



The Redeemer Catechism

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The Redeemer Catechism

Part I

God, Revelation, Creation, and Fall

1. *What is the meaning of life?*

- : Our highest purpose is to glorify God in the exaltation of Christ, delighting in him forever.
- : 1Co 10:31; Ps 16:11, 37:4, 43:4, 73:25–26; Isa 43:7; Eph 1:12; Col 1:18; Php 2:9–11; 1Pe 4:11; Jn 17:1, 13

2. *Where can we learn how to glorify God and delight in him?*

- : Only the Word of God contained in the Old and New Testaments of the Bible tells us all we need to know about God, and what he wants from us and for us, and how we can glorify him and find in him our joy and satisfaction.
- : 2Pe 1:21; 2Ti 3:16, 17; Isa 8:20; 1Co 2:13; Ps 19:7, 8

3. *What is the central theme of the whole Bible?*

- : The central theme of the whole Bible is Jesus Christ and God's gracious salvation through him and for his glory.
- : Lk 24:27, 44; Jn 1:45, 5:39, 46; Ac 17:2, 3; Jn 17:1–5; Eph 1:9, 10

4. *How does the central theme of the Bible unfold from beginning to end?*

- : The central theme of the Bible is unfolded as God brings about his kingdom through covenants, ultimately installing his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, as the true and final King over a redeemed people, in the New Covenant.
- : Gal 3:7–9, 14–17; Ex 19:6; 1Pe 2:9; Eph 1:20–22, 2:12, 13; 2Sa 7:8–13; Ac 2:29–36; Heb 1:5; Ps 2:4–9; Mt 4:17, 16:28, 28:18–20; Mk 1:14, 15; Lk 11:20; Col 1:13; Rev 1:5, 6

5. *Who is the first and preeminent being?*

- : God is the first and preeminent being.
- : Isa 44:6, 48:12; Ps 97:9

6. *What is God?*

- : God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.
- : Jn 4:24; Ps 90:2; Jas 1:17; Ps 147:5; Rev 4:8, 15:4; Ex 34:6; 1Ti 1:17; Nu 23:19

7. *How do we know there is a God?*

- : Nature and God's works plainly show there is a God; but only his Word and Holy Spirit do so fully and clearly enough for the salvation of sinners.
- : Ro 1:18–20; Ps 19:1, 2; 2Ti 3:15; 1Co 1:21–24, 2:9, 10; Mt 11:27

8. *Are there more Gods than one?*

- : There is one God only, the true and living God, who subsists in three Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, each having the whole divine essence, while the essence remains undivided.
- : Dt 6:4; Jer 10:10; Ps 96:4, 5; 1Co 2:11, 8:6; Jn 1:1, 10:30, 14:9, 20:28; Ac 5:3, 4; Mt 28:19; 2Co 13:14; Col 2:9; Heb 1:3

9. *What are the decrees of God?*
- : The decrees of God are his eternal purpose, according to the counsel of his own will and for his own glory, in which he has predetermined all that happens.
 - : Eph 1:11; Ro 11:36; Da 4:35; Isa 46:10; La 3:37; Ps 115:3; Am 3:6
10. *How does God carry out his decrees?*
- : God carries out his decrees in the works of creation and providence.
 - : Ge 1:1; Rev 4:11; Mt 5:45, 6:26; Ac 14:17; Pr 16:9, 33, 19:21, 20:24, 21:1, 31
11. *What is God's work of creation?*
- : Creation is God's making of all things from nothing by his powerful word, and all very good.
 - : Ge 1:1, 31; Heb 11:3; Ex 20:11; Ro 4:17
12. *How did God create humankind?*
- : God created humankind, male and female, after his own image—in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness—and gave them a nature suitable for their purpose and dominion over the animals.
 - : Ge 1:27, 28; Ecc 7:29; Col 3:10; Eph 4:24
13. *What are God's works of providence?*
- : Providence is the holy, wise, and powerful way in which God upholds and directs all things, so that nothing occurs apart from God's will.
 - : Col 1:17; Heb 1:3; Ps 103:19; Mt 10:29, 30
14. *What special act of providence did God exercise toward Adam before he sinned?*
- : God appointed Adam as the representative of the human race and forbade Adam from eating fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Disobedience would result in death, both for Adam and for all humanity thereafter.
 - : Ge 2:15–17; Ro 5:12; 1Co 15:21, 22
15. *Did Adam and Eve continue in the holiness in which they were created?*
- : No, they did not live with this honor for very long. Satan, through the serpent's cunning, deceived and enticed Eve, then by her enticed Adam, who both sinned by breaking God's command, and fell.
 - : Ge 3:1–7; Ecc 7:29; Ro 5:12
16. *What is sin?*
- : Sin is any disobedience to the revealed demands of God.
 - : 1Jn 3:4
17. *Did all humankind fall in Adam's first act of disobedience?*
- : Because Adam was the representative of the whole human race, all people fell with him in his first sin (except the Lord Jesus who was conceived by the Holy Spirit).
 - : Ro 5:12, 17; 1Co 15:21, 22
18. *What were the consequences of the fall?*
- : Because of the fall, we are now conceived in sin and by nature deserving of wrath, under God's curse, enslaved to sin, corrupted in all our faculties, and subject to death and other miseries in this world and the next, unless the Lord Jesus Christ sets us free.
 - : Ge 3:24; Eph 2:3; La 3:39; Gal 3:10; Ro 3:23, 5:12, 6:16, 17, 23; 2Pe 2:19; Mt 25:41–46; Ps 130:3

