

A CATECHISM WITH PROOFS

Compiled By
Charles Haddon Spurgeon
(1834 - 1892)

“Heir of the Puritans”

Spurgeon edited the Baptist Catechism for his own congregation in 1855, when he was 21 years old. On October 14, 1855, Charles Spurgeon preached Sermon No. 46 to several thousand gathered to hear him at New Park Street Chapel. The sermon publication contained an announcement of this Catechism. The text that morning was: “Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations” (Psa 90:1).

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“I am persuaded that the use of a good Catechism in all our families will be a great safeguard against the increasing errors of the times, and therefore I have compiled this little manual from the Westminster Assembly’s and Baptist Catechisms, for the use of my own church and congregation. Those who use it in their families or classes must labor to explain the sense; but the words should be carefully learned by heart, for they will be understood better as years pass. May the Lord bless my dear friends and their families evermore...”—*C. H. Spurgeon*

The **Westminster Shorter Catechism** is the Presbyterian confession of faith adopted in 1648 by the Churches of Scotland, England, and Ireland. The **London Baptist Confession of Faith** was drafted in 1677 and published by the General Assembly of Particular Baptists churches in 1689. Almost identical to the **Westminster Confession**, its primary differences regard congregational church government and believer’s baptism. The **Baptist Catechism** was written in 1693 by William Collins and Benjamin Keach for teaching the doctrines of the *London Confession*. By 1738, this catechism was adopted by the Philadelphia Association of Baptists in America, the spiritual parent of all Baptist churches in the USA. Spurgeon edited and reprinted it in 1855, shortening the expositions of the Ten Commandments and the Lord’s Prayer. Thus, the catechism you hold in your hand is in essence the one used by Baptists in English-speaking countries to train their families for the last 300 years!

82 QUESTIONS

1. What is the chief end of man?
2. What rule has God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy Him?
3. What do the Scriptures principally teach?
4. What is God?
5. Are there more Gods than one?
6. How many persons are there in the Godhead?
7. What are the decrees of God?
8. How does God execute His decrees?
9. What is the work of creation?
10. How did God create man?
11. What are God’s works of providence?
12. What special act of providence did God exercise toward man in the state in which he was created?
13. Did our parents continue in the state in which they were created?
14. What is sin?
15. Did all mankind fall in Adam’s first transgression?
16. Into what estate did the Fall bring mankind?
17. In what consists the sinfulness of that state into which man fell?
18. What is the misery of that state into which man fell?
19. Did God leave all mankind to perish in a state of sin and misery?
20. Who is the Redeemer of God’s elect?
21. How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?
22. What offices does Christ execute as our Redeemer?
23. How does Christ execute the office of a prophet?

24. How does Christ execute the office of a priest?
25. How does Christ execute the office of a king?
26. In what did Christ's humiliation consist?
27. In what does Christ's exaltation consist?
28. How are we made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ?
29. How does the Spirit apply to us the redemption purchased by Christ?
30. What is effectual calling?
31. What benefits do those who are effectively called partake of in this life?
32. What is justification?
33. What is adoption?
34. What is sanctification?
35. What are the benefits which, in this life, either accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification?
36. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at their death?
37. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection?
38. What shall be done to the wicked at their death?
39. What shall be done to the wicked at the Day of Judgment?
40. What did God reveal to man for the rule of his obedience?
41. What is the sum of the Ten Commandments?
42. Which is the first commandment?
43. What is required in the first commandment?
44. Which is the second commandment?
45. What is required in the second commandment?
46. What is forbidden in the second commandment?
47. Which is the third commandment?
48. What is required in the third commandment?
49. Which is the fourth commandment?
50. What is required in the fourth commandment?
51. How is the Sabbath to be sanctified?
52. Which is the fifth commandment?
53. What is required in the fifth commandment?
54. What is the reason annexed to the fifth commandment?
55. Which is the sixth commandment?
56. What is forbidden in the sixth commandment?
57. Which is the seventh commandment?
58. What is forbidden in the seventh commandment?
59. Which is the eighth commandment?
60. What is forbidden in the eighth commandment?
61. Which is the ninth commandment?
62. What is required in the ninth commandment?
63. Which is the tenth commandment?
64. What is forbidden in the tenth commandment?
65. Is any man able perfectly to keep the commandments of God?
66. Are all transgressions of the law equally heinous?
67. What does every sin deserve?
68. How may we escape His wrath and curse due to us for sin?
69. What is faith in Jesus Christ?
70. What is repentance unto life?
71. What are the outward means by which the Holy Spirit communicates to us the benefits of redemption?
72. How is the Word made effective to salvation?
73. How is the Word to be read and heard that it may become effective to salvation?
74. How do Baptism and the Lord's Supper become spiritually helpful?
75. What is baptism?
76. To whom is baptism to be administered?
77. Are the infants of such as are professing believers to be baptised?
78. How is baptism rightly administered?
79. What is the duty of such as are rightly baptised?
80. What is the Lord's Supper?
81. What is required to the worthy receiving of the Lord's Supper?
82. What is meant by the words "until he come," which are used by the Apostle Paul with reference to the Lord's Supper?

