

Beta Testing Phase

Your thoughts, concerns, corrections and constructive criticisms are greatly welcomed. I would like to create the final edition by 2018-19 based on the input from the saints & friends. Please send your comments to:

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The Barkhamsted Catechism **for Children and Youth**

On the 500th anniversary of the Reformation
October 29, 2017

For all the saints, and my dear little girl, Rebekah

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All Scripture quotations are from the NASB

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#1 – God the Father

“Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.” – 1Timothy 1:17

“Then Moses said to God, ‘Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, the God of your fathers has sent me to you.’ Now they may say to me, ‘What is His name? What shall I say to them?’ God said to Moses, ‘I Am Who I Am;’ and He said, ‘Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, I Am has sent me to you.’” - Exodus 3:13-14

- 1.1) Q: Who is God?
A: He is our heavenly Father; the Creator, Lord and Judge of all things.
- 1.2) Q: What is God?
A: He is a Spirit who is forever and never changes.
- 1.3) Q: What is God like?
A: He is all powerful, all knowing, most wise, holy, just, loving, good, merciful and gracious.
- 1.4) Q: Where is God?
A: He rules from heaven and His Spirit is everywhere.
- 1.5) Q: How many gods are there?
A: There is only one living and true God.
- 1.6) Q: Who created God?
A: No one, God alone is the Creator and He is without beginning or end.
- 1.7) Q: Does God have a name?
A: Yes, and it means “I Am.”
- 1.8) Q: Why does God’s name mean “I Am?”
A: Because without God there is nothing, but with Him is everything.
- 1.9) Q: So why should our thinking start with God?
A: Because in Him alone is life, truth, knowledge, goodness, beauty, justice, perfection and glory.

#2 - Knowing God

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." - Proverbs 9:10

"The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands . . . The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple." - Psalm 19:1,7

- 2.1) Q: How do we know God?
A: God gives us His Spirit so that we can know Him.
- 2.2) Q: Where do we go to learn about God?
A: From what He has made and what He has said.
- 2.3) Q: When we look at what God has made what do we learn?
A: That God is amazing and that we are without excuse.
- 2.4) Q: Is looking at what God has made enough to fully know Him?
A: No, we need to hear directly from God.
- 2.5) Q: Where do we go to hear from God?
A: We go to God's Word.
- 2.6) Q: Where do we find God's Word?
A: In Jesus Christ alone.
- 2.7) Q: Where do we learn about God's Word?
A: In God's written word, which is the book called the Holy Bible.
- 2.8) Q: What is the most important thing we learn from the Bible?
A: Who God is and how He is to be worshiped, honored, loved and obeyed.
- 2.9) Q: What must we know in order to truly know God?
A: Our sin, our Savior, and how to thank God for who He is, and what He has done.

#3 - Reading the Bible

"But He answered and said, 'It is written, Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.'" - Matthew 4:4

*"Until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching."
- 1 Timothy 4:13*

- 3.1) Q: Where do we go to find out about our sin, our Savior and how to thank God?
A: The Bible alone.
- 3.2) Q: Are these things clearly taught in the Bible?
A: Yes, anyone who has God's Spirit can know these things.
- 3.3) Q: What is the main way God has commanded us to hear the Bible?
A: Through the preaching of God's Word.
- 3.4) Q: Where do we go to hear the preaching of God's Word?
A: The church, especially when God's people gather to worship and receive the Word.
- 3.5) Q: When we read the Bible by ourselves how should we read it?
A: Prayerfully, seeking what the authors originally meant.
- 3.6) Q: Are there hard parts in the Bible to understand?
A: Yes, but the most important things are clear.
- 3.7) Q: How do we understand the hard parts?
A: By reading them in context and comparing them with similar parts which are clear.
- 3.8) Q: Can we add to, or take away from, the Bible?
A: No, this would be a great sin and would anger God.
- 3.9) Q: Why can't we add to, or take away from, the Bible?
A: Because the Lord Jesus is God's complete and final word, and He has already come.

#4 - Authority of the Bible

“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.” - 2Timothy 3:16-17

“But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.” - 2Peter 1:20-21

- 4.1) Q: Who is the author of the Bible?
A: God
- 4.2) Q: Who wrote the Bible?
A: God sent His Spirit to men long ago to write the Bible.
- 4.3) Q: What authority does the Bible have?
A: The Bible is the final authority in all things.
- 4.4) Q: How do we know the Bible is the final authority?
A: God says so in the Bible.
- 4.5) Q: How can the Bible claim it is the final authority?
A: Because there is no higher authority than God speaking.
- 4.6) Q: How do we come to know the Bible’s authority?
A: God gives His Spirit to us which makes us know the Bible is true.
- 4.7) Q: Did God give us proof that the Bible is true?
A: Yes, by bringing Jesus back from the dead as the Bible predicted.
- 4.8) Q: How do we know the Bible is true?
A: Unless we start with God’s Word we cannot know anything for sure.
- 4.9) Q: Does God leave us by ourselves to understand the Bible?
A: No, God has given us the church to teach us the Bible.

#5 – About the Bible

“... have you not read what was spoken to you by God: ‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not the God of the dead but of the living.”

– Matthew 22:31b-32

“Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes, and I shall observe it to the end. Give me understanding, that I may observe Your law and keep it with all my heart. Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in it.” - Psalm 119:33-35

- 5.1) Q: Who is the Bible about?
A: God
- 5.2) Q: What are the main themes of the Bible?
A: Creation and redemption.
- 5.3) Q: What is “creation” about?
A: That God has made all things out of nothing, simply by speaking them into existence.
- 5.4) Q: What is “redemption” about?
A: That God has freed His people from the slavery of sin and the judgment it brings.
- 5.5) Q: The word “Bible” means books, so how many books are in the Bible?
A: 66 books; 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament.
- 5.6) Q: What is the Old Testament about?
A: Creation and the story of Israel, God’s people before Jesus.
- 5.7) Q: What is the New Testament about?
A: Jesus Christ and His Church.
- 5.8) Q: How is the Old Testament divided?
A: In four parts: Law, History, Poetry and Prophecy.
- 5.9) Q: How is the New Testament divided?
A: In four parts: Gospels, History, Epistles and Apocalypse.