Part II

Christ and Salvation

19. *Did God leave all people to perish in their state of sin and misery?*

: No. From all eternity, God chose many to inherit everlasting life, and promised to deliver them from their sin and to save them by a Redeemer who would crush the head of the serpent.

: Eph 1:3, 4; 2Th 2:13; Ro 5:21, 8:29, 30, 11:5–7; Ac 13:48; Jer 31:33; 1Jn 3:8; Rev 12:9

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

: The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ. Being the eternal Son of God, he became truly human while remaining truly righteous, and so was and continues to be God and man in two distinct natures and one person forever.

: Gal 3:13; 1Ti 2:5, 3:16; Jn 1:14; Ro 9:5; Col 2:9

21. *Why is he called our Redeemer?*

: Because in obedience to the Father, he redeemed God's elect from their bondage to sin and death by giving himself as a ransom and becoming a curse in our place, purchasing us with his precious blood to satisfy the justice of God.

: Jn 5:36, 6:39, 10:18; Mk 10:45; Ac 20:28; Ro 3:24, 25; 1Co 6:19, 20; Gal 3:13; Eph 1:7; Titus 2:14; 1Pe 1:18, 19; Rev 5:9

22. *Why is he called Jesus, meaning "Savior"?*

: Because he saves us from our sins and because salvation cannot be found in anyone else.

: Mt 1:21; Heb 7:25; Isa 43:11; Jn 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1Ti 2:5

23. *Why is he called Christ (or Messiah), meaning "Anointed"?*

: Because he has been ordained by God the Father and anointed with the Holy Spirit to be our chief prophet and teacher who perfectly reveals God's will to us, our only high priest who by his one sacrifice has set us free, and our eternal king who governs and protects us and keeps us in the freedom he has won for us.

: Ps 2:2; Jn 5:36; Mt 3:16; Jn 1:18, 15:15; Eph 5:2; Heb 9:26; Jn 18:36, 37; 2Pe 1:11; Zec 9:9

24. *Why did our Redeemer need to become truly human while remaining truly righteous?*

: God's justice demands that human nature, which has sinned, pay for its sin; but one sinner could never pay for others.

: Ro 5:12, 15; 1Co 15:21; Heb 2:14–17, 7:26, 27; 1Pe 3:18

25. *Why did our Redeemer need to be the Son of God?*

: So that by the power of his divinity, he might bear the weight of God's anger in his humanity and earn for us and restore to us righteousness and life.

: Na 1:6; Ps 130:3; Isa 53:5, 11; Jn 3:16; 2Co 5:21

26. *How did Christ, the Son of God, become a man?*

: Christ, the Son of God, became a man by taking on a human body and soul, being conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit in the womb of Mary while she was still a virgin, and being born to her, yet without sin.

: Heb 2:14, 4:14, 7:26; Mt 26:38; Jn 12:27; Lk 1:27, 31, 35

27. *What offices does Christ execute as our Redeemer?*

: Christ our Redeemer executes the offices of prophet, priest, and king, both in his state of humiliation and of exaltation.