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- 1. Q.** What is the chief end of man?
A. Man's chief end is to glorify God (1Co 10:31), and to enjoy Him forever (Psa 73:25-26).
- 2. Q.** What rule has God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy Him?
A. The Word of God which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments (Eph 2:20; 2Ti 3:16) is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify God and enjoy Him (1Jo 1:3).
- 3. Q.** What do the Scriptures principally teach?
A. The Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man (2Ti 1:13; Ecc 12:13).
- 4. Q.** What is God?
A. God is Spirit (Joh 4:24), infinite (Job 11:7), eternal (Psa 90:2; 1Ti 1:17), and unchangeable (Jam 1:17) in His being (Exo 3:14), wisdom, power (Psa 147:5), holiness (Rev 4:8), justice, goodness, and truth (Exo 34:6-7).
- 5. Q.** Are there more Gods than one?
A. There is but one only (Deu 6:4), the living and true God (Jer 10:10).
- 6. Q.** How many persons are there in the Godhead?
A. There are three persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and these three are one God, the same in essence, equal in power and glory (1Jo 5:7; Mat 28:19; 2Co 13:14).
- 7. Q.** What are the decrees of God?
A. The decrees of God are His eternal purpose according to the counsel of His own will, by which, for His own glory, He has foreordained whatever comes to pass (Eph 1:11-12).
- 8. Q.** How does God execute His decrees?
A. God executes His decrees in the works of creation (Rev 4:11) and providence (Dan 4:35).
- 9. Q.** What is the work of creation?
A. The work of creation is God's making all things (Gen 1:1) out of nothing by the Word of His power (Heb 11:3), in six normal consecutive days (Exo 20:11), and all very good (Gen 1:31).
- 10. Q.** How did God create man?
A. God created man, male and female, after His own image (Gen 1:27), in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness (Col 3:10; Eph 4:24), with dominion over the creatures (Gen 1:28).
- 11. Q.** What are God's works of providence?
A. God's works of providence are His most holy (Psa 145:17), wise (Isa 28:29), and powerful (Heb 1:3), preserving and governing all His creatures and all their actions (Psa 103:19; Mat 10:29).
- 12. Q.** What special act of providence did God exercise toward man in the state in which he was created?
A. When God had created man, He entered into a covenant of life with him, upon the condition of perfect obedience (Gal 3:12); forbidding him to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil upon pain of death (Gen 2:17).
- 13. Q.** Did our first parents continue in the state in which they were created?
A. Our first parents, being left to the freedom of their own will, fell from the state in which they were created by sinning against God (Ecc 7:29) by eating the forbidden fruit (Gen 3:6-8).
- 14. Q.** What is sin?
A. Sin is any want of conformity to, or transgression of the law of God (1Jo 3:4).
- 15. Q.** Did all mankind fall in Adam's first transgression?
A. The covenant being made with Adam, not only for himself but for his posterity, all mankind descending from him by ordinary generation, sinned in him, and fell with him in his first transgression (1Co 15:22; Rom 5:12).
- 16. Q.** Into what estate did the Fall bring mankind?
A. The Fall brought mankind into a state of sin and misery (Rom 5:18).

