

A CATECHISM OF BIBLE DOCTRINE

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*Translated from the Author's
Spanish Edition of 1930*

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SECTION I—MAN'S MISERY

This Catechism seeks to present the body of thinking commonly held by Baptists. It seeks to put these truths into orderly arrangement, and to treat them rather fully, and at the same time concisely. The Bible passages are selected with care and the thought that they are the best Scripture statements on the subject.

The Catechism comes to America out of the Mission Field. It was prepared for the instruction of young ministers and Christian workers in the Chilean Mission, and has since 1930 been used as a manual for the training of young Christians in Bible fundamentals and in study classes in Chilean churches.

An English translation by the author which he has been using as a guide in a brief course in Christian doctrine for ministerial and other students in Hannibal-LaGrange College, Missouri. The Sunday School Board is now issuing it in this form in order to make it more widely available.

1. *What does the law of God require of us?*

This God teaches in the Ten Commandments; and Christ sums up: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself" Exodus 20:1-17; Luke 10:27.

2. *Can we keep God's law perfectly?*

No; because by nature we love ourselves above all; we are prone to disregard our neighbor, and even to bear him ill will; and we are disposed to ignore God, to find fault with his acts, and to disobey his commands.

3. *Did God, then, create man thus wicked and perverse?*

No; on the contrary, God created man good and after his own image—that is, truly holy. Genesis 1:26-27.

4. *Whence then comes this depraved nature of man?*

It comes from the fall and disobedience of our first parents, Adam and Eve, in Eden, by which our nature became so corrupt that we are all conceived and born in sin. Genesis 2:17; 3:6-8; Romans 5:12.

5. *Are not children born innocent and pure?*

No; although they have many good and beautiful qualities, still they are born with the stain of sin in their nature, and all commit actual sin as soon as they are old enough to know good and evil. Psalm 51:5; Genesis 8:21.

6. *But are we so depraved that we cannot win God's approval?*

Yes; although at times we desire to do right, at the same time we are so stained with sin that we cannot please God. Romans 8:7-8.

7. *Can any human being save himself by his own deserving?*

No; without a single exception; on the contrary, we increase our sin every day; no one can be saved from sin except through Jesus Christ, the only Saviour of sinners. Romans 3:19-24; Ephesians 2:8-10.

8. Is not God, then, unjust with man, requiring in his law what he cannot do?

God is not unjust; he created man with the power to do right; but man, through the instigation of the devil, by wilful disobedience deprived himself of it. Romans 9:14; Ecclesiastes 7:29.

9. Will God suffer such disobedience to go unpunished?

By no means; he is terribly displeased with our sins and will punish them with just judgment in this life and in eternity, as he has declared: "Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things that are written in the book of the law, to do them" (Gal. 3:10).

10. Will those who die too young to know good and evil be punished?

No; these are saved through the means that God has provided.

11. Ought not God to have mercy upon us in our sin and helplessness instead of being angry with us?

God is indeed merciful, but he is likewise just; wherefore his justice requires that sin be punished. Exodus 34:6-7.

12. Can man not return to the happy estate that he lost in Eden?

Yes; through Christ he comes into an estate better than that. Romans 5:17; 1 Corinthians 15:47-49.

SECTION II—CHRIST'S ATONEMENT

1. Since by the just judgment of God we all deserve punishment, what is required that we may escape it?

God's justice cannot be circumvented; we must make satisfaction for our guilt—either we or someone for us. Hebrews 9:22.

2. Can we ourselves make this satisfaction?

No; the punishment that we deserve is eternal, and we never could complete it; on the contrary, we daily increase our guilt. Ezekiel 18:20.

3. Can any man make satisfaction for us?

No; because every man, being a sinner, must make satisfaction for his own sins; no one, therefore, is capable of bearing punishment except for himself. Ezekiel 14:14; 18:20.

4. Who then can make satisfaction for us?
He must be one who is a man without sin and at the same time God. Galatians 4:4-5.

5. Why must he be a man?

Because it is man that has sinned; and God will not for his guilt punish any creature but man. Hebrews 2:16-18; Romans 8:3.

6. Why must he be at the same time God?

Because no mere creature—none but God—can sustain the burden of God's wrath against sin, and so obtain for and restore to us righteousness and life. 1 Peter 1:18-19.

7. But what being is God and at the same time man without sin?

Our Lord Jesus Christ; he was God and he was with God from eternity; he became flesh and as a man fulfilled the law and all the will of God. John 1:1, 14; Matthew 3:15, 17; 1 Timothy 2:5-6.

8. Does Jesus our only hope offer himself for our redemption?

Yes; for this he came into the world, as he said, the Son of man came to give his life a ransom for many; and he gave himself up to death on a cross. Matthew 20:28.

9. Does God accept Jesus Christ in our stead?

Yes; for this God gave him up and laid on him the iniquity of us all; he commended him in life as his beloved Son; and when Jesus had laid down his life for us, God gave his seal of approval by raising him from the dead. John 3:16; Isaiah 53:6; Romans 1:4.

10. Was the death of Christ necessary in order to move God to forgive sinners?

No; God always yearned to save men; Christ died that God might justly forgive them. Ezekiel 18:32; Romans 3:25-26.

11. Was it right that the innocent should suffer punishment for the guilty?

The Redeemer was not made to die; of himself he chose to die for our sake. John 10:17-18.

12. Who was it that delivered Jesus up to the death on the cross—the Father or Jesus himself?

Both; the Father as well as the Son and the Son as well as the Father loved the world; the Father gave his only

begotten Son, and the Son laid down his life, in order to give us eternal life. John 3:16; 10:11.

13. Does God love men in their sins?

Yes; God loves men in their sins, and yearns to save them from their sins. Romans 5:7-8; Hosea 11:8; Matthew 23:37.

14. Does God offer to save all men through Jesus Christ?

Yes; and everyone who will may be saved freely. Isaiah 55:1, 7.

SECTION III—HOW TO BE SAVED

1. Are all men saved by the death of Christ?

No; those who continue in sin remain under the wrath of God. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8.

