, observing,¹ and keeping pure and entire all such religious worship and ordinances as God has appointed in his Word.²

1. **Deuteronomy 12:32.** "Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.

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

A. The second commandment forbids the worshipping of God by images,¹ or any other way not appointed in his Word.²

Shorter Catechism - continued

1. **Deuteronomy 12:32.** "Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it."

47. Q. Which is the third commandment?

A. The third commandment is, "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain."¹

1. **Exodus 20:7**

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

A. The third commandment requires the holy and reverent use of God's names,¹ titles, attributes,² ordinances,³ Word,⁴ and works.⁵

1. **Psalms 29:2.** Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

49. Q. Which is the fourth commandment?

A. The fourth commandment is, "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy."¹

1. **Exodus 20:8**

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

A. The fourth commandment requires the keeping holy to God such set times as he has appointed in his Word, expressly one whole day in seven, to be a holy Sabbath to himself.¹

1. **Isaiah 58:13.** If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, From doing your pleasure on My holy day, And call the Sabbath a delight, The holy day of the LORD honorable, And shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, Nor finding your own pleasure, Nor speaking your own words,

51. Q: Which day of the seven hath God appointed to be the weekly Sabbath?

A: From the beginning of the world to the resurrection of Christ, God appointed the seventh day of the week to be the weekly Sabbath;¹ and the first day of the week ever since, to continue to the end of the world, which is the *Lord's Day*.² (Original Catechism had "Christian Sabbath.")

1. **Genesis 2:2.** And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.

52. Q. How is the Sabbath to be sanctified? *

A. The Sabbath is to be sanctified by a holy resting all that day, even from such worldly employments and recreations as are lawful on other days,¹ and spending the whole time in the public and private exercises of God's worship,² except so much as is taken up in the works of necessity and mercy.³

1. **Psalms 92:1-2.** A Psalm. A Song for the Sabbath Day. It is good to give thanks to the LORD, And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; To declare Your loving-kindness in the morning, And Your faithfulness every night,

*While the Sabbath Law of the Old Testament was different from the Lord's Day, New Testament believers can learn the principles of honoring the Lord's Day today from the principles of the Old Testament Law.

Shorter Catechism - continued

53. Q. Which is the fifth commandment?

A. The fifth commandment is, "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you."¹

1. **Exodus 20:12**

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

A. The fifth commandment requires the preserving the honor, and performing the duties belonging to everyone in their various positions and relationships as superiors,¹ inferiors,² or equals.³

1. **1 Peter 2:17.** Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.

55. Q. What is the reason annexed to the fifth commandment?

A. The reason annexed 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.¹

1. **Ephesians 6:2-3.** 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.

56. Q. Which is the sixth commandment?

A. The sixth commandment is, "You shall not murder."¹

1. **Exodus 20:13**

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

A. The sixth commandment forbids the taking away of our own life,¹ or the life of our neighbor unjustly,² or whatever tends to it.³

1. Genesis 9:6 "Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man.

58. Q. Which is the seventh commandment?

A. The seventh commandment is, "You shall not commit adultery."¹

1. **Exodus 20:14**

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

A. The seventh commandment forbids all unchaste thoughts,¹ words,² and actions.³

1. **Matthew 5:28.** 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.

Shorter Catechism - continued

60. Q. Which is the eighth commandment?

A. The eighth commandment is, "You shall not steal."¹

1. **Exodus 20:15**

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

A. The eighth commandment forbids whatever does or may unjustly hinder our own,¹ or our neighbor's wealth, or outward estate.²

1. **Ephesians 4:28.** Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.

62. Q. Which is the ninth commandment?

A. The ninth commandment is, "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."¹

1. **Exodus 20:16**

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

A. The ninth commandment requires the maintaining and promoting of truth between man and man,¹ and of our own,² and our neighbor's good name,³ especially in witness-bearing.⁴

1. **Zechariah 8:16.** These are the things you shall do: Speak each man the truth to his neighbor; Give judgment in your gates for truth, justice, and peace;

64. Q. what is forbidden in ninth commandment?

A. The ninth commandment forbiddeth whatsoever is prejudicial to truth,¹ or injurious to our own, or our neighbor's, good name.²

1. **Psalms 15:3.** He who does not backbite with his tongue, Nor does evil to his neighbor, Nor does he take up a reproach against his friend;

65. Q. What is the tenth commandment?

A. The tenth commandment is, "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."¹

1. **Exodus 20:17**

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

A. The tenth commandment forbids all discontentment with our own estate,¹ envying or grieving at the good of our neighbor,² and all inordinate emotions and affections to anything that is his.³

Shorter Catechism - continued

1. **Philippians 4:11.** Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:

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

A. No mere man, since the fall, is able in this life perfectly to keep the commandments of God.¹ but does daily break them in thought,² word,³ and deed.⁴

1. **Ecclesiastes 7:20.** For there is not a just man on earth who does good And does not sin.