#6 – Books of the Bible

“Now He said to them, “These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” – Luke 24:44

“This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you in which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, that you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles.” - 2Peter 3:1-2

- 6.1) Q: What are the “Law” books, or “Torah,” in the Old Testament about?
A: Creation, and the history of God giving His rules to ancient Israel.
- 6.2) Q: What are “History” books in the Old Testament about?
A: What happened to ancient Israel after the giving of the Law and before Jesus.
- 6.3) Q: What are “Poetry” books in the Old Testament about?
A: They are writings about God’s wisdom that teach the right way to live.
- 6.4) Q: What are “Prophecy” books in the Old Testament about?
A: Writings of men sent by God to warn and call Israel back to God.
- 6.5) Q: Does the Old Testament teach about our Lord Jesus?
A: Yes, it predicts His coming, speaks about His mission and tells of His presence.
- 6.6) Q: What are the “Gospel” books in the New Testament about?
A: The life of Jesus from His birth through His raising from the dead.
- 6.7) Q: What is the “History” book in the New Testament about?
A: The story of the early church and its leaders right after Jesus.
- 6.8) Q: What are the “Epistle” books in the New Testament about?
A: Letters written by Christian leaders to other Christians and churches.
- 6.9) Q: What is the “Apocalypse” book in the New Testament about?
A: The revealing of Jesus to His church from heaven until the end of the age.

#7 - The Trinity

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

*“When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me,” - **John 15:26***

- 7.1) Q: What special teaching does the Bible teach us about God?
A: That the one God is in three persons.
- 7.2) Q: What do we call this special teaching?
A: The Trinity: That God is three in one.
- 7.3) Q: Who are the three persons of God?
A: The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- 7.4) Q: Does this mean there are three parts to God?
A: No; the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are all fully, equally and forever God.
- 7.5) Q: So there are three gods?
A: No; God is one and not divided, there is only one God.
- 7.6) Q: How can God not be divided if there are three Persons in God?
A: There is only one substance, or one “what” in God, but three “who's.”
- 7.7) Q: How are the three Persons the same?
A: They're equally powerful, knowing, wise, holy, just, loving, good, merciful and gracious.
- 7.8) Q: How are the three Persons different?
A: Only the Son became man and only the Spirit is sent everywhere by the Father and Son.
- 7.9) Q: What does each person of the Trinity do to save God's people?
A: The Father decrees salvation, the Son accomplishes it and the Spirit applies it.

#8 – Son of God

*“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth . . . No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.” - **John 1:14,18***

*“concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,” - **Romans 1:3-4***

- 8.1) Q: Who is the Son of God?
A: Jesus Christ, the Messiah, the second Person of the Trinity.
- 8.2) Q: What do the titles “Christ” and “Messiah” mean?
A: One specially sent and appointed by God to save His people.
- 8.3) Q: What does the name “Jesus” mean?
A: It is from the Hebrew name “Joshua” which means "the Lord is salvation."
- 8.4) Q: What does it mean that Jesus is “the Son of God?”
A: That Jesus is from the Father, and like His Father, He is God.
- 8.5) Q: How is Jesus from the Father?
A: Jesus is “eternally begotten” which means He forever and always explains the Father.
- 8.6) Q: But isn't Jesus also a man?
A: Yes, God's eternal Word became human.
- 8.7) Q: So Jesus existed before He was born?
A: Yes, He has always existed and everything was created through Him.
- 8.8) Q: So is Jesus God or man?
A: Jesus is both, fully God and fully man, yet without sin.
- 8.9) Q: Why did Jesus called Himself “the Son of Man?”
A: Jesus represents us to God and He identifies and sympathizes with us.

#9 – God Incarnate

“Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.” - Hebrews 2:14-15

“who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” - Philippians 2:6-8

- 9.1) Q: What do we call this special teaching that the Word of God became man?
A: The incarnation, which means to take on human flesh.
- 9.2) Q: When did Jesus, God's Word and Son, become human?
A: Thousands of years ago, in ancient Israel, to the virgin Mary.
- 9.3) Q: What did Jesus do while He was on the earth?
A: He did miracles to show that He is God's Son and preached God's Word.
- 9.4) Q: What did Jesus preach?
A: That we should turn away from sin, trust in Him and follow Jesus as our King.
- 9.5) Q: What was Jesus' main purpose on becoming human?
A: To die on a cross for the sins of the world so that we may become His.
- 9.6) Q: What happened after Jesus died on the cross?
A: He was put in a tomb for three days and then resurrected on a Sunday.
- 9.7) Q: What does “resurrected” mean?
A: To return back to life with a new and better body.
- 9.8) Q: What happened after Jesus resurrected?
A: After 40 days Jesus bodily went up into heaven to be with His Father.
- 9.9) Q: Why did Jesus go into heaven?
A: To rule with His Father, to watch over us and to send us the Holy Spirit.

#10 – God the Holy Spirit

“But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;” - John 16:7-8

“In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory.” - Ephesians 1:13-14

10.1) Q: Who is the Holy Spirit?

A: He is third Person of the Trinity; fully God yet different from the Father and the Son.

10.2) Q: Where does the Holy Spirit come from?

A: He is sent from heaven by the Father and the Son.

10.3) Q: Where is the Holy Spirit now?

A: He has always been in all of creation, but now especially He is with Christ's people.

10.4) Q: What does it mean that the Holy Spirit “is in all of creation?”

A: The Holy Spirit causes and maintains all existence and gives life.

10.5) Q: When did the Holy Spirit begin working?

A: Since the very beginning of creation, for everything was made through Him.

10.6) Q: What special thing does the Holy Spirit do?

A: He gives new life to God’s people and protects them.

10.7) Q: What does it mean to have this new life?

A: That we turn away from the world and now trust in Jesus as our Lord, Savior and God.

10.8) Q: How does the Holy Spirit protect us?

A: He “seals” us, which means He lives in us so that we will remain faithful.

10.9) Q: The Bible warns against blasphemy of the Spirit, what does that mean?

A: To reject the Spirit’s work of giving faith in Christ.

#11 - Creation

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light."