2. What must we do in order to be saved through Jesus Christ?

We are saved by repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. Acts 20:21; Luke 13:3; Acts 16:31.

3. What does it mean to repent of sin?

To repent of sin means that one realizes his sin, that he renounces it, and that he turns to God, determined to live for him. Ezekiel 18:27-28.

4. Does not repentance mean sorrow for sin?

Repentance is more than that; every man who truly renounces sin will feel sorrow for his sins, but many are sorry for their sins without renouncing them. Matthew 27:3-5.

5. What is the motive for repenting of sin?

One motive is the danger of sin, but the great motive is that sin is uncleanness and is abominable to God, and that God offers his mercy to the penitent. Psalm 51:2-4; Isaiah 35:7.

6. Is repentance necessary for the salvation of the sinner?

Yes; whoever refuses to give up his sin shall die. Ezekiel 33:11; Matthew 7:20-23.

7. May one by repenting obtain forgiveness for whatever sin?

Yes; as there is no sin so small that it does not deserve condemnation, neither is there a sin so great as to bring judgment upon the truly penitent. Matthew 12:36; Isaiah 1:18.

8. What is faith in Christ?

To have faith in Christ is not only to believe that Christ is the divine Saviour of men, but is to trust in him only for my salvation. John 1:12; 6:35; James 2:19.

9. Do those believe in Jesus the only Saviour who seek their salvation or their good from the saints, in themselves, or anywhere else?

No; although they may think they do, still by their deeds they show that they do not believe that Jesus alone can save them. Galatians 2:21.

10. Is faith in Christ necessary to salvation?

Yes; no one capable of believing in Christ can be saved without it. Hebrews 11:6; Ephesians 2:8.

11. How is it that some say that they believe that Jesus is the Saviour, and yet they are not saved?

Many say that they believe that Jesus is the Saviour, and yet they do not wish to renounce their sins, and therefore they are not saved. James 2:19-20; Matthew 7:20-23.

12. Why cannot those capable of exercising faith be saved without it?

Because we have by faith to accept the mercy offered us by God; and because his truth cannot be the means of making us holy except by being believed. John 15:3; Romans 10:14; James 1:21.

13. Is it sin not to believe in Christ?

Yes; of all sins the most terribly wicked is to reject the Saviour who for our sake became poor, and so to insult God who gave his Son for our sake. John 3:18.

14. Do faith in Christ and true repentance ever exist one without the other?

No; either faith or repentance carries the other with it.

SECTION IV—THE WORD OF GOD

1. *What is the source of religious knowledge?*

There is only one trustworthy source—the Bible. Isaiah 8:20.

2. *What is the Bible?*

The Bible is the message of God to every man, and according to one's obedience to it he will be judged in the last day. John 12:48; 15:22.

3. *What authority has the Bible for us?*

The Bible is the only standard of belief, conduct, and religious experience. Isaiah 8:20; Matthew 22:29, 31.

4. *Were the books of the Bible written by men?*

Yes; they were written by men, but these men were moved and guided by the Holy Spirit in such a way that God is their author. 2 Peter 1:21; 1 Corinthians 14:37.

5. *Did the inspired writers receive everything by direct inspiration?*

No; the inspired writers learned many things by observation and investigation, but they were preserved by the Holy Spirit from error. Luke 1:1-4; Joshua 10:13.

6. *Are there conflicts between the Bible and science?*

There are alleged conflicts; but these are merely apparent; the purpose of the Bible is to teach religion and not science; the Bible in treating of nature has used the popular language instead of thwarting its religious purpose by using the technical language of science.

7. *Are there immoral teachings in the Bible?*

Upon first appearance there are; the Bible relates the sins of the saints, but it does not condone them; and God, teaching men step by step, tolerated in one age what he did not teach to be wrong until another age. Matthew 19:8-9.

8. *Are all parts of the Bible equally important?*

No; God's teaching has been progressive; the Old Testament has many provisional teachings that were replaced or fulfilled by the perfect teaching of Jesus and his apostles. The Old Testament is preparatory; the New Testament is final. Hebrews 1:1-2; Galatians 3:23-25.

9. *Who is the central figure of the Bible?*

The central figure of the whole Bible is Jesus Christ, the hope of Israel, the Saviour of the world. John 5:39; Luke 24:27.

10. *What books are found in the Old Testament?*

In the Old Testament there are thirty-nine books, as follows: the five books of Moses, twelve other books of history, five poetical books, the five major prophets, and the twelve minor prophets.

11. *Do the Apocryphal books form a part of the Old Testament?*

No; they had no place in the Scriptures approved by Jesus and his apostles, and they are to be used as any other human books.

12. *What books are there in the New Testament?*

In the New Testament there are twenty-seven books, as follows: the Four Gospels of our Lord, the Acts of the Apostles, thirteen letters of Paul, eight other Apostolic Epistles, and the Apocalypse.

13. *What does the Bible contain?*

In the Bible is found the history of human sin, the history of providence and redemption, the experiences of the righteous, doctrines, precepts, and promises.

14. *What does the Bible teach?*

The Bible teaches all that we need to know about our relations with God, about sin and salvation; it teaches us how to live and how to die. 2 Timothy 3:15-17.

15. *Who ought to read the Bible?*

All men ought to read it, since it is the message of God to every human being. Jeremiah 31:33-34.

16. *Are all parts of the Bible equally clear?*

No; there are difficulties and mysteries in the Bible; but the necessary things are so clearly set forth in one place or another that not only the learned but also the ignorant may come to an adequate understanding of them. 2 Peter 3:16; Psalm 119:105, 130.

17. *What great help do we need to seek in studying the Bible?*

We should ask that the Holy Spirit, who inspired the Bible, help us to understand and to use it. Psalm 119:18.

18. *How must one study the Bible if his study is to do him good?*

We ought to read the Bible lovingly and prayerfully, fully ready to believe what it says and to do what it commands. James 1:21-25; 1 Peter 2:1-2.