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

A. Some sins in themselves, and by reason of various aggravations, are more heinous in the sight of God than others.¹

1. **Ezekiel 8:13.** And He said to me, "Turn again, and you will see greater abominations that they are doing."

69. Q. What does every sin deserve?

A. Every sin deserves God's wrath and curse, both in this life and that which is to come.¹

1. **Romans 6:23.** For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

70. Q. How may we escape his wrath and curse due to us for sin?

A. To escape the wrath and curse of God due to us for sin, we must believe in the Lord Jesus Christ,¹ trusting alone to his blood and righteousness. This faith is attended by repentance for the past² and leads to holiness in the future.

1. **John 3:16-18.** For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

71. Q. What is faith in Jesus Christ?

A. Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace,¹ whereby we receive,² and rest upon him alone for salvation,³ as he is set forth in the gospel.⁴

1. **John 3:16-18.** For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

72. Q. What is repentance to life?

A. Repentance to life is a saving grace,¹ whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sins,² and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ,³ does with grief and hatred of his sin turn from it to God,⁴ with full purpose to strive after new obedience.⁵

Shorter Catechism - continued

1. **2 Corinthians 7:10.** For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

73. Q. What are the outward means whereby the Holy Spirit communicates to us the benefits of redemption?

A. The outward and ordinary means whereby the Holy Spirit communicates to us the benefits of Christ's redemption, are the Word, by which souls are begotten to spiritual life; Baptism, the Lord's Supper, Prayer, and Meditation, by all which believers are further edified in their most holy faith. ¹ - CS

1. **Acts 2:41-42.** Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. (42) And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

74. Q. How is the Word made effectual to salvation?

A. The Spirit of God makes the reading, but especially the preaching of the Word, an effectual means of convicting and converting sinners, ¹ and of building them up in holiness and comfort, ² through faith to salvation. ³

1. **Romans 10:14-15.** How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO PREACH THE GOSPEL OF PEACE, WHO BRING GLAD TIDINGS OF GOOD THINGS!"

75. Q. How is the Word to be read and heard that it may become effectual to salvation?

A. That the Word may become effectual to salvation, we must attend to it with diligence, ¹ preparation, ² and prayer, ³ receive it with faith, ⁴ and love, ⁵ lay it up into our hearts, ⁶ and practice it in our lives. ⁷

1. **James 1:25.** But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

76. Q. How do Baptism and the Lord's Supper become spiritually helpful? – SC

A. Baptism and the Lord's Supper become spiritually helpful, not from any virtue in them, or in him who does administer them, ¹ but only by the blessing of Christ, ² and the working of the Spirit in those who by faith receive them. ³ – SC

1. **1 Corinthians 3:7.** So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.

77. Q. What is Baptism?

A. Baptism is an ordinance of the New Testament, instituted by Jesus Christ, ¹ to be to the person baptized, a sign of his fellowship with him, in his death, and burial, and resurrection, ² of his being ingrafted into him, ³ of remission of sins, ⁴ and of his giving up himself to God through Jesus Christ, to live and walk in newness of life. ⁵ – SC

1. **Romans 6:4-5.** Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,

Shorter Catechism - continued

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

A. Baptism is to be administered to all those who actually profess repentance towards God,¹ and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and to none other. – *SC*

1. **Acts 10:47-48.** "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.

79. Q. Are the infants of believing parents to be baptized? – *SC*

A. The infants of such as are professing believers are not to be baptized, because there is neither command nor example in the Holy Scriptures for their baptism.¹ – *SC*

1. **Proverbs 30:6.** Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.

80. Q. How is baptism rightly administered? – *SC*

A. Baptism is rightly administered by immersion, or dipping the whole body of the person in water,¹ in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, according to Christ's institution, and the practice of the apostles,² and not by sprinkling or pouring of water, or dipping some part of the body, after the tradition of men.³ – *SC*

1. **Acts 8:38-39.** So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing.