- Genesis 1:1-3

"The burden of the word of the LORD concerning Israel. Thus declares the LORD who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him," - Zechariah 12:1

- 11.1) Q: Why did God create everything?
A: For His glory, so that the creation will show God's character and nature.
- 11.2) Q: Isn't it wrong for God to focus on His glory?
A: No, since God is the source of goodness He has to desire His own glory.
- 11.3) Q: Does God need His creation?
A: No, God has all life and glory unto Himself.
- 11.4) Q: What is God's plan for the creation?
A: That His creation will worship and honor Him through and for His Son.
- 11.5) Q: What has God created?
A: Everything and everyone, only God has always existed.
- 11.6) Q: How did God create?
A: By simply speaking; God created everything out of nothing by His Word, Jesus Christ.
- 11.7) Q: How is God's Word sent out and applied to creation?
A: The Father and the Son send out the Holy Spirit, who upholds all creation.
- 11.8) Q: What was God's creation originally like?
A: It was good, and with the creation of man, very good.
- 11.9) Q: Is God now far away from His creation?
A: No, God rules and governs all things by His Holy Spirit.

#12 - Providence

"Everyone who is called by My name, and whom I have created for My glory, whom I have formed, even whom I have made." - Isaiah 43:7

"For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God . . . And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." - Romans 8:20-21,28

- 12:1) Q: What do we call this teaching that God rules and governs all things?
A: It is called "providence." That everything that was, is, and will be, is by God's plan.
- 12:2) Q: So is there such a thing as luck or chance?
A: No, everything that happens is by God's holy will.
- 12:3) Q: But if God is good and all-powerful why is there evil?
A: To show God's glory, power and mercy through His Son.
- 12:4) Q: How does evil show God's glory, power and mercy?
A: Creating is amazing enough, but saving and redeeming the creation is far greater.
- 12:5) Q: If we are saved by the Lord Jesus then why do bad things still happen to us?
A: We still live in a fallen world, with fallen bodies, so bad things will happen until Christ's return.
- 12:6) Q: But why doesn't Jesus return now, so we will not have to continue to suffer?
A: Because God is getting all those whom He has chosen for heaven, including those not yet born.
- 12:7) Q: What good is it for believers to suffer?
A: Suffering produces faith and hope, which brings forth love, and so prepares us for heaven.
- 12:8) Q: When good things happen to us is this from God too?
A: Yes, it shows how much God loves and cares for us, and that we should be thankful to Him.
- 12:9) Q: What does the providence of God teach us?
A: Though we might not understand our current suffering all things are working out for our good.

#13 - Angels

“Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called out to another and said, ‘Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory.’”

– Isaiah 6:2-3

“And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.’” – Luke 2:13-14

- 13.1) Q: Besides man, did God make any other creatures that can reason?
A: Yes, God created angels before He made man.
- 13.2) Q: What are angels?
A: Angels are powerful thinking beings who are spirits.
- 13.3) Q: What do angels do?
A: They worship God in heaven and are sent out to do God’s holy will.
- 13.4) Q: Should we focus on, or worship angels?
A: No, they are not God and are just His messengers.
- 13.5) Q: Do we become angels when we go to heaven?
A: No, angels and humans are different creatures.
- 13.6) Q: How are humans and angels different?
A: We are made in the image of God, have physical bodies and only we can be saved in Christ.
- 13.7) Q: Are there evil angels?
A: Yes, some angels fell and became demons, their leader is Satan.
- 13.8) Q: Is Satan the opposite of God?
A: No, though Satan is evil, he was created; only God is the Creator and all powerful.
- 13.9) Q: When will the Devil be stopped?
A: The cross of Christ defeats Satan, and the Devil will be fully stopped when Jesus returns.

#14 – Man

“God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them; and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’” – Genesis 1:27-28

*“Yet You have made him a little lower than God, and You crown him with glory and majesty! You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet,”
– Psalm 8:5-6*

- 14.1) Q: Where does all mankind come from?
A: From our first parents, Adam and Eve.
- 14.2) Q: If Adam and Eve were first, where did they come from?
A: God made Adam from the ground and breathed life into him and Eve was created out of Adam.
- 14.3) Q: What do we call this breath of God that is in us and makes us alive?
A: Our soul.
- 14.4) Q: Why is it important that Adam was created first?
A: Because men are called to guide and protect the family and the church.
- 14.5) Q: Why is it important that Eve was created from Adam?
A: To show how important families are, especially the family of God which is the Church.
- 14.6) Q: How does the creation of Eve show the importance of the Church?
A: The church is like a bride, who is greatly loved by her husband, Jesus Christ.
- 14.7) Q: What is so special about mankind?
A: Only man is made in the image of God and thus is very good.
- 14.8) Q: What does it mean that we are in God’s image?
A: We have soul, can think, be creative and are put in charge of the creation.
- 14.9) Q: If creation, and especially mankind, are so special, then why is there evil?
A: Because sin came into creation, corrupting everything including man.

#15 - Sin

“as it is written, ‘There is none righteous, not even one; There is none who understands, there is none who seeks for God; All have turned aside, together they have become useless; There is none who does good, there is not even one.’” – Romans 3:10-12

“And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.” – Ephesians 2:1-3

- 15.1) Q: What is sin?
A: Sin is not obeying God's law.
- 15.2) Q: Who is sinful?
A: Everyone, because all mankind is sinful from their mother's womb.
- 15.3) Q: Are all sins equally wrong in God's sight?
A: Yes, any and all sin separates us from God and makes God angry.
- 15.4) Q: Why do we sin?
A: Because our body, mind, will and soul are sick with sin, like a disease.
- 15.5) Q: Where does this evil in us come from?
A: With Adam's fall all creation, including mankind, is corrupted by sin.
- 15.6) Q: Why and how did Adam fall?
A: Adam was seduced by Satan to rebel against God and so brought about God's judgment.
- 15.7) Q: What does sin do to us?
A: It makes us dead to God, His enemy and a child of Satan.
- 15.8) Q: How does God react to sin?
A: Because God is good and holy, He hates sin and must punish the wicked.
- 15.9) Q: So is there any hope for us sinners?
A: By, and in ourselves, there is no hope. There is only God's angry judgment.