19. *What does the Bible do for those who believe in Jesus?*

Those who believe in Jesus, the Bible makes wise unto salvation, and instructs them in righteousness unto every good work. 2 Timothy 3:15.

SECTION V—GOD

1. *Who is God?*

God is the one being that has always existed, and he is the maker and sustainer of all else that exists. Genesis 1:1; Hebrews 11:3; Romans 11:36.

2. *How do we know the character of God?*

We know the character of God partly by his works, but chiefly by his Word, and especially through Jesus Christ. Psalm 19:1-4; Romans 1:19-20; Hebrews 1:2; John 1:17-18; 3:11-13.

3. *What power does God have?*

God has all power; he is omnipotent. Genesis 17:1; Ephesians 3:20-21.

4. *What does God know?*

God knows all things, even our hearts and thoughts; he is omniscient. Hebrews 4:13; Ecclesiastes 12:14.

5. *Where is God?*

God is everywhere, and all things are in his presence; God is omnipresent. Genesis 16:13; Psalm 139:7-12.

6. *What do we know of the holiness of God?*

God is perfectly holy; there is no defect in him; and he can do no wrong. Isaiah 6:3; 1 John 1:5.

7. *Is God just?*

God is always perfectly just and justice-dealing. Psalm 145:17; Deuteronomy 32:4.

8. *Is God loving and good?*

God is loving and good toward all his creatures. 1 John 4:8; Psalm 145:9.

9. *Is God all love?*

God is love; he is also just. To show his love to all he must maintain justice among all. Romans 11:22; Genesis 18:25.

10. *What character has God toward the sinner?*

God himself has said that he is slow to wrath and abundant in lovingkindness, that he forgives iniquity and transgression, and that he will by no means clear the impenitent. Exodus 34:6-7.

11. *How, in brief, does God present himself to men?*

God deals with men as a father with his children; he is our Heavenly Father. Hebrews 12:7.

12. *What feeling ought we to have toward God?*

We ought to love God with all our heart and serve him with all our strength. Luke 10:27.

13. *Is it our duty to fear God?*

It is our duty to obey God with filial reverence and to fear his wrath if we sin. Ecclesiastes 12:13; Hebrews 10:31.

SECTION VI—CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

1. *Has the universe always existed?*

No; nor has the matter from which it was made; God made matter out of nothing; he has made all things, and everything very good. Hebrews 11:3; Colossians 1:16; Genesis 1:1, 31.

2. *Why do not all things turn back to nothing?*

Because God sustains them with the same power with which he created them. Nehemiah 9:6; Colossians 1:17.

3. *What care does God exercise over the world?*

God watches over all his creatures, seeking their good; and he guides all things to the goal that he has set. Psalms 135:6; 145:15-16; Ephesians 1:11.

4. *If everything happens according to fixed laws, what place is there for the hand of God?*

The laws of nature are the imposing of the will of God upon the manner of behaving of the elements of nature created by him; they are the instrument of his providence. Genesis 1:1-3, 11; Psalm 104:3-4.

5. Is there such a thing as accident or chance?

No; not even in the smallest happening; nothing happens without his will or permission; rain and drought, good harvests and bad, health and sickness, riches and poverty—all come not by chance, but from the fatherly hand of God. Matthew 10:29-31; Isaiah 45:7; Amos 3:6.

6. Does God exercise his providence over the wicked?

Yes; he gives to the wicked the sun and the rain and all the common blessings of life, calling them to repentance. Matthew 5:45; Psalm 145:8-9; Romans 2:4.

7. Does God exercise a special providence over the just?

Yes; he causes all things to work together for good to those that love him. Romans 8:28; Psalms 23:1; 103:17-18.

8. Is God the author of evil?

No; God permits evil, but he does not cause it; he has made men free, and we are responsible for all that we do. 1 John 1:5; John 19:11; James 1:13-14, 17.

9. Can God prevent evil?

Yes; although he gives freedom to the wicked, still he often prevents evil; and he always knows how to restrain it, and even to overrule it for good. 2 Kings 19:28; Genesis 45:5; 50:20; Exodus 11:9.

10. Can God answer our prayers without violating the laws of nature?

Yes; the laws of nature are God's instrument and not his master; and the Bible assures us that God answers prayer. Philippians 4:6-7.

11. What will the Christian do in all the circumstances of life?

We ought always to feel our dependence upon God; to be grateful for all that comes to us from his hand; and for the future, trust in our faithful Father. James 4:13-15; Jeremiah 10:23; 1 Thessalonians 5:18.

12. When God in his providence sends us things hard to bear, how ought we to feel?

We ought to be patient, obedient, and thankful. 1 Samuel 3:18; Job 1:21; 2:10.

SECTION VII—JESUS CHRIST, THE REDEEMER

1. Who is the Saviour of men?

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the Saviour of men. John 3:16; Acts 4:12.

2. Was Jesus a real man?

Yes; Jesus was a real man; he was the son of Mary, like his brethren in all things, yet without sin. John 1:14; Galatians 4:4; Hebrews 2:16-18; 4:15.

3. Was Jesus the son of Joseph?

No; Joseph was the husband of Mary his mother, and men called Jesus the son of Joseph; but he was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, without human father. Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:34-35.

4. Did Jesus exist before his birth?

He was God and was with God from eternity; upon coming into the world he became flesh and dwelt among us. John 1:1-14; Philippians 2:6-7.

5. Who then is Jesus Christ?

Jesus Christ is God and man, the God-man; the only Mediator between God and men. 1 Timothy 2:5.

6. What is meant by the name "Jesus"?

The name Jesus means Liberator or Deliverer, and Jesus was given this name because he saves his people from their sins. Matthew 1:21.

7. What is meant by the name "Christ"?

The name Christ, as well as Messiah, means the Anointed—that is, the King. He is given this name because he has the right to the loyalty of all men and reigns in the hearts of believers, and because the day is coming when in his name every knee shall bow. Luke 1:32-33; 1 Corinthians 15:25; Philippians 2:9-11.