- 17. Q.** In what consists the sinfulness of that state into which man fell?
- A.** The sinfulness of that state into which man fell consists in the guilt of Adam's first sin (Rom 5:19), the lack of original righteousness (Rom 3:10), and the corruption of his whole nature, which is commonly called original sin (Eph 2:1; Psa 51:5), together with all actual transgressions that proceed from it (Mat 15:19).
- 18. Q.** What is the misery of that state into which man fell?
- A.** All mankind, by their fall, lost communion with God, (Gen 3:8, 24) are under His wrath and curse (Eph 2:3; Gal 3:10), and so made liable to all the miseries in this life, to death itself, and to the pains of hell forever (Rom 6:23; Mat 25:41).
- 19. Q.** Did God leave all mankind to perish in the state of sin and misery?
- A.** God having, out of his good pleasure from all eternity, elected some to everlasting life (2Th 2:13), entered into a covenant of grace to deliver them out of the state of sin and misery, and to bring them into a state of salvation by a Redeemer (Rom 5:21).
- 20. Q.** Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?
- A.** The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ (1Ti 2:5), who, being the eternal Son of God, became man (Joh 1:14), and so was, and continues to be, God and man in two distinct natures and one person forever (1Ti 3:16; Col 2:9).
- 21. Q.** How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?
- A.** Christ, the Son of God, became man by taking to Himself a true body (Heb 2:14), and a reasonable soul (Mat 26:38; Heb 4:15), being conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit in the Virgin Mary, and was born of her (Luk 1:31, 35), yet without sin (Heb 7:26).
- 22. Q.** What offices does Christ execute as our Redeemer?
- A.** Christ as our Redeemer executes the offices of a prophet (Act 3:22), of a priest (Heb 5:6), and of a king (Psa 2:6), both in His state of humiliation and exaltation.
- 23. Q.** How does Christ execute the office of a prophet?
- A.** Christ executes the office of a prophet in revealing to us (Joh 1:18) by His Word (Joh 20:31), and Spirit (Joh 14:26), the will of God for our salvation.
- 24. Q.** How does Christ execute the office of a priest?
- A.** Christ executes the office of a priest in His once offering up Himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice (Heb 9:28), and to reconcile us to God (Heb 2:17), and in making continual intercession for us (Heb 7:25).
- 25. Q.** How does Christ execute the office of a king?
- A.** Christ executes the office of a king in subduing us to Himself (Psa 110:3), in ruling and defending us (Mat 2:6; 1Co 15:25), and in restraining and conquering all His and our enemies.
- 26. Q.** In what did Christ's humiliation consist?
- A.** Christ's humiliation consisted in His being born, and that in a low condition (Luk 2:7), made under the law (Gal 4:4), undergoing the miseries of this life (Isa 53:3), the wrath of God (Mat 27:46), and the cursed death of the cross (Phi 2:8); in being buried, and continuing under the power of death for a time (Mat 12:40).
- 27. Q.** In what does Christ's exaltation consist?
- A.** Christ's exaltation consists in His rising again from the dead on the third day (1Co 15:4), in ascending up into heaven, and sitting at the right hand of God the Father (Mar 16:19), and in coming to judge the world at the last day (Act 17:31).
- 28. Q.** How are we made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ?
- A.** We are made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ by the effective application of it to us (Joh 1:12) by His Holy Spirit (Ti 3:5-6).
- 29. Q.** How does the Spirit apply to us the redemption purchased by Christ?
- A.** The Spirit applies to us the redemption purchased by Christ by working faith in us (Eph 2:8), and by it uniting us to Christ in our effective calling (Eph 3:17).
- 30. Q.** What is effectual calling?