#16 – Savior

“But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” - Luke 2:10-11

“Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.” - Jude 24-25

- 16.1) Q: So if there is no hope with us, then how can we be saved?
A: Only a powerful Savior can bring peace between a holy God and us sinners.
- 16.2) Q: So what type of Savior do we need?
A: One who is fully God, fully man and yet without sin.
- 16.3) Q: Why does the Savior have to be fully God?
A: Only God can take on and defeat all sin.
- 16.4) Q: Why else does the Savior have to be fully God?
A: Only someone who is God can withstand the Father’s just anger over sin.
- 16.5) Q: Why does the Savior have to be fully man?
A: Only a man can pay for the sins of man.
- 16.6) Q: Why does the Savior have to be without sin?
A: He has to be pure, by keeping all of God’s law and thus pleasing to God.
- 16.7) Q: Why also does the Savior have to be fully God, fully man and without sin?
A: Only the Savior’s perfect innocence, when given to us, can make us right with God.
- 16.8) Q: Who is this Savior that is fully God, fully man and without sin?
A: Only Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
- 16.9) Q: Is there any other way to be saved other than by the Lord Jesus?
A: No, our only hope is Jesus Christ, our Lord, Savior and God.

#17 - Grace

"For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ." - John 1:16-17

"But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace." - Romans 11:6

- 17.1) Q: How do we receive this hope in Jesus Christ?
A: By grace alone.
- 17.2) Q: What is grace?
A: God's kindness and favor to us, even though we don't deserve it.
- 17.3) Q: What does grace do?
A: God's grace makes all good things happen.
- 17.4) Q: Are there different types of grace?
A: Yes, there is common and special grace.
- 17.5) Q: What is common grace?
A: God's kindness and blessings to everyone in this life.
- 17.6) Q: What does common grace give?
A: All good things that happen to us and the ability to do all the good things we do.
- 17.7) Q: What is special grace?
A: The grace that makes a sinner alive to repent, believe and follow Jesus Christ.
- 17.8) Q: Does anything have to be added to God's special grace?
A: No, grace is all we need, and it alone is a gift from God.
- 17.9) Q: What do we call this teaching when God gives saving grace?
A: Election.

#18 – Election

“Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.” – Ephesians 1:4-6

“but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, so that no man may boast before God.” – 1Corinthians 1:27-29

- 18.1) Q: What is election?
A: When God chooses us for salvation in Jesus.
- 18.2) Q: When did God choose us?
A: From the very beginning, before creation.
- 18.3) Q: Why did God choose us?
A: For His glory, to show His love, mercy and justice.
- 18.4) Q: Have we done anything to deserve being chosen?
A: No, not a thing. The Father chooses us solely because He loves us in Christ.
- 18.5) Q: Why does God choose to be merciful to some sinners and not others?
A: Because if election is all by God then no one can boast and trust in themselves.
- 18.6) Q: If we cannot trust ourselves who can we trust in?
A: Jesus Christ, our perfect Savior, Lord and God.
- 18.7) Q: Could someone truly believe in Jesus and still not be chosen?
A: No. True faith in Christ is the sign we are chosen.
- 18.8) Q: What happens to those who are not chosen?
A: They remain in their sins and hatred of God.
- 18.9) Q: What is this full trust, called “assurance,” we have?
A: That we are right with God through our Savior Jesus Christ now and forever.

#19 – Regeneration, Faith & Repentance

“Now after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.’” – Mark 1:14-15

“He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.” – Titus 3:5-7

- 19.1) Q: How does God give us this salvation and assurance?
A: God sends His Holy Spirit into us and makes us alive to Christ.
- 19.2) Q: What do we call this teaching that God makes us alive?
A: Regeneration, or to be born again.
- 19.3) Q: What happens when God regenerates us?
A: God’s grace makes us alive so as to repent of our sins and trust in Jesus Christ.
- 19.4) Q: What is repentance?
A: To turn away from ourselves, sin, the world, and Satan, and to turn to Christ.
- 19.5) Q: What is faith?
A: To know, agree and trust in who Christ is, what He has done, and what He promises.
- 19.6) Q: What does it mean to “know and agree” in Christ?
A: That with our minds we know what the Bible teaches about Jesus and believe it is true.
- 19.7) Q: Is knowing in our mind enough to have saving faith?
A: No, we also have to willfully trust in Christ every day as our Savior and Lord.
- 19.8) Q: What does it mean to trust in Christ every day?
A: To admit that I am not my own, but belong to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.
- 19.9) Q: What happens when we first truly repent and believe in Jesus Christ?
A: We are justified.

#20 – Justification

“As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, as He will bear their iniquities.”
– **Isaiah 53:11**

“For the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Where then is boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law of faith. For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.” – **Romans 3:26-28**

- 20.1) Q: What does it mean to be justified?
A: That God declares us right in His sight and innocent of all our sins.
- 20.2) Q: What have we done to deserve this great gift?
A: Nothing, we deserve death, but God so loves us He forgives us in Christ.
- 20.3) Q: But how can God declare us innocent when we still have sin in us?
A: Because God sees Jesus' perfect righteousness put on us instead of our sins.
- 20.4) Q: What do we call this doctrine of Christ's righteousness being put on us?
A: Imputation; that Christ's perfect obedience to die for us, and His sinless life, is credited to us.
- 20.5) Q: How do we receive Christ's perfection and justification?
A: When we believe in who Jesus is, what He has done, and what He promises us.
- 20.6) Q: Do we have to add works to our faith to be justified?
A: No, we are justified by grace alone, through faith alone, because of Christ alone.
- 20.7) Q: So if we are justified can we now do anything we want? Even bad things?
A: Of course not! If we have new life, and are innocent, how could we want to do bad things?
- 20.8) Q: How do good works fit in with justification?
A: We are justified by faith alone, but the faith that justifies will always produce good works.
- 20.9) Q: Besides being justified, what else happens to us when we first come to faith in Christ?
A: We are not only declared innocent, we are also adopted.