8. What did Jesus do during his life on earth?

Jesus lived as the perfect example; he taught the highest truths; he went about doing good and working miracles of mercy. 1 Peter 2:21-22; John 6:68; Colossians 2:3; Acts 2:22; 10:38.

9. How did Jesus suffer?

All the time he lived on earth, but especially at the end of his life, he endured many and great sufferings, and at last death on the cross, bearing in body and soul the wrath of God against the sin of the whole human race. Isaiah 53:3; Hebrews 5:7-9; Philippians 2:8.

10. *What benefit do we receive through the sufferings of Christ?*

Christ died for every man to redeem us from everlasting damnation, and to obtain for us the grace of God, righteousness, and eternal life. Galatians 3:13; 1:4; Romans 3:25-26; John 3:16.

11. *How long did Jesus' body remain in the tomb?*

His body remained in the tomb until the third day, proving that he was really dead, and brightening the tomb for all who die in Christ. Matthew 27:59-66; 1 Corinthians 15:55-57; 2 Timothy 1:10.

12. *What happened on the third day?*

On the third day Jesus rose from the grave, receiving thus the seal of divine approval upon his atoning work, revealing also the power by which we are raised spiritually to a new life, and moreover giving thus a pledge of the resurrection of the body for all men. Romans 1:4; Ephesians 1:19-20; 1 Corinthians 15:4-8, 20.

13. *How long did Jesus remain on the earth after his resurrection?*

After his resurrection Jesus remained on the earth forty days, appearing often to his disciples and bidding them preach the gospel to every creature. Acts 1:3, 8; Luke 24:50-51.

14. *How did Jesus leave this world?*

In the sight of his disciples Jesus was taken up from the earth into heaven, where he sat down at the right hand of the Father. Mark 16:19; Luke 24:50-51.

15. *What benefit do we receive from Christ in heaven?*

In heaven Christ is our Advocate before the Father, interceding for us; he sends us his Spirit and his spiritual gifts; by his power he defends us from all enemies; and he directs all things for our good. Roman 8:34; John 16:7; Acts 2:33; Ephesians 4:7-8; 1 Peter 3:22; Matthew 28:18-20.

16. *Is Christ then not with us as he promised to be?*

Yes; he is never absent from us, and he dwells in our hearts. Matthew 28:20; John 14:21-23; Ephesians 3:17.

17. *What will Christ do in the time to come?*

Christ will come again as Judge from heaven, and will cast all his enemies into everlasting condemnation, but will take to himself all his own, that we may be with him forever in heavenly joy and glory. Acts 1:11; Matthew 13:40-43; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; John 14:3.

18. *What must one do to be saved through Jesus Christ?*

We must believe in Christ, turn from our sins to love and obey him, and must seek to be like him. Acts 16:31; Luke 13:3; Matthew 16:24.

SECTION VIII—THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE TRINITY

1. *Who is the Holy Spirit?*

The Holy Spirit is the other Comforter, whom Jesus promised to send to his disciples that he might be with us forever. John 14:16-17.

2. *What does the Holy Spirit do in men?*

The Holy Spirit is the source of all good thoughts, pure desires, and holy purposes in men. Romans 8:5-8.

3. *What did the Holy Spirit do through the prophets and apostles?*

The Holy Spirit inspired the prophets and apostles that they might teach men their duty to God and to their fellows. Acts 28:25; Luke 1:15-16; John 14:26.

4. *What did the Holy Spirit do through all the writers of the Bible?*

The Holy Spirit inspired them to write precisely what God wished them to write. 2 Peter 1:21.

5. *Did the Holy Spirit dwell in Jesus Christ?*

Yes; Jesus received the Holy Spirit without measure, and he did his work through the power of the Holy Spirit. Luke 4:14; John 3:34.

6. *When Jesus ascended into heaven, what did he send the Holy Spirit to do?*

Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to take his place and to carry on his work among men. John 14:16-17.

7. *What does the Holy Spirit do in the world?*

The Holy Spirit gives power to the message of the gospel, convincing men of their sin and of their need of the salvation of Christ. John 16:8-11.

8. *How does the Spirit work in making men Christian?*
The Holy Spirit gives men a new heart that they may turn from sin and receive Jesus Christ. John 3:5.

9. *How does the Holy Spirit continue this work?*
The Holy Spirit dwells in those who believe in Christ, helping them to become holy in desire and in life. 1 Corinthians 3:16; Galatians 5:16-23.

10. *Is the Holy Spirit God?*

Yes; the Holy Spirit is God; and we ought to love him, obey him, and worship him. Acts 5:3-4; Ephesians 4:30.

11. *If the Father is God, and the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God, are there three Gods?*

No; there are not three Gods; the Bible teaches that these three persons are distinct, that each one is God, and nevertheless that there is one God only. Deuteronomy 6:4; Mark 12:29; John 14:16.

12. *What is the meaning of the word Trinity?*

The word Trinity or Tri-unity means that God is in one sense three and in another sense one.

13. *Can we understand the Trinity?*

No; we cannot explain the Trinity nor understand completely the nature of God; we cannot understand even our own nature.

14. *How is the Trinity recognized in baptism?*

We are taught to baptize in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19.

15. *How is the Trinity named in a benediction?*

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all" (ASV 2 Cor. 13:14).

SECTION IX—THE NEW HEART

1. *Can a man repent or receive the Saviour of his own power?*

No; the power to do it is the gift of God. John 6:44; Ephesians 2:8.

2. *How is this gift given them?*

God takes away from men the heart of stone and gives them a new heart. Ezekiel 11:19-20; 2 Corinthians 5:17.

3. *What is the change made when the heart is thus renewed?*

When he gives a new heart, God moves men to hate sin and to wish to serve him, and persuades them to embrace the Saviour. Ezekiel 11:19-20.

4. *Who works this great change?*

The Holy Spirit gives the new heart. John 3:5-6.