- A.** Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit (2Ti 1:9) by which, convincing us of our sin and misery (Act 2:37), enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ (Act 26:18), and renewing our wills (Eze 36:26), He persuades and enables us to embrace Jesus Christ freely offered to us in the Gospel (Joh 6:44-45).
- 31. Q.** What benefits do those who are effectively called partake of in this life?
- A.** Those who are effectively called, in this life, partake of justification (Rom 8:30), adoption (Eph 1:5), sanctification, and the various benefits which, in this life, either accompany or flow from them (1Co 1:30).
- 32. Q.** What is justification?
- A.** Justification is an act of God's free grace in which He pardons all our sins (Rom 3:24; Eph 1:7), and accepts us as righteous in His sight (2Co 5:21), only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us (Rom 5:19), and received by faith alone (Gal 2:16; Phi 3:9).
- 33. Q.** What is adoption?
- A.** Adoption is an act of God's free grace (1Jo 3:1), by which we are received into the number, and have a right to all the privileges, of the sons of God (Joh 1:12; Rom 8:17).
- 34. Q.** What is sanctification?
- A.** Sanctification is the work of God's Spirit (2Th 2:13), by which we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God (Eph 4:24), and are enabled more and more to die to sin, and live to righteousness (Rom 6:10-11).
- 35. Q.** What are the benefits which, in this life, either accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification?
- A.** The benefits which, in this life, accompany or flow from justification (Rom 5:1-2, 5) are: assurance of God's love, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Spirit (Rom 14:17), increase of grace, and perseverance in it to the end (Pro 4:18; 1Jo 5:13; 1Pe 1:5).
- 36. Q.** What benefits do believers receive from Christ at their death?
- A.** The souls of believers are at their death made perfect in holiness (Heb 12:23), and immediately pass into glory (Phi 1:23; 2Co 5:8; Luk 23:43), and their bodies, being still united to Christ (1Th 4:14), rest in their graves (Isa 57:2) till the resurrection (Job 19:26).
- 37. Q.** What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the Resurrection?
- A.** At the Resurrection, believers being raised up in glory (1Co 15:43), shall be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the Day of Judgment (Mat 10:32), and made perfectly blessed both in soul and body in the full enjoying of God (1Jo 3:2) to all eternity (1Th 4:17).
- 38. Q.** What shall be done to the wicked at their death?
- A.** The souls of the wicked shall at their death, be cast into the torments of hell (Luk 16:22-24), and their bodies lie in their graves till the Resurrection, and judgment of the great day (Psa 49:14).
- 39. Q.** What shall be done to the wicked at the Day of Judgment?
- A.** At the Day of Judgment, the bodies of the wicked, being raised out of their graves, shall be sentenced, together with their souls, to unspeakable torments with the devil and his angels for ever (Dan 12:2; Joh 5:28-29; 2Th 1:9; Mat 25:41).
- 40. Q.** What did God reveal to man for the rule of his obedience?
- A.** The rule which God first revealed to man for his obedience is the moral law (Deu 10:4; Mat 19:17), which is summarised in the Ten Commandments.
- 41. Q.** What is the summary of the Ten Commandments?
- A.** The summary of the Ten Commandments is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind; and our neighbour as ourselves (Mat 22:37-40).
- 42. Q.** Which is the first commandment?
- A.** The first commandment is, "You shall have no other gods before me."
- 43. Q.** What is required in the first commandment?
- A.** The first commandment requires us to know (1Ch 28:9) and acknowledge God to be the only true God, and our God (Deu 26:17), and to worship and glorify Him accordingly (Mat 4:10).
- 44. Q.** Which is the second commandment?
- A.** The second commandment is, "You shall not make for yourself any carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to

them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing mercy to thousands to those who love me and keep my commandments.”

- 45. Q.** What is required in the second commandment?
A. The second commandment requires the receiving, observing (Deu 32:46; Mat 28:20), and keeping pure and entire all such religious worship and ordinances as God has appointed in His Word (Deu 12:32).
- 46. Q.** What is forbidden in the second commandment?
A. The second commandment forbids the worshipping of God by images (Deu 4:15-16), or any other way not appointed in His Word (Col 2:18).
- 47. Q.** Which is the third commandment?
A. The third commandment is, “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.”
- 48. Q.** What is required in the third commandment?
A. The third commandment requires the holy and reverent use of God’s names (Psa 29:2), titles, attributes (Rev 15:3-4), ordinances (Ecc 5:1), Word (Psa 138:2), and works (Job 36:24; Deu 28:58-59).
- 49. Q.** Which is the fourth commandment?
A. The fourth commandment is, “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your manservant, nor your maidservant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the Lord made heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.”
- 50. Q.** What is required in the fourth commandment?
A. The fourth commandment requires the keeping holy to God such set times as He has appointed in His Word, expressly one whole day in seven to be a holy Sabbath to Himself (Lev 19:30; Deu 5:12).
- 51. Q.** How is the Sabbath to be sanctified?
A. The Sabbath is to be sanctified by a holy resting all that day, even from such worldly employments and recreations as are lawful on other days (Lev 23:3), and spending the whole time in the public and private exercises of God’s worship (Psa 92:1-2; Isa 58:13-14), except so much as is taken up in the works of necessity and mercy (Mat 12:11-12).
- 52. Q.** Which is the fifth commandment?
A. The fifth commandment is, “Honour your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you.”
- 53. Q.** What is required in the fifth commandment?
A. The fifth commandment requires the preserving of the honour, and performing the duties, belonging to every one in their various positions and relationships as superiors (Eph 5:21-22, 6:1, 5; Rom 13:1), inferiors (Eph 6:9), or equals (Rom 12:10).
- 54. Q.** What is the reason annexed to the fifth commandment?
A. The reason annexed to the fifth commandment is a promise of long life and prosperity—as far as it shall serve for God’s glory, and their own good—to all those who keep this commandment (Eph 6:2-3).
- 55. Q.** Which is the sixth commandment?
A. The sixth commandment is, “You shall not murder.”
- 56. Q.** What is forbidden in the sixth commandment?
A. The sixth commandment forbids the taking away of our own life (Act 16:28), or the life of our neighbour unjustly (Gen 9:6), or whatever tends to it (Pro 24:11-12).
- 57. Q.** Which is the seventh commandment?
A. The seventh commandment is, “You shall not commit adultery.”
- 58. Q.** What is forbidden in the seventh commandment?
A. The seventh commandment forbids all impure thoughts (Mat 5:28; Col 4:6), words (Eph 5:4; 2Ti 2:22), and actions (Eph 5:3).