#21 - Adoption

“But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.” – Galatians 4:4-5

*“For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, ‘Abba! Father!’ The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.”
– Romans 8:15-17*

- 21.1) Q: What does it mean to be adopted by God?
A: That we are now God’s beloved children through Jesus and heirs of His Kingdom.
- 21.2) Q: What does it mean we are “heirs of His Kingdom?”
A: That we will inherit all the good things that our heavenly Father has.
- 21.3) Q: When do we get this inheritance?
A: Perfectly at the end of the age, when we receive a redone and sinless new creation.
- 21.4) Q: Is this inheritance only in the future?
A: No, God now loves us as His own in Christ and takes care of us.
- 21.5) Q: How does God take care of us now?
A: Besides giving us all the good things we now have, He also calls us into His church.
- 21.6) Q: How does God take care of us in the church?
A: There we are constantly fed and encouraged by His Gospel and corrected when we stray.
- 21.7) Q: What else do we receive when we are adopted?
A: God seals us with the Holy Spirit so that we will always be His children.
- 21.8) Q: What does it mean to be “sealed” by the Holy Spirit?
A: That all things will work out for our good so that we will go to be with our Father in heaven.
- 21.9) Q: With us being justified and adopted in Christ what must we now do?
A: We must live a life of being thankful to God, which is called sanctification.

#22 – Sanctification

“Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ‘Speak to all the congregation of the sons of Israel and say to them, ‘You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.’”

– Leviticus 19:1-2

“But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” – Romans 6:22-23

22.1) Q: What is sanctification?

A: It is a lifelong walk of holiness, of being thankful to God for saving us in Christ.

22.2) Q: What does it mean to “walk in holiness?”

A: That we have been set apart by Christ to die to sin and live for Him.

22.3) Q: What does it mean to “die to sin?”

A: That we daily turn away for our self, our sins, Satan, and this world and turn to Christ.

22.4) Q: How do we “live for Christ?”

A: To do the good things God commands us to do as found in the Bible.

22.5) Q: Is our hope in the good works we do?

A: No, our hope is in Jesus Christ alone, and the good news that we are His.

22.6) Q: How does knowing we are Christ’s cause us to do good works?

A: The more we trust in Christ, the more we will have hope, which will produce love.

22.7) Q: What is love and whom should we love?

A: Love is to will and desire the other’s good; thus we are called to love God and our neighbor.

22.8) Q: Who is our neighbor?

A: Everyone; any person we meet is our neighbor, and we should do good to him or her.

22.9) Q: If we stumble in our walk with God what happens to us?

A: There might be consequences in this life, but our Savior will always welcome us back.

#23 - The Law

“Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.” – Deuteronomy 6:4-7

“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law? And He said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.’” – Matthew 22:36-40

- 23.1) Q: What is the Law?
A: Commands given by God where He tells us what to “do” and “not to do.”
- 23.2) Q: Where do we find God's Law?
A: It is written in our hearts in our conscience, but especially in the Old Testament.
- 23.3) Q: Is there a place where the Law is simply summed up?
A: Yes, Jesus taught that we should love God and love our neighbor as ourselves.
- 23.4) Q: How do we understand the different laws in the Old Testament?
A: In three ways; there are civil, ceremonial and moral laws.
- 23.5) Q: What is the civil law?
A: The political laws that governed ancient Israel.
- 23.6) Q: What is the ceremonial law?
A: The laws that taught how God was to be worshiped before Christ.
- 23.7) Q: What is the moral law?
A: The laws that tell us how we should treat our neighbor.
- 23.8) Q: Can we obey these laws perfectly and thus be right with God?
A: No, since we are sinners the only way to be right with God is faith in Jesus Christ.
- 23.9) Q: What has the Lord Jesus done with the Law?
A: He has fulfilled it with His death and has removed its judgment against us.

#24 – Purpose of the Law

“But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed. Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.” – Galatians 3:23-25

“But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.” – James 1:25

- 24.1) Q: If the Lord Jesus has fulfilled the Law do we still need the Law?
A: As a means to be declared righteous we don't need it, but the Law is still useful.
- 24.2) Q: How is the Law useful in our lives?
A: The Law acts as a boundary, mirror and a guide.
- 24.3) Q: How is the Law like a boundary?
A: It makes bad people scared of authority and helps leaders make good laws.
- 24.4) Q: How is the Law like a mirror?
A: By showing our sins it drives us to Jesus, and His cross, as our only hope.
- 24.5) Q: How is the Law like a guide?
A: As a new creature in Christ is shows us how to be thankful to God.
- 23.6) Q: If the Law is a guide, do we have to keep all of the Old Testament laws?
A: The civil and ceremonial laws no longer apply, but out of love we keep the moral law.
- 23.7) Q: So we can ignore the civil and ceremonial laws?
A: No, though we no longer keep them, they do show us how holy God is.
- 24.8) Q: When we break the Law what should do we do?
A: We should repent, which means to turn away from that sin and turn to back to Jesus.
- 24.9) Q: Is our hope ever in obeying the Law?
A: Never, the Law is good, but our hope is in Christ and His Gospel alone.

#25 - The Gospel

"Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,"

- 1Corinthians 15:1-4

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'But the righteous man shall live by faith.'"

- Romans 1:16-17

25.1) Q: What is the Gospel?

A: It means "good news" and is the proclamation of Christ's victory won on the cross.

25.2) Q: What is this victory that is proclaimed to us?

A: That because of Christ we are now justified, forgiven and adopted by God.

25.3) Q: What goes with this proclamation?

A: The command to repent and to believe in this good news about Jesus.

25.4) Q: Why is the Gospel so important?

A: It is the power of God.

25.5) Q: How is the Gospel so powerful?

A: It brings judgment when rejected and salvation when believed.

25.6) Q: Who should be told this good news?

A: Everyone, both unbelievers and believers.

25.7) Q: What does the Gospel do to unbelievers?

A: To those called it brings faith, to those who hate God it shows their rebellion.

25.8) Q: What does the Gospel do for believers?

A: It reminds us that we are fully His, which encourages us to do good.

25.9) Q: Where do we go to hear, see and receive the Gospel?

A: We go to the church.

#26 - The Church

"I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven." - Matthew 16:18-19

"And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all." - Ephesians 1:22-23

26.1) Q: What is the church?

A: The gatherings of those who believe in Jesus Christ.

26.2) Q: Where is the church located?

A: In heaven, throughout the world and in local assemblies.

26.3) Q: What is the church in heaven?

A: Those who have died in Christ and are now perfectly with God in glory.

26.4) Q: What is the church throughout the world?

A: All those who believe in Christ alive today, this is called the church universal.

26.5) Q: What is a local assembly?

A: The gathering of believers who bind themselves together in membership in a local church.

26.6) Q: Why do we have to belong to a local church?

A: God commands that we worship together, receive instruction, encouragement and correction.