: Ac 3:22; Heb 5:6; Ps 2:6; Rev 17:14, 19:13–16

28. *Why these three offices?*

: This number and order of offices is necessary, for we need Jesus as our prophet since we are otherwise ignorant of the truth; and we need him as our priest since we are otherwise separated from God; and we need him as our king since we are otherwise opposed to God.

: Isa 44:9; Ro 1:21; Ac 17:23; Eph 4:18; Job 42:3; Eph 2:12; Is 65:1; Ro 8:7; Jas 4:4

29. *How does Christ execute the office of a prophet?*

: Christ executes the office of a prophet by revealing to us through his word and Spirit the will of God for our salvation.

: Jn 1:18, 14:26, 15:15, 20:31; 1Jn 5:20

30. *How does Christ execute the office of a priest?*

: Christ executes the office of a priest by his offering himself as a sacrifice of atonement, once for all, to satisfy divine justice and reconcile us to God, and by continually interceding for us.

: 1Pe 2:24; Heb 2:17, 7:25, 9:28; Eph 5:2; Ro 8:34

31. *How does Christ execute the office of a king?*

: Christ executes the office of a king by subduing us to himself, by ruling and defending us, and by restraining and conquering all his enemies.

: Ps 110:1, 2; Mt 2:6; Lk 1:32, 33; 1Jn 5:18; 1Co 15:25

32. *What happened in Christ's humiliation?*

: Christ's humiliation consisted of his being born, and in a low condition; being put under the law; experiencing the hardship of human life and then the wrath of God and the cursed death of the cross; and in being buried and remaining under the power of death for a time.

: Lk 2:7; Gal 4:4; Isa 53:3; Lk 22:44; Mt 12:40; 27:46; Php 2:8; Mk 15:45, 46

33. *What happened in Christ's exaltation?*

: Christ's exaltation consists of his resurrection from the dead, his ascension into heaven, being seated at the right hand of God the Father and appointed head over everything for the church, and in coming to judge the world on the last day.

: 1Co 15:4; Mk 14:62; Eph 1:20–22; Heb 8:1; Ac 1:11, 10:42, 17:31

34. *How do we receive the redemption purchased by Christ?*

: We receive this redemption when it is applied to us by the Holy Spirit.

: Jn 3:5, 6; Titus 3:5, 6

35. *How does the Holy Spirit apply to us the redemption purchased by Christ?*

: The Holy Spirit applies this redemption to us by producing faith in us, and through our faith uniting us to Christ in our effectual calling.

: 1Jn 5:1; Php 1:29; Eph 2:8; Ac 16:14, 18:27; Jn 3:8, 6:37; Ro 10:9, 10

36. *What is effectual calling?*

: Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit that results in regeneration, or being born again. In so calling us, the Spirit of God convinces us of our sin and misery, enlightens our minds in the knowledge of Christ, and renews our wills, enabling and persuading us to embrace Jesus Christ as freely offered to us in the gospel.

: Jn 3:5–8; Eph 2:4, 5; 2Ti 1:9; Jn 6:44, 45, 16:8–11; Ac 2:37, 26:18; Eze 36:26; Ro 8:30; 1Co 1:24, 12:3

37. *What benefits do we experience in this life once effectually called by God?*

: We who are effectually called by God experience justification, adoption, sanctification, and any related blessings.

: Ro 8:30–32; Gal 3:26; 1Co 1:30, 6:11; Eph 1:5

38. *What is justification?*

: Justification is an act of God's free grace, in which he pardons all our sins and accepts us as righteous in his sight, due only to the righteous work of Christ on the cross imputed to us, and received by faith alone.

: Ro 3:24, 5:9, 10, 18, 19; Eph 1:7; 2Co 5:21; Heb 10:14; Php 3:9; Gal 2:16

39. *What is adoption?*

: Adoption is an act of God's free grace, in which God our Father receives us as his own children through our union with his Son, so that we, as co-heirs with Christ, have a right to all the privileges of sonship.

: 1Jn 3:1; Jn 1:12; Gal 3:26; Ro 8:14–17; Heb 2:11

40. *What is sanctification?*

: Sanctification is a work of God's free grace, in which our whole selves are renewed in the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die to sin and live for righteousness.

: 2Th 2:13; Eph 1:4, 4:23, 24; Mt 28:20; Col 3:5–10; Ro 6:11

41. *What blessings in this life flow from such a great salvation?*

: The blessings that flow from our salvation include assurance that God loves us, a clear conscience, peace, joy, increasing grace, and perseverance to the end.