5. *What is this change called?*

It is called the new birth, being born again, or regeneration. John 3:3; 1 Peter 1:23; Titus 3:5.

6. *Are men regenerated through baptism?*

No; those only whose hearts have already been renewed ought to be baptized. Acts 10:44, 47.

7. *Why is water mentioned in connection with regeneration?*

Water is mentioned in connection with regeneration to show that it is a pure birth and that it brings a new and pure life. John 3:5; Titus 3:5; Romans 6:4.

8. *By what means does the Holy Spirit work in men's hearts?*

Men are regenerated by means of the message of the gospel, either through the preaching or the reading of the Word of God. 1 Peter 1:23; James 1:18, 21.

9. *Can we understand how men are born anew?*

No; we can know the rebirth only by its effects. John 3:8.

10. *What is the evidence of having a new heart?*

The evidence of having a new heart is that one lives a new life. 1 John 2:4, 29.

11. *Does God give his renewing Spirit of his own choice?*

Yes; God gives his renewing Spirit to those whom he has always purposed to save. Ephesians 1:3-4; John 6:65.

12. *Is any man excluded from salvation by the will of God?*

No; God loves all mankind and for their salvation has given his only begotten Son; he would have all men to be saved, and has no pleasure in the death of him that dies; and moreover through the gospel he offers salvation freely to every man. 1 John 2:2; Ezekiel 18:32; 1 Timothy 2:4; Mark 16:15-16.

13. What is there to hinder any man from being saved?

There is nothing to hinder the salvation of the greatest sinner, except his own rejection of the Saviour; and it is the privilege and duty of every man who hears the gospel to accept immediately its provisions of mercy. Luke 13: 34.

14. What duty to the world do believers have?

Christ commands that believers preach the gospel of salvation to every man without exception. Matthew 28:19; Romans 10:13-15.

15. Will those perish who have not had the opportunity to hear the gospel?

Yes; although they will receive less punishment than those who have heard the gospel and continue impenitent, still they will die in their sins; and their blood will be upon us who have not given them the gospel. Matthew 11:21-24; Romans 2:12; Ezekiel 3:18.

SECTION X—JUSTIFICATION AND GOOD WORKS

1. What does God do when we believe in the Saviour?

When we believe in the Saviour, God justifies us, and continues sanctifying us. Romans 3:28; 5:1; 1 John 5:4.

2. What does the Bible mean by saying that God justifies us?

Justification means that God no longer remembers my sins nor my sinful nature, but that in his beloved Son he accepts me as righteous. Ephesians 1:3-7.

3. Can anyone be justified by good works?

No; God does not justify us for any merit of our own, but all by grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. Romans 3:20, 28; Titus 3:5-7.

4. How are we justified?

When we believe in Jesus, our blessed Saviour, we ask for, and receive, justification. Romans 3:24-26.

5. Is it because of the worthiness of our faith that by our faith we receive justification?

No; faith does not merit justification; but by faith we embrace Jesus Christ, who alone is our righteousness.

6. Has the faith that justifies any relation to good works?

Yes; the faith that justifies will certainly do good works. Galatians 5:6; James 2:17; Ephesians 2:10.

7. Why cannot our good works stand as our righteousness before God?

Because the righteousness that can stand before the judgment seat of God must be perfect; but best works in this life are imperfect and marred by sin. Isaiah 64: 6; Psalm 143:2.

8. How is it that our good works have no saving merit, and yet God rewards them in this life and in the life to come?

As God accepts in Christ the persons of believers, so also in Christ he accepts and rewards their good works. Ephesians 1:6; 1 Peter 2:5.

9. What are the works approved of God as good?

Good works are those which God has commanded in his holy Word: the love of God, the love of our neighbor, and a life of godliness. Micah 6:6-8; Ephesians 2:10.

10. Does the believer at once become free from sin?

No; nor in all this life; there are still in the believer the remains of sin, and he has to fight all his life against his sinfulness. 1 John 1:10; Romans 7:23.

11. Does God wait to justify a man until he has become perfect?

The moment a sinner believes truly in the Saviour, that moment he is completely justified. Romans 3:28; Luke 7:48.

12. How can God justly treat the sinner who believes as righteous, when he has only begun a holy life?

God treats the believing sinner as righteous because he is in Christ and because he will at last make him entirely holy. Romans 3:25-26; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; 1 John 3: 1-3.

13. What does the man whom God has justified enjoy?

The man who is justified has peace with God; the love of the Father is shed abroad in his heart; the Spirit bears witness that he is a son of God; he enjoys access to the throne of grace; and he shares in all the privileges of the sons of God. Romans 5:1, 2, 5; Romans 8:16-17, 32.

SECTION XI—THE PROGRESS OF THE BELIEVER

1. *Is the converted man perfect?*

No; he has only begun the race toward the goal of holiness; even the most holy men, so long as they are in this life, are full of imperfections. 1 John 1:10; Philippians 3:12.

2. *Is there progress in the Christian life?*

Yes; the believer ought to cleanse himself more and more of all impurity of flesh and spirit, and root himself deeper and deeper in true holiness. 2 Corinthians 7:1; Hebrews 12:14.

3. *Does the Christian make this progress without effort?*

No; the life of the Christian is a struggle, requiring watchfulness and effort; and we must work out our salvation with fear and trembling, putting on the whole armor of God. Galatians 5:7; Philippians 2:12; Ephesians 6:11.

4. *Does the believer fall into sin?*

Yes; sometimes he will fall by his own carelessness, and bring chastisement to himself and dishonor to his Saviour; but he is born of God and will not continue in sin. 2 Samuel 7:14-15; 12:14; Matthew 26:69-75; 1 Corinthians 11:32; Philippians 1:6; 1 Peter 1:5, 9.

5. *What is the power by which the believer grows in grace?*

The believer grows in grace through the Word of God and through the Holy Spirit who dwells in him. John 17:17; Acts 20:32; Romans 8:13; Galatians 5:16.