26.7) Q: Is the church here on earth, whether universal or local, perfect?

A: No, the church is made up of Christians wrestling with sin and even fake Christians.

26.8) Q: Can we know who is a true or fake Christian?

A: No, and we should always be especially kind to those who have the weakest faith.

26.9) Q: Are there things the church should be very concerned about?

A: Yes, the church should always be alert against false worship and false teaching.

#27 - Purpose of the Church

*“If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst.” - **Matthew 18:17-20***

*“I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star. The Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who hears say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.” - **Revelation 22:16-17***

27.1) Q: What is the purpose of the church?

A: Three things: To worship God, to equip believers and to go out into the world.

27.2) Q: What does it mean to worship God?

A: To show honor, praise, respect and submission to God by the ways He commands.

27.3) Q: What does it mean for the church to equip believers?

A: The church teaches, encourages and if necessary corrects Christians who fall into sin.

27.4) Q: What happens if a Christian refuses to take correction about a major sin?

A: That person should be removed from membership and access to the Lord's Supper.

27.5) Q: What if that person repents of that major sin?

A: They should be joyfully welcomed back into the church.

27.6) Q: The church is called to go out into the world and love our neighbor, how do we do this?

A: To be kind and fair with them, helping them in times of need and telling them about the Gospel.

27.7) Q: Can we have non-Christian friends?

A: Yes, but we shouldn't have friends that encourage us to be bad or unfaithful.

27.8) Q: Do we have to go to church?

A: Yes, God commands it, and there we worship God together.

27.9) Q: Why else do we have to go to church?

A: In the local church we receive the Gospel, encouragement and correction.

#28 – Church Government

“In these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,” – Hebrews 1:2-3

“Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” – Hebrews 4:14-16

- 28.1) Q: Who is in charge of the church?
A: Our King, Jesus Christ, who is our perfect High Priest, Prophet and Lord.
- 28.2) Q: What is a priest?
A: In the Old Testament priests offered sacrifices to God on behalf of Israel.
- 28.3) Q: How is the Lord Jesus our perfect High Priest?
A: The Lord Jesus offers the perfect final sacrifice of Himself.
- 28.4) Q: Are there priest today?
A: Not as an office in the church, but all Christians are priests, called to walk after God.
- 28.5) Q: What is a prophet?
A: Some called to speak God’s word.
- 28.6) Q: How is the Lord Jesus our perfect prophet?
A: He is God’s Word who perfectly saves, so we need no other word from God.
- 28.7) Q: How is Jesus our Lord?
A: All authority has been given to Him from His Father, so we must obey Jesus.
- 28.8) Q: How does the Lord Jesus govern His church?
A: Through the Holy Spirit who convicts believers to trust in Christ and obey the Bible.
- 28.9) Q: How do we know a true church from a false church?
A: A true church will worship God, preach the Gospel and teach and obey the Bible.

#29 - Church Leadership

*“Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons:” – **Philippians 1:1***

*“Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.” – **1Peter 5:1-3***

- 29.1) Q: Does the church also have earthly leaders?
A: Yes, the Bible commands local churches to have elders and deacons.
- 29.2) Q: What are elders?
A: Mature men from within the local church who lead, teach and care for the church.
- 29.3) Q: Then what are pastors?
A: Elders who are hired by the church that focus on preaching, teaching and leading worship.
- 29.4) Q: What are deacons?
A: Leaders that help the elders by focusing on the physical needs of the church.
- 29.5) Q: How should we relate to the church's leaders?
A: God wants us to obey, respect, encourage and pray for our church leaders.
- 28.6) Q: Are church leaders above correction?
A: No, church leaders are called to a higher standard, and should be corrected by the church.
- 29.7) Q: Are the elders and deacons closer to God because of their job?
A: No, all Christians are saints and equal in God sight.
- 29.8) Q: But isn't a saint a "super holy" Christian?
A: No, the Bible teaches all believers are saints, because they have been declared holy in Christ.
- 29.9) Q: Are some jobs, whether in the church or in the world, better than others?
A: No, all jobs that do not violate God's Law are equal and cherished in God's sight.

#30 - Worship

“And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. While He was blessing them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they, after worshiping Him, returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising God.” – Luke 24:50-53

“And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying, ‘Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.’” – Revelation 4:9-11

- 30.1) Q: Why does God command that we worship Him?
A: Since God is the Creator, holy, and the source of all goodness, He must be honored.
- 30.2) Q: When are we to worship God?
A: We are called to have a respectful attitude towards God at all times.
- 30.3) Q: Is worship more than just a respectful attitude?
A: Yes, we are called at times to focus on giving glory, respect, honor and blessings to God.
- 30.4) Q: When are these times?
A: At anytime we can worship, however, we are commanded to worship together in the church.
- 30.5) Q: On what day does the church set aside to focus on worship?
A: On Sunday, the day the Lord Jesus resurrected.
- 30.6) Q: How should the church worship God?
A: According to what God commands in the Bible.
- 30.7) Q: What is the most important part of worship?
A: The ministry of the word, where we hear God’s Law and receive Christ’s Gospel.
- 30.8) Q: Where do we find the ministry of the word in worship?
A: In the teaching of the Bible, the preaching of the Gospel and the receiving of the Sacraments.
- 30.9) Q: What else does the Bible include in worship?
A: Prayers, offerings of money and singing, are also mentioned.

#31 - Preaching

"How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!'" – Romans 10:14-15

*"I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction."
– 2Timothy 4:1-2*

- 31.1) Q: What is preaching?
A: Proclaiming God's Law and Gospel through explaining a text from the Bible.
- 31.2) Q: Who is supposed to preach?
A: Men trained in the Bible and who have been approved by the church.
- 31.3) Q: Who usually does the preaching?
A: Pastors on Sunday morning to Christians, and evangelists to the world.
- 31.4) Q: On Sunday morning what is the preaching part of the service called?
A: The sermon.
- 31.5) Q: Why is the sermon so important?
A: It is the normal way God speaks to us.
- 31.6) Q: So is the pastor, or an evangelist, the voice of God?
A: No. The sermon is only God's word when it agrees with the Bible.
- 31.7) Q: How should we receive the sermon?
A: Prayerfully, with a respectful and humble attitude, while our mind is attentive.
- 31.8) Q: What makes a good sermon?
A: If it is from the Bible and clearly teaches God's Law and proclaims the Gospel.
- 31.9) Q: In worship, does God speak to us in other ways besides the preaching of the word?
A: Yes, God speaks to us through the Sacraments.