: Ro 5:1–5, 14:17; 15:13; Pr 4:18; 1Pe 1:5; Heb 10:22; Isa 54:10; Jn 14:27; Php 4:7; 1Jn 5:13

42. *What benefits do believers receive from Christ at their death?*

: The souls of believers at their death are made holy and immediately pass into glory; and their bodies, still united to Christ, remain in the grave till the resurrection.

: Heb 12:23; Php 1:23; 2Co 5:8; Lk 23:43; 1Th 4:14; Isa 57:2

43. *What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection?*

: At the resurrection, believers will be raised up to glory and openly acknowledged, acquitted on the Day of judgment, and made perfectly blessed in soul and body, in the full enjoyment of God for eternity.

: Php 3:20, 21; 1Co 15:42–44; Mt 10:32; 1Jn 3:2; 1Th 4:17

44. *But what will be done to unbelievers at their death?*

: The souls of unbelievers at their death will be held by the Lord for punishment on the Day of judgment.

: 2Pe 2:9

45. *What will be done to unbelievers on the Day of judgment?*

: On the Day of judgment, the bodies of unbelievers will be raised and reunited with their souls, they will give account of themselves to God, and will be justly sentenced to the lake of fire and everlasting destruction.

: Da 12:2; Jn 5:28, 29; 2Th 1:9; Mt 25:41; Rev 20:11–15

Part III

Law, Covenant, and Life in Christ

46. *What does God require of all people?*

: God requires that all people, in faith, obey his revealed demands, which may be called God's law.

: Mic 6:8; 1Sa 15:22; Ro 1:5, 16:26

47. *What is the essence of God's law?*

: The essence of God's law is the two greatest commandments: To love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind; and to love your neighbor as yourself. Every administration of God's law depends on these.

: Mt 22:37–40; Dt 6:5; Lev 19:18; Ro 13:8–10; Gal 5:14

48. *Does the substance of the two greatest commandments ever change?*

: No. As the essence of divine law, the two greatest commandments are required by God of everyone in every age, and though people may suppress the truth, they still, being made in God's image, instinctively understand these two commandments to one degree or another.

: Ro 2:14, 15, 13:10; 1Jn 4:8; Mt 22:40

49. *Have the revealed demands of God ever changed?*

: Yes. Different administrations of God's law have included temporal requirements that were afterwards set aside. But in all cases, God's demands are consistent with his righteous character, so that many moral principles persist through every version of God's law.

: Isa 43:18, 19; Gal 4:2, 3; 1Co 7:18, 19; Gal 5:6, 6:15; Mk 7:19; Heb 7:18, 19

50. *Has the purpose of God changed throughout the history of redemption?*

: No. All of God's dealings with humanity have been part of God's one eternal purpose to establish his kingdom on earth by reclaiming for himself a special people through the work of the promised Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