6. *Why do we need to be much in prayer?*

Because God gives his power only to those who ask it from the heart and without ceasing. Matthew 26:41; Ephesians 6:18.

7. *Will every true believer in Christ certainly be saved at last?*

Yes; the true believer is sealed unto the day of redemption, and God keeps him unto the end. Philippians 1:6; John 10:28-29; 1 Peter 1:5.

8. *How is it possible for the believer to persevere unto the end?*

The true believer will persevere faithful unto the end because together with the gift of justification God always

gives the gift of watchfulness and the gift of perseverance. 1 John 3:9; 1 Corinthians 10:13.

9. *What is the sure sign of being a true believer?*

The only sure evidence of being a believer is that one grows in holiness and in usefulness unto the end. Matthew 10:22; 2 Peter 1:10.

10. *Can the Christian be sure in this life of his final salvation?*

Yes; those that truly believe in the Lord Jesus and love him sincerely and seek to walk before him in all good conscience can have this assurance; and it is our duty to make our calling and election sure. 2 Timothy 2:12; 2 Peter 1:10; 1 John 2:3; Romans 8:16.

11. *Will the Christian some day attain to perfect holiness?*

Yes; at death he will be freed from the remains of sin and will be confirmed in holiness. Romans 8:30; Jude 24.

12. *What is the hope of glory?*

The sons of God are to be transformed, made like unto our Saviour Jesus. 1 Corinthians 15:51; Philippians 3:21; 1 John 3:2.

SECTION XII—CHRISTIAN BAPTISM

1. *What is Christian baptism?*

Christian baptism is the immersion of the believer in water to declare his salvation which has already been wrought through Jesus Christ.

2. *Who ought to be baptized?*

Every believer in Christ ought to be baptized; because our Lord has commanded us to declare thus before the world our faith in him. Acts 2:38; Matthew 10:32-33.

3. *With what act is baptism performed?*

Baptism is performed by immersion in water in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Mark 1:9-10; Acts 8:38-39.

4. *Do we obtain salvation through baptism?*

No; baptism does not bring salvation, it pictures it; just as placing a crown on the head does not make one a king, so baptism does not make one a saved man, but declares publicly that he already is one. Acts 10:47.

5. *How is baptism a picture of salvation?*

Baptism pictures the result and the means of salvation.

6. *How does baptism picture the result of salvation?*

The use of water symbolizes the washing of the believer from his sins; the act of immersion symbolizes the burial of the old life and the rising of the new; as Paul says, "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature." Acts 22:16; Romans 6:4.

7. *How does baptism picture the means of salvation?*

Baptism is not the means of salvation, but it points to Jesus as the only and all-sufficient means of salvation, who by dying, being buried, and rising wrought redemption for us. Romans 6:4.

8. *Is baptism necessary?*

Yes; it is necessary, not as a means of obtaining salvation, which is given to us through faith without baptism; but it is necessary in order to obey the command of our Lord; it is the first act of obedience asked of the Christian. Acts 22:16.

9. *What is meant by our being baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit?*

This emphasizes the unity of the Trinity and testifies to the union of the believer with the Triune God. Matthew 28:19.

10. *Ought the sick who cannot undergo immersion be baptized in some other way?*

No; in serious illness one is under no duty to be baptized.

11. *Cannot some other form be substituted for immersion?*

No; no other form can signify what immersion signifies; and even if it could, those who accept Christ as their Master and the Bible as their guide would not venture to replace the command of the Lord with the opinion of men. John 13:13; Isaiah 8:20.

12. *Ought infants to be baptized?*

No; it ought not to be done, and there can be no such thing; for they cannot believe, and the faith of parents or sponsors cannot be substituted for personal faith. Mark 16:16; Ezekiel 18:2, 20.

13. *Do we not do infants a wrong in denying them baptism?*

No; because those that are incapable of faith are saved without faith through the death of the Saviour; on the contrary, to pretend to baptize them is to do them a grave wrong, by keeping them from Christian baptism and perhaps from putting their faith in Christ because of their having put it in the magical power of water.

14. *What is the duty of the baptized?*

Baptism is a solemn vow of loyalty to Christ; it is therefore the duty of the baptized to live with the purity, the new life, and the loyalty to Christ that baptism professes. Galatians 3:27; Colossians 3:1-3.

SECTION XIII—THE LORD'S SUPPER

1. *What is the Lord's Supper?*

A church celebrates the Lord's Supper by eating broken bread and drinking wine, which represent the body and the blood of our Saviour. 1 Corinthians 11:20-26.

2. *Why ought we thus to take the bread and wine?*

Because Christ has commanded that we thus eat bread and drink wine in memory of him. Luke 22:17-20.

3. *With what thought ought we to approach the table of the Lord?*

We ought to eat and drink remembering how the body of the Saviour was broke and his blood poured out for us on the cross. 1 Corinthians 11:29.

4. *How may one eat and drink judgment unto himself?*

When he partakes unworthily, that is, without discerning thus the body of the Lord.

5. *Who is worthy to partake of the Supper?*

No one is worthy of any of the blessings of God; but those may partake worthily who recognize that they are sinners and yet trust that in the mercy of God their sins are covered by the blood of Christ. Matthew 26:27-28.

6. *Ought the unconverted to partake, or those that walk disorderly?*

No; the impenitent and the hypocrites by partaking affront the Saviour and eat and drink judgment unto themselves. 1 Corinthians 5:11.

7. *Who ought to partake of the Supper?*

Those ought to partake who have believed in Christ, who have been baptized, and who are seeking to live in obedience to the commandments of Christ. Acts 2:41-42.

8. *Why ought not Baptists to commune with believers of other denominations?*

Not because we think we are better Christians than they, but because we believe that they have not been baptized or that they are not walking orderly in their relation to the church.

9. *Do the bread and the wine change into the body and the blood of Jesus Christ?*

No; the bread and the wine only represent the body and the blood of Christ. 1 Corinthians 11:26.

10. *Ought we to worship the bread and wine?*

No; they ought not to be worshiped nor presented for worship.