#32 – Sacraments

“And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’”

– Matthew 28:18-20

“While they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, ‘Take, eat; this is My body.’ And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.’”

– Matthew 26:26-28

32.1) Q: What is a “Sacrament?”

A: It is a ritual command by the Lord Jesus to be used during worship.

32.2) Q: What is the purpose of the Sacraments?

A: They use things we can see, touch and taste to tell us the Gospel.

32.3) Q: Are the Sacraments magical?

A: No, not at all, only faith alone in Christ saves us.

32.4) Q: Do the Sacraments only remind us of Christ?

A: No, they proclaim the Gospel to us so that we are assured of God's love for us.

32.5) Q: How many Sacraments are there?

A: There are only two; Baptism and the Lord's Supper

32.6) Q: What is Baptism?

A: Being washed with water, which shows that we are cleansed by Christ and part of His church.

32.7) Q: What is the Lord's Supper?

A: Being fed with wine and bread, which shows that Christ continues to sustain us.

32.8) Q: How many times should we be baptized?

A: Only once, because Christ had to die only once for our sins.

32.9) Q: How many times should we take the Lord's Supper?

A: Frequently, because we constantly need to receive Christ's Gospel.

#33 - Prayer

"Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have relieved me in my distress; Be gracious to me and hear my prayer." – **Psalm 4:1**

*"It happened that while Jesus was praying in a certain place, after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, 'Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples.' And He said to them, 'When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation.'" – **Luke 11:1-4***

- 33.1) Q: If by Word & Sacrament God speaks to us, how do we talk with God?
A: Prayer is the main way God has given us to talk to Him.
- 33.2) Q: What is prayer?
A: Giving to God our thoughts, desires, fears and joys.
- 33.3) Q: How should we pray?
A: Trusting that our heavenly Father hears and loves us because we pray in Christ's name.
- 33.4) Q: What can we say to God in prayer?
A: We can say anything to God, but we must be respectful.
- 33.5) Q: What things can we include in our prayers?
A: Praising and thanking God, confessing our sins, asking for help and to submit to Him.
- 33.6) Q: Where and when should we pray?
A: We can pray to God at any time and we should frequently pray.
- 33.7) Q: How do we become more mature in prayer?
A: By studying the Bible which teaches us more about Who we are praying to.
- 33.8) Q: Has God given us an example on how we should pray?
A: Yes, the Lord Jesus taught us the Lord's Prayer.
- 33.9) Q: What is the Lord's Prayer?
A: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

#34 - Kingdom

“Now having been questioned by the Pharisees as to when the kingdom of God was coming, He answered them and said, “The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed; nor will they say, ‘Look, here it is!’ or, ‘There it is!’ For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst.” – Luke 17:20-21

“Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” – Matthew 25:34

- 34.1) Q: In the Lord’s Prayer we pray about God’s Kingdom. What is this Kingdom?
A: God’s Kingdom is where the Lord Jesus Christ reigns.
- 34.2) Q: What does “reign” mean?
A: Reign is the act of ruling, where a king has authority to govern his people.
- 34.3) Q: Who is our King?
A: The Lord Jesus is our King and we are His subjects.
- 34.4) Q: Where is the Kingdom of God?
A: Wherever Jesus is worshiped and followed, there is His Kingdom.
- 34.5) Q: When is the Kingdom?
A: It is already and not yet.
- 34.6) Q: How is the Kingdom already?
A: Jesus reigns now over His people, both in heaven and here now in His church.
- 34.7) Q: How does Jesus reign now in His church?
A: By sending the Holy Spirit who gives faith and keeps us faithful as His followers.
- 34.8) Q: How is the Kingdom not yet?
A: The Kingdom will be perfect and everywhere when Jesus returns at the end of the age.
- 34.9) Q: What does it mean when we say Jesus is our Lord and King?
A: That we follow Him, obeying His commands and trusting in.

#35 - Covenant

"I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant with them. And I will place them and multiply them, and will set My sanctuary in their midst forever. My dwelling place also will be with them; and I will be their God, and they will be My people."
- **Ezekiel 37:26-27**

"But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel." - Hebrews 12:22-24

- 35.1) Q: How does God administer His Kingdom?
A: Through covenants.
- 35.2) Q: What is a biblical covenant?
A: An agreement commanded by God between Him and His people with a blood promise.
- 35.3) Q: Why is blood necessary for God's covenants?
A: Covenants are so important they are sealed in blood and if broken there must be death.
- 35.4) Q: So we have to give blood to be a Christian?
A: No, the only blood we need is given at Christ's death, which covers us with His righteousness.
- 35.5) Q: What are the major covenants in the Bible?
A: The major themes are: Works, Grace and Redemption.
- 35.6) Q: What is the Covenant of Works?
A: God promised life to Adam, and everyone after him, if they would perfectly keep the Law.
- 35.7) Q: What happened to the Covenant of Works?
A: Adam, and everyone else, fell into sin, and brought God's judgment and death to man.
- 35.8) Q: What is the Covenant of Grace?
A: God graciously gives eternal life to His people through Jesus Christ's death on the cross.
- 35.9) Q: What is the Covenant of Redemption?
A: From the very beginning, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit agreed to save God's people.

#36 - Marriage

“For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.” – Genesis 2:24

“Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.” – Hebrews 13:4

- 36.1) Q: Does God ordain other covenants besides the ones for salvation?
A: Yes, marriage is one of the most important covenants between humans.
- 36.2) Q: What is marriage?
A: When a man and woman, who are not related, come together to be husband and wife.
- 36.3) Q: Is marriage only between one man and one woman?
A: Yes, all other unions that pretend to be marriage are an offense to God.
- 36.4) Q: What is the purpose of marriage?
A: To support each other, have children, and where physical relations are allowable.
- 36.5) Q: Is marriage the only place where physical relations are allowed?
A: Yes, to have physical relations outside of marriage is sinful.
- 36.6) Q: How long does God want marriages to last?
A: For as long as the husband or the wife lives.
- 36.7) Q: Why does the Bible teach that marriage is like the church?
A: Jesus loves His church, like a good husband loves his wife.
- 36.8) Q: Who should we marry and do you have to get married?
A: We should only marry fellow Christians though God does call some to be single.
- 36.9) Q: Why is marriage so important?
A: From marriage families are created, which with the church, is the foundation of society.