: Ge 3:15; Mt 6:10; Gal 3:8, 21; 2Ti 1:9, 10; Eph 1:9, 10, 3:11; Rev 13:8, 21:3

51. *Why then have God's laws ever changed, since his purpose has not changed?*
- : It was God's intent that in the outworking of his unchanging purpose, a series of covenants, each imposing unique obligations on those with whom it was made, would reveal more about him, further establish his saving reign, and in a variety of ways prepare the world for the arrival of Christ at the culmination of the ages.
 - : Ro 7:12; Mt 11:13; Ro 5:20, 7:7, 10:4; Col 2:17; Heb 9:1–12, 10:1; Gal 4:2–7
52. *What Covenant was ushered in by the coming of the promised One himself, Jesus Christ?*
- : Jesus Christ ushered in the New Covenant, in his blood, of which he is the mediator. This New Covenant is also called the everlasting covenant, for as the fulfillment of all previous covenants it never ends, and the covenant of peace, for through it we are reconciled to God.
 - : Lk 22:20; Heb 9:15, 12:24; Isa 54:10, 55:3
53. *What law did God prescribe to his people under the Old Covenant?*
- : The founding document and principal law of the Old Covenant was the Ten Commandments. These were extended and applied by a larger body of ordinances to govern Israelite society and anticipate spiritual realities of the New Covenant.
 - : Ex 34:28; Dt 4:13, 9:9–11; 1Ki 8:21; Heb 9:4; 1Co 9:9, 10
54. *Are we too under the Ten Commandments?*
- : No, we are not under the Ten Commandments because the Ten Commandments were expressly part of the covenant between God and the people of Israel. That covenant is no longer in effect, having been wholly fulfilled and superseded by a new and better covenant that constitutes a new people of God.
 - : Ro 7:4–6; 2Co 3:6–11; Gal 3:24, 25, 5:18; Heb 7:18, 19, 8:6, 13
55. *Are we, then, under any rule of conduct?*
- : Yes, we are always subject to the demands of God, whose righteousness is unchanging, and are called not only to obey but to delight in and meditate on whatever law from God is over us.
 - : Ps 1:2, 119:48, 97; Jn 14:15; 1Jn 2:5, 3:22; Ro 16:19; 2Co 9:13; 2Jn 6
56. *What law is over us as God's New Covenant people?*
- : The law in the New Covenant is called the law of Christ.
 - : Jn 14:21, 15:10; Gal 6:2; 1Co 9:21; Mt 28:20
57. *Under the Old Covenant, how did God's people relate to the law of God?*
- : They were required to obey God. Moreover, the Old Covenant was a legal covenant which promised favor only upon obedience and curses upon disobedience. Since the people disobeyed, the Old Covenant ministry brought death. Yet God graciously passed over the sins of those who had true faith in the promise of the gospel until the time when the blood of Christ was poured out for them.
 - : Lev 18:4; Dt 11:26–28, 28:15, 30:15–19; Jos 23:15, 16; Ro 3:25; Heb 9:15
58. *Under the New Covenant, how do God's people relate to the law of God?*
- : We are also required to obey God, and we obey out of faith and love, as those with new hearts. And yet we are under grace, for the New Covenant is a gracious covenant in which our Savior and Substitute has done away with our sin by his sacrifice so that God's favor toward us is secure in Christ, and not conditioned on our obedience.
 - : Ac 5:29; Ro 6:11–14; Jn 14:15, 21, 23; 1Jn 2:5, 5:3, 2:1; Jn 5:24; Ro 8:1–4, 33, 34; Heb 7:25, 27, 10:10

59. *How do those who do not know God relate to the law of God?*

: They too are required to obey God. Because no one is able to do this apart from God's grace, those who are not in Christ face God's judgment on their own merits, and having no intercessor are laid bare before the God to whom we all must give account, to face his wrath.

: Heb 4:13; Isa 13:11; Ro 1:18, 2:5, 6; Eph 2:3

60. *What is the law of Christ?*

: The law of Christ includes the example and commands of Christ and the instructions given by his apostles. Yet the law of Christ may be summed up in Christ's new commandment that we love one another the way he loved us. Therefore, our new life in Christ should exhibit Christlikeness.

: Jn 13:14, 15, 34, 35, 14:21, 23; 2Th 3:4; 2Pe 3:2; Ro 15:2, 3; 1Jn 2:3-8, 3:23, 4:17; 2Jn 5, 6; Eph 5:2; Php 2:5; 1Pe 2:21; 1Th 1:6; 1Co 11:1; Col 3:13

61. *Does the Old Testament also teach us how to live?*

: All of God's Word contains wisdom and examples of faith that instruct us in righteousness. But as the New Covenant defines our relationship with God, so the law of Christ controls how the Old Testament instructs us, so that we bear in mind the difference made by the cross, and act in accordance with the truth of the gospel.

: Ps 19:7-11, 119:98; Ro 15:4; 2Ti 3:16; Heb 11:39; Mt 5:43-48; Gal 2:14

62. *Are we left to pursue Christlikeness in our own strength?*

: No, for the Father and the Son sent us a helper, the Holy Spirit, who regenerates us, unites us to Christ and to each other, indwells us, seals us, teaches us, gifts us for service in the church, and enables us to pursue holiness.

: Jn 3:5, 14:16, 17, 26, 15:26, 16:7, 13; Ro 5:5, 8:9, 13, 14; 1Co 2:10-13, 12:7, 13; 2Co 1:22; Gal 5:16-25; Eph 1:13; Php 2:1; Titus 3:5

63. *What does Christlikeness look like?*

: Christlikeness is characterized by the true worship of God and by self-giving service to others, in love, after the pattern of the Lord Jesus. Because this way of life is the work of Christ's Spirit within us, it will increasingly demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit.