11. *Is the Supper an offering or a sacrifice of the Lord Jesus?*

No; the offering of the body of Jesus Christ was made once for all, when he offered himself on Calvary; that sacrifice is not repeated, but is commemorated in the Supper. Hebrews 7:27; 9:12; 10:10.

12. *Ought the bread and wine to be taken by one person alone?*

No; the church ought to observe the Supper together, and the elements ought not to be carried to the absent, although they be sick or dying. Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:33-34.

13. *What benefit do we receive in the Supper?*

The Supper helps us more vividly to draw near in spirit to Calvary and to enter into closer fellowship with our Lord.

SECTION XIV—THE LORD'S DAY

1. *What is the fourth commandment of the Decalogue?*
“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.” Exodus 20:8-11.

2. *Which day of the seven has God given as a day of rest?*

Until the resurrection of Christ, for the weekly day of rest God named the seventh day, commemorating his work of creation. Exodus 20:11.

3. *What change has there been made in the day?*

Under the guidance of the apostles, the day of rest was changed to the first day of the week.

4. *Does the New Testament say that the day of rest was changed to the first day of the week?*

No; the New Testament speaks of religious exercises on the first day of the week as a custom spread throughout the world. 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Acts 20:7; Revelations 1:10.

5. *What explanation of these references have we?*

Various Christian writers shortly after the apostles speak of worship on the first day of the week in such a way as to show clearly the meaning of the references in the New Testament.

6. *Why was this change made?*

The change was made to commemorate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus, who rose on the first day of the week. John 20:1, 19, 26.

7. *What did the first Christians do on the Lord's Day?*

They met for public worship, heard preaching, ate the Lord's Supper, and gave offerings to religious causes. 1 Corinthians 16:2; Acts 20:7.

8. *Ought we to keep the Lord's Day as a day of rest?*

Yes; the Lord's Day is primarily for rest and worship. We ought not to engage in our customary occupations and recreations, although they are proper on other days. Exodus 31:15-16; Isaiah 58:13-14; Nehemiah 13:15-22; Matthew 5:17-18.

9. *When the Lord was accused of breaking the day of rest, what did he teach?*

The Saviour taught that one does not break the day of rest by ministering to the sick, feeding the hungry, or doing any other work of necessity or of mercy. Matthew 12:1-8; Mark 3:1-4; Luke 13:10-16.

10. *Ought we to keep the day in a religious way as the first Christians did?*

Yes; we ought to spend it in private and public exercises of worship, with Bible study and preaching, with offerings and observing the ordinances, and in doing good in any way.

SECTION XV—SOME DUTIES OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

1. *Where have we a summary of the law of God for man?*

In the Ten Commandments. Exodus 20:1-17; Deuteronomy 5:6-21.

2. *Upon whom is the law of God binding?*

The law of God is binding forever upon all men, upon believers as well as others. 1 John 2:3-4, 7; Romans 3:31; 6:15; James 2:8-11; Matthew 5:18-19.

3. *Why are not believers under the law?*

The believer is not under the curse of the law because Christ redeemed us from it, being made a curse for us; and he is not under the letter of the law because he fulfills it by the Spirit of Christ that dwells in him, so that the law finds nothing against him. Galatians 3:13; Ezekiel 36:27; Jeremiah 31:33; Romans 7:6; 8:4; 13:9-10; Galatians 5:14.

4. *What shall we say of the Christian that lives violating God's commandments?*

Those that break God's commandments are sons of disobedience and wrath, although they may call themselves Christians. 1 John 2:4; Romans 6:15-16; Galatians 5:19-21.

5. *What is taking the name of the Lord in vain?*

To take his name in vain is to speak irreverently of God, of his Word, or of anything sacred. Exodus 20:7.

6. *What does God command us in regard to our parents?*

He commands: Honor thy father and thy mother. Exodus 20:12; Ephesians 6:1-3.

7. *What duty toward their children is placed upon parents?*

That they rear them affectionately and bring them up in the love and fear of God. Ephesians 6:4.

8. *What is the duty of the Christian toward the state?*

We are bidden to keep conscientiously all the laws of the state, and to give every civil magistrate the honor due him. 1 Peter 2:13-17; Romans 13:1-7.

9. *What is it not to kill?*

Not to kill is not to harbor the root of murder—envy, hatred, anger, revenge—since this is murder before God. Exodus 20:13; Matthew 5:21-24.

10. *May we seek to surpass others?*

Yes; we may seek to surpass others in doing good, but we ought to shelter no envy of others nor seek to hinder their progress. 1 Peter 2:1.

11. *Is it right to pay back those who have wronged us?*

No; vengeance is wrong; we ought to leave to God the punishment of those who have done us wrong, pray for them, and do them good. Romans 12:19-21; Luke 6:27-28.

12. *Ought we to love our enemies as we love our friends?*

We ought to love our enemies as God loves his, and be like him, always ready to do them good. Matthew 5:44-46.

13. *What is our duty in regard to purity?*

We ought to live with purity and modesty, whether in marriage or single life; we ought to flee from uncleanness, whether in act, word, or gesture, in thought, or feeling; and we ought to keep the laws of civil marriage. Exodus 20:14; 1 Thessalonians 4:4; Ephesians 4:29; 5:3-4; Matthew 5:27-28; Romans 13:1-2.

14. *How are we not to steal?*

We ought to avoid all deception in buying and selling, we ought to pay a just wage, and we ought to do honest work for our employers. Exodus 20:15; Micah 6:10-11; James 5:3-4; Ephesians 4:28.

15. *Is lying a light offense?*

No; the one who has said, Thou shalt not kill, has also said, Thou shalt not bear false witness; and to lie is to disobey and to affront him just as much as to kill. Exodus 20:16; James 2:8-11; Ephesians 4:25; Revelations 21:8.

16. *How are we not to lie?*

We are not to deceive in either word or act.

17. *How are we to speak of others?*

We must not lie about others, nor believe the evil that is told us of others until we have heard the accused. James 4:11; Deuteronomy 19:15.