#37 - Family

“Behold, children are a gift of the LORD, the fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one’s youth. How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them; They will not be ashamed when they speak with their enemies in the gate.” - Psalm 127:3-5

“Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband. Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), so that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth. Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.” - Ephesians 5:33-6:4

- 37.1) Q: What is the family?
A: When two or more people live together in a household under the headship of one.
- 37.2) Q: What also is a family?
A: When people are also related by blood or recognized by the law, such as adoption.
- 37.3) Q: Who is the head of the family?
A: God has commanded that husbands lead their household.
- 37.4) Q: How should a husband lead his household?
A: Just as Christ so love His church, a husband should love his wife and family.
- 37.5) Q: How should parents raise their children?
A: They should lovingly train their children in the ways of Lord.
- 37.6) Q: What relationship will we have with our parents in heaven?
A: In heaven we will all be brothers and sisters in Christ.
- 37.7) Q: Why must children obey their parents?
A: God has appointed parents to watch over, instruct, correct and love their children.
- 37.8) Q: Why is the family so important?
A: It is where we first learn to love God and our neighbor, and to respect authority.
- 37.9) Q: Why is this important?
A: It pleases God and makes us good citizens for the church and society.

#38 - Civics

"They said to Him, 'Caesar's.' Then He said to them, 'Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's; and to God the things that are God's.'" – Matthew 22:21

"For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil. Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake. For because of this you also pay taxes, for rulers are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing. Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor." – Romans 13:3-7

- 38.1) Q: How does God govern adults?
A: Through the church and the government.
- 38.2) Q: What is the government?
A: An organization that creates and enforces the laws of a country.
- 38.3) Q: What does the government rule over?
A: Government protects our bodies, while the church protects our souls.
- 38.4) Q: How is the government and the church similar?
A: They're both created by God and their authority comes from Him who will judge both.
- 38.5) Q: How is the government different from the church?
A: Only the government can use force to stop bad people, and only the church has the Gospel.
- 38.6) Q: How does God want us to act as good citizens?
A: By respecting our leaders, obeying the laws and being knowledgeable about our country.
- 38.7) Q: Should Christians be active in politics?
A: Christians can be active in politics, because Christians are a blessing to any country.
- 38.8) Q: Should the church be active in politics?
A: No, the church has the more important task of the Gospel.
- 38.9) Q: What if the government orders us to do something against God's law?
A: We must always obey God first, though the church can never use violence.

#39 – Heaven & Hell

“Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.” – John 14:1-3

“I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that have no more that they can do. But I will warn you whom to fear: fear the One who, after He has killed, has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him!” – Luke 12:4-5

- 39.1) Q: What happens to us when we die?
A: For those in Christ, their soul goes to heaven to be with God.
- 39.2) Q: What happens to the wicked?
A: They go to hell, a place of torment forever.
- 39.3) Q: Why is there a hell?
A: Only an evil judge would ignore sin, so because God is good and just He must punish sin.
- 39.4) Q: What is hell like?
A: The wicked are consumed by their hatred of God and destructive love of sin.
- 39.5) Q: Why is hell forever?
A: Being in the image of God, man will live forever, and those in hell continue to sin.
- 39.6) Q: What is heaven?
A: Heaven is where God dwells in perfection.
- 39.7) Q: What is heaven like?
A: A perfect place of goodness without evil, sin, death, pain or suffering.
- 38.8) Q: What do we do in heaven?
A: We will live with God, and worship Him in joy, with all His people in all perfection.
- 39.9) Q: When do Christians go to heaven?
A: When we die, or those alive at Christ’s return who will directly go into heaven.

#40 - End of the Age

“Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.” – 1Corinthians 15:51-53

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them,”

- Revelation 21:1-3

40.1) Q: When will Christ return to end this current age?

A: No man knows the time of Christ's future return.

40.2) Q: What will the end be like?

A: There will be tribulation, and then Christ will dramatically return descending from heaven.

40.3) Q: What is the tribulation?

A: A time of great evil and disaster when the church will almost be destroyed.

40.4) Q: What happens at Christ's return?

A: All the dead will be made alive, and with those alive at Christ's return, will be judged.

40.5) Q: What happens to those who are evil at this judgment?

A: Wicked humans, along with Satan and the demons, will be thrown into hell.

40.6) Q: What happens to the righteous at this judgment?

A: They enter a new creation, called a “new heaven and new earth.”

40.7) Q: What will this new creation be like?

A: God will be directly among us, so there will be no sin, evil, sorrow, sickness or death.

40.8) Q: Could this new creation fall like the first one?

A: No, sin has been defeated through Christ and will never hurt us again.

40.9) Q: What should I do as I wait for my Lord's return?

A: Trust in my Lord Jesus, who gives me hope and helps me to love God and my neighbor.

Appendix 1 - Books of the Bible

Old Testament

Law/Torah

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

History

Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1Samuel
2Samuel
1Kings
2Kings
1Chronicles
2Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther

Poetry

Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Songs

Prophets

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel
Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiab
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

New Testament

Gospels

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John

History

Acts of the Apostles

Epistles/Letters

Romans
1Corinthians
2Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
1Thessalonians
2Thessalonians
1Timothy
2Timothy
Titus
Philemon
Hebrews
James
1Peter
2Peter
1John
2John
3John
Jude

Apocalypse

Revelation

Appendix 2 – The Ten Commandments

Found in Exodus 20:3-17 & Deuteronomy 5:7-21

Laws for Loving God

- #1 You shall have no other gods before Me.
- #2 You shall not make for yourself an idol . . . You shall not worship them or serve them . . .
- #3 You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain . . .
- #4 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy . . .

Laws for Loving Your Neighbor

- #5 Honor your father and your mother . . .
- #6 You shall not murder.
- #7 You shall not commit adultery.
- #8 You shall not steal.
- #9 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
- #10 You shall not covet . . .

Appendix 3 – The Lord’s Prayer

From Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by Thy name.

Thy Kingdom come.

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

Give us this day our daily bread,

And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us,

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.