: Jn 4:23; Mk 10:42-45; Ro 15:1-3; 1Co 10:33-11:1; Gal 6:2; Php 2:3-8; Col 3:12-14; Heb 13:16; Gal 5:25, 26; 2Pe 1:5-8

64. *What is the fruit of the Spirit?*

: The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

: Gal 5:22, 23

Part IV

Means of Grace

65. *Does anyone love God and neighbor perfectly?*

: No, everyone fails to perfectly love God and neighbor in thoughts, words, and actions. This is why all people stand in need of forgiveness.

: Ecc 7:20; Gal 5:17; 1Jn 1:8; Jas 3:2, 5:16; Ge 6:5, 8:21; Ro 3:23

66. *What must we do to be saved from the wrath of God that we deserve because of our sin?*
- : To be saved from the wrath of God, we must repent and put our faith in Jesus Christ. We may then take full advantage of the practical means Christ uses for the spiritual growth and encouragement of believers.
 - : Mk 1:15; Ac 2:38, 16:30, 31, 20:21
67. *What is repentance?*
- : Repentance is a saving grace by which sinners who understand their sin and the mercy of God, with contrition and a hatred of their sin, turn from a life of sin to God. By this the old nature dies and the new nature comes to life.
 - : Ac 2:37; Joel 2:12, 13; Jer 3:22; Eze 36:31; 2Co 7:11; Isa 1:16, 17; Ro 6:13; Ac 11:18
68. *What is faith in Jesus Christ?*
- : Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace by which we receive him and rest in him alone for salvation, believing his promises and trusting that he is able to save completely those who come to God through him.
 - : Heb 10:39; Jn 1:12, 6:35; Isa 26:3, 4; Php 3:9; Gal 2:16, 3:22; Ps 62:1; Ro 3:22; Isa 59:1
69. *What practical means does Christ use for the spiritual growth and encouragement of believers?*
- : The practical means Christ uses for the spiritual growth and encouragement of believers are his ordinances, especially the fellowship of believers, the Word, baptism, the Lord's Supper, and prayer.
 - : Ac 2:41, 42; Heb 10:25; Ro 10:17; 1Pe 2:2; Jas 1:18; Mt 28:19, 20
70. *How is the Word to be read and heard, that it might really change us?*
- : For the Word to really change us, we should attend to it diligently and with prayer, receive it with faith and love, store it in our hearts, and practice it in our lives.
 - : Pr 8:34; 1Pe 2:1–3; Ps 119:18; Heb 4:2; 2Th 2:10; Ps 119:11; Lk 8:15; Jas 1:23–25
71. *How are baptism and the Lord's Supper made effective means of blessing?*
- : Baptism and the Lord's Supper become effective means of blessing not by any inherent virtue, or the virtue of the one administering them, but by the blessing of Christ and the working of the Spirit in those that by faith receive them.
 - : 1Pe 3:21; Mt 3:11; 1Co 3:6, 7
72. *How are Baptism and the Lord's Supper different from the other ordinances?*
- : Baptism and the Lord's Supper were specially instituted by Christ to represent the unique blessings of the New Covenant to members of the church by visible and tangible signs.
 - : Ac 22:16; Mt 26:26–28; Ro 6:4
73. *Who may be baptized and take the Lord's Supper?*
- : Baptism and the Lord's Supper should only be administered to those who profess repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ.
 - : Ac 2:38, 8:12, 10:47; Mt 3:6, 28:19; Ac 2:41, 42; 1Co 11:27–29
74. *What is baptism?*
- : Baptism is a rite for the church instituted by the Lord to be the pledge of a clear conscience toward God, in which a washing with water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit symbolizes fellowship with Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection; being grafted into Christ; and forgiveness of sins.
 - : Mt 28:19; 1Pe 3:21; Ro 6:3–5; Col 2:12; Gal 3:27; Mk 1:4; Ac 2:38, 22:16

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

: The Lord's Supper is a rite for the church instituted by the Lord, in which by receiving bread and wine according to Christ's instruction, we remember him, proclaim his death, and partake of his body and blood, as it were, to our spiritual nourishment and growth in grace.

: Mt 26:26–28; 1Co 11:23–26, 10:16; Lk 22:20

76. *What is the church?*

: The church is the body of Christ, made up of all people who are united to him by the Spirit through faith. It was inaugurated only after the resurrection and ascension of Jesus and the pouring out of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost.