81. Q. What is the duty of such as are rightly baptized? – *SC*

A. It is the duty of such as are rightly baptized, to give up themselves to some particular and orderly Church of Jesus Christ,¹ that they may walk in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.² – *SC*

1. **Acts 2:47.** praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

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

A. The Lord's Supper is an ordinance of the New Testament, instituted by Jesus Christ; wherein, by giving and receiving bread and the cup, according to his appointment, his death is shown forth,¹ and the worthy receivers are, not after a corporeal and carnal manner, but by faith, made partakers of his body and blood, with all his benefits, to their spiritual nourishment, and growth in grace.²

1. **1 Corinthians 11:23-26.** For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.
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Shorter Catechism - continued

83. Q. What is required to the worthy receiving of the Lord's Supper?

A. It is required of them who would worthily partake of the Lord's Supper, that they examine themselves of their knowledge to discern the Lord's body,¹ of their faith to feed upon him,² of their repentance,³ love,⁴ and new obedience,⁵ lest coming unworthily, they eat and drink judgment to themselves.⁶

1. **1 Corinthians 11:28-29.** But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

84. Q. What is meant by the words, "until he come," which are used by the apostle Paul in reference to the Lord's Supper? – SC

A. They plainly teach us that our Lord Jesus Christ will come a second time; which is the joy and hope of all believers.¹ – SC

1. **Acts 1:11.** who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

85. Q. What is prayer?

A. Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God,¹ for things agreeable to his will,² in the name of Christ,³ with confession of our sins,⁴ and thankful acknowledgment of his mercies.⁵

1. **Philippians 4:6.** Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

86. Q. What rule hath God given for our direction in prayer?

A. The whole Word of God is of use to direct us in prayer;¹ but the special rule of direction is that form of prayer which Christ taught his disciples, commonly called the Lord's Prayer.²

1. **Matthew 6:9-13.** In this manner, therefore, pray: 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 forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

87. Q. What doth the preface of the Lord's Prayer teach us?

A. The preface of the Lord's Prayer, which is, Our Father which art in heaven, teaches us to draw near to God with all holy reverence and confidence, as children to a father, able and ready to help us;¹ and that we should pray with and for others.²

1. **1 John 5:14-15.** Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

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

A. In the first petition, which is, Hallowed be thy name, we pray that God would enable us, and others, to glorify him in all that whereby he maketh himself known,¹ and that he would dispose all things to his own glory.²

Shorter Catechism - continued

1. **Psalms 145:21.** My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD, And all flesh shall bless His holy name Forever and ever.

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

A. In the second petition, which is, Thy kingdom come, we pray that Satan's kingdom may be destroyed;¹ and that the kingdom of glory may be hastened.³

1. **Revelation 22:20.** He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

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

A. In the third petition, which is, "Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven", we pray that God, would soon establish the righteousness and peace of heaven on earth through the return and reign of Christ.¹

1. **Isaiah 9:7.** Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

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

A. In the fourth petition, which is, Give us this day our daily bread, we pray that of God's free gift we may receive a competent portion of the good things of this life,¹ and enjoy his blessing with them.²

1. **Proverbs 30:8.** Remove falsehood and lies far from me; Give me neither poverty nor riches-- Feed me with the food allotted to me;

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

A. In the fifth petition, which is, And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, we pray that God, for Christ's sake, would freely pardon all our sins;¹ which we are the rather encouraged to ask, because by his grace we are enabled from the heart to forgive others.²

1. **Matthew 6:14-15.** "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

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

A. In the sixth petition, which is, And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, we pray that God would either keep us from being tempted to sin,¹ or support and deliver us when we are tempted.²

1. **1 Corinthians 10:13.** No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

Shorter Catechism - continued

94. Q. What doth the conclusion of the Lord's Prayer teach us?

A. The conclusion of the Lord's Prayer, which is, For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen, teacheth us to take our encouragement in prayer from God only,¹ and in our prayers to praise him, ascribing kingdom, power, and glory to him;² and, in testimony of our desire, and assurance to be heard, we say, Amen.³

1. **1 Chronicles 29:11.** Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, The power and the glory, The victory and the majesty; For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, And You are exalted as head over all.