18. *When is it right to tell things that hurt others?*

We may tell things that hurt others if they are true and ought to be known in order to prevent harm.

19. *What is it not to covet?*

This commandment requires that we be content with what we can earn justly and fairly by our own industry, that we shelter no desire to get anything at the expense of our neighbor, and that we look with love upon our neighbor and all that is his. Exodus 20:17; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.

20. *What is the duty of the Christian in regard to his influence?*

The Christian ought to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, and his conduct ought to be above reproach that he may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour. Matthew 5:13-16; Titus 2:10.

21. *How can a Christian hope to keep these and all the other duties of the Christian life?*

The Christian can hope to fulfil his duties through watchful effort and prayer without ceasing by the help of the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 6:18; Romans 8:4.

SECTION XVI—FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF CHRIST

1. *Did the Saviour live a truly human life?*

Yes; the Saviour lived a truly human life in every sense, but without sin.

2. *Was Christ tempted to sin?*

Yes; he was tempted in everything like as we are, but he overcame every temptation. Hebrews 4:15.

3. *Is it the duty of the Christian to follow the example of Christ?*

Yes; Christ has left a beautiful and perfect example that we ought to follow. John 13:15; 1 Peter 2:21; 1 Corinthians 11:1; Romans 8:29.

4. *What hope is there that we can follow the example of Christ?*

We have the hope that we can follow Christ by the aid of the Holy Spirit. Luke 4:1.

5. *What example did Jesus leave us of obedience to parents?*

Jesus, as a child, did what his parents bade him, and was subject unto them. Luke 2:51.

6. *What example did Jesus leave in regard to the Scriptures?*

Jesus attended a Bible school, and had much knowledge of the Scriptures when still but a child. Luke 2:46-47; 4:16.

7. *Did Jesus make use of the Bible when he was tempted or suffering?*

Yes; Jesus quoted the Bible against the tempter and when on the cross.

8. *What example did he leave us as to public worship?*

It was the custom of the Lord to go to the synagogue on sabbath days to take part in the worship. Luke 4:16.

9. *What example did Christ give of private prayer?*

Christ prayed much and often, sometimes all the night. Luke 3:21; 6:12; 9:28; 11:1.

10. *What example did Jesus give of doing men good?*

Jesus went about doing good. Acts 10:38.

11. *What example in love of enemies did Jesus give?*

Jesus prayed for those who crucified him, saying, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." Luke 23:34.

12. *What examples in love of fellow Christians?*

Christ laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our life for the brethren. John 13:34; 1 John 3:16.

13. *What is the supreme hope of the life to come?*

The supreme hope of the life to come is that we are to be like Jesus. 1 John 3:2.

SECTION XVII—THE LIFE TO COME

1. What does the Bible teach about a future life?

The Bible teaches that every human being will have eternal existence.

2. What happens to the body at death?

The body of the dead returns to the earth and sees corruption, but it shall rise. Genesis 3:19; Ecclesiastes 12:7.

3. What happens to the soul at death?

The soul does not die nor sleep; at death it goes at once either to the bliss of heaven or the torment of hell.

4. What happens to the soul of the just?

When the righteous dies, his soul is made perfect in holiness, is received into the presence of God, and awaits the complete redemption of the body. Revelation 7:15; 14:13; Luke 23:43; Philippians 1:23; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Romans 8:23.

5. What happens to the soul of the wicked?

When the wicked dies, his soul is cast into hell, where it remains in torment, reserved for the judgment of the great day. Luke 16:23-24; 2 Peter 2:9; Jude 6-7.

6. Is there any other place, besides heaven and hell, for the souls of the dead?

No; the Scriptures do not recognize any other.

7. Shall all men die?

In the last day, those still alive shall not die, but they shall be changed, and the body of every dead man shall come to life and to live with his soul forever. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52.

8. Shall the same body rise?

Yes; the same body shall rise, but it shall be changed much, in its condition and mode of life; the body of the just shall be made like unto the glorious body of the Saviour. 1 Corinthians 15:42-44; Philippians 3:21.

9. What is the day of judgment?

The day of judgment is the day great and terrible, when all that have lived on the earth shall appear before the judgment seat of Christ to give account for every thought, word, and deed, and to receive that which they have done in the body, whether it be good or bad. Acts 17:31; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 2:16; Matthew 12:36-37.

10. Will those who have died in their sins have opportunity to repent or to be saved in the life to come?

No; the Bible reveals no such provision and authorizes no such hope.

11. To what will the unbelievers be condemned?

Christ will send the wicked to eternal torment in hell. Matthew 25:41, 46; 2 Thessalonians 1:9; Mark 9:48.

12. To what will Christ invite the righteous?

Christ will invite the righteous to eternal happiness with him in heaven. Matthew 25:34.

13. Will all unbelievers be punished alike?

No; there will be degrees in the future punishment; it will be greater according to the knowledge men have had of the will of God and of the way of salvation in Christ. Each man shall be punished according to his deeds, and everyone only as he deserves. Luke 12:47-48; Mark 12:40; Matthew 11:22, 24; Romans 2:12.

14. How is hell presented in the Bible?

Hell is a place of darkness and torment, of endless sin and ceaseless pain. Matthew 8:12; Revelation 22:11; Mark 9:48.

15. How is heaven presented?

Heaven is a place of light and holiness, of happy society, and of grateful praise to God; a place where there will be no more sorrow and no more temptation. Revelation 7:9-10; 21:3-4; Matthew 13:41.

16. Shall we know one another in heaven?

Yes; the Bible gives us reason to believe it. 1 Thessalonians 2:19; Matthew 17:3-4.

17. Is heaven to be a place of empty inactivity?

No; when Christ, having won the kingdom, has delivered it up to the Father, then God will realize for the society of men the goal he has had in mind since bringing man into being. Each shall have opportunity to the utmost to use all his capacities in the most worth-while activities. Revelation 11:15; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28; Hebrews 11:16, 39-40; Luke 19:17.