: Eph 1:22, 23, 2:20, 3:2–6, 4:12, 5:23, 30; 1Co 12:12–14, 27; Col 1:18, 24; Heb 11:39, 40; Ac 1:5, 2:14–18; Jn 7:39

77. *What is prayer?*

: Prayer is offering our praise and desires to God in faith, in the name of Jesus and with the help of the Holy Spirit, with confession of sin and with thankfulness.

: Ps 62:8; Ro 8:26; Jn 16:23; Mt 21:22; Jas 1:6; Php 4:6; Heb 13:15

78. *What guideline has God given us for prayer?*

: The whole Bible is useful to direct us in prayer, but the special guideline for prayer is the prayer that Christ taught his disciples, often called the Lord's Prayer.

: Lk 11:1, 2; 2Ti 3:16, 17

79. *What is the Lord's Prayer?*

: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

: Mt 6:9–13

80. *What does the preface of the Lord's Prayer teach us?*

: The preface of the Lord's Prayer, "Our Father in heaven," teaches us to draw near to God with reverence and confidence, as children to a father who is able and ready to help us.

: Ro 8:15; Lk 11:13

81. *What do we pray for in the first petition?*

: In the first petition, "Hallowed be your name," we pray that God would enable us and others to glorify him in every way he reveals himself, and that he would turn all things to his own glory.

: Ps 67:2, 3; Jn 12:28; Ro 11:36; Rev 4:11

82. *What do we pray for in the second petition?*

: In the second petition, "Your kingdom come," we pray that Satan's kingdom may be destroyed and that the kingdom of grace may be advanced, ourselves and others brought into it and kept in it, and that the kingdom of glory may come quickly.

: Ps 68:1, 18; Rev 12:10, 11; 2Th 3:1; Ro 10:1; Jn 17:19, 20; Rev 22:20

83. *What do we pray for in the third petition?*

: In the third petition, “Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven,” we pray that God by his grace would make us able and willing to know, obey, and submit to his will in all things, as the angels do in heaven.

: Ps 67:2–7, 119:36; Ro 12:2; Ps 103:20, 21

84. *What do we pray for in the fourth petition?*

: In the fourth petition, “Give us today our daily bread,” we pray that as a gift from God we may receive an adequate portion of the good things of this life and enjoy his blessings with them.

: Pr 30:8, 9; Ge 28:20; 1Ti 4:4, 5, 6:6–8

85. *What do we pray for in the fifth petition?*

: In the fifth petition, “And forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors,” we pray that God, for Christ’s sake, would freely pardon all our sins. We are encouraged to ask this because by his grace we are able to forgive others from the heart.

: Ps 51:1, 2, 7, 9; Da 9:17–19; Mt 18:35

86. *What do we pray for in the sixth petition?*

: In the sixth petition, “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one,” we pray that God would keep us from being tempted to sin and support us and deliver us when we are tempted.

: Mt 26:41; Ps 19:13; 1Co 10:13; Jn 17:15

87. *If all these things are so, what must be your only comfort in life and death?*

: That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for me, and set me free from my sins and from the tyranny of the devil, and watches over me for my good, and who by his Spirit assures me of eternal life and makes me willing to live for him.

: 1Co 3:23, 6:19, 20, 15:23; Ro 14:7–9; Titus 2:14; 1Pe 1:18, 19; Heb 2:14, 15; 1Jn 3:8; Ro 8:28, 8:14, 15

Appendix

Suggested breakdown for weekly meditations

Week	Question(s)	Week	Question(s)
01	1 / 2	27	48 / 49
02	3 / 4	28	50 / 51
03	5 / 6	29	52
04	7 / 8	30	53 / 54
05	9 / 10	31	55 / 56
06	11 / 12	32	57
07	13 / 14	33	58
08	15 / 16	34	59
09	17 / 18	35	60 / 61
10	19	36	62
11	20	37	63 / 64
12	21	38	65 / 66
13	22	39	67
14	23	40	68
15	24 / 25	41	69
16	26	42	70
17	27 / 28	43	71 / 72
18	29 / 30 / 31	44	73 / 74
19	32 / 33	45	75 / 76
20	34 / 35	46	77
21	36 / 37	47	78 / 79
22	38 / 39	48	80
23	40 / 41	49	81 / 82
24	42 / 43	50	83 / 84
25	44 / 45	51	85 / 86
26	46 / 47	52	87