- 59. Q.** Which is the eighth commandment?
A. The eighth commandment is, "You shall not steal."
- 60. Q.** What is forbidden in the eighth commandment?
A. The eighth commandment forbids whatever will or may unjustly hinder our own (1Ti 5:8; Pro 28:19, 21:6), or our neighbour's wealth, or outward estate (Eph 4:28).
- 61. Q.** Which is the ninth commandment?
A. The ninth commandment is, "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour."
- 62. Q.** What is required in the ninth commandment?
A. The ninth commandment requires the maintaining and promoting of truth between man and man (Zec 8:16), and of our own (1Pe 3:16; Act 25:10) and our neighbour's good name (2Jo 1:12), especially in witness-bearing (Pro 14:5, 25).
- 63. Q.** What is the tenth commandment?
A. The tenth commandment is, "You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbour's."
- 64. Q.** What is forbidden in the tenth commandment?
A. The tenth commandment forbids all discontentment with our own estate (1Co 10:10), envying or grieving at the good of our neighbour (Gal 5:26), and all inordinate emotions and affections to anything that is his (Col 3:5).
- 65. Q.** Is any man able perfectly to keep the commandments of God?
A. No mere man, since the Fall, is able in his life to keep the commandments of God perfectly (Ecc 7:20), but daily breaks them in thought (Gen 8:21), word (Jam 3:8), and deed (Jam 3:2).
- 66. Q.** Are all transgressions of the law equally heinous?
A. Some sins in themselves, and by reason of various aggravations, are more heinous in the sight of God than others (Joh 19:11; 1Jo 5:16).
- 67. Q.** What does every sin deserve?
A. Every sin deserves God's wrath and curse, both in this life and that which is to come (Eph 5:6; Psa 11:6).
- 68. Q.** How may we escape His wrath and curse due to us for sin?
A. To escape the wrath and curse of God due to us for sin, we must believe in the Lord Jesus Christ (Joh 3:16), trusting alone to His blood and righteousness. This faith is attended by repentance for the past (Act 20:21), and leads to holiness in the future.
- 69. Q.** What is faith in Jesus Christ?
A. Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace (Heb 10:39), by which we receive (Joh 1:12), and rest upon Him alone for, salvation (Phi 3:9), as He is set forth in the Gospel (Isa 33:22).
- 70. Q.** What is repentance unto life?
A. Repentance unto life is a saving grace (Act 11:18), by which a sinner, out of a true sense of his sins (Act 2:37), and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ (Joe 2:13), with grief and hatred of his sin, turns from it to God (Jer 31:18-19), with a full purpose to strive after new obedience (Psa 119:59).
- 71. Q.** What are the outward means by which the Holy Spirit communicates to us the benefits of redemption?
A. The outward and ordinary means by which the Holy Spirit communicates to us the benefits of Christ's redemption, are: the Word, by which souls are begotten to spiritual life, Baptism, the Lord's Supper, Prayer and Meditation, by all of which believers are further edified in their most holy faith (Act 2:41-42; Jam 1:18).
- 72. Q.** How is the Word made effective to salvation?
A. The Spirit of God makes the reading, but especially the preaching, of the Word an effective means of convicting and converting sinners (Psa 19:7), and of building them up in holiness and comfort (1Th 1:6), through faith to salvation (Rom 1:16).
- 73. Q.** How is the Word to be read and heard that it may become effective for salvation?
A. That the Word may become effective to salvation, we must attend to it (Pro 8:34) with preparation (1Pe 2:1-2), and prayer (Psa 119:18), receive it with faith (Heb 4:2), and love (2Th 2:10), lay it up in our hearts (Psa 119:11), and practice it in our lives (Jam 1:25).

- 74. Q.** How do Baptism and the Lord's Supper become spiritually helpful?
- A.** Baptism and the Lord's Supper become spiritually helpful, not from any virtue in them, or in him who administers them (1Co 3:7; 1Pe 3:21), but only by the blessing of Christ (1Co 3:6), and the working of the Spirit in those who by faith receive them (1Co 12:13).
- 75. Q.** What is Baptism?
- A.** Baptism is an ordinance of the New Testament, instituted by Jesus Christ (Mat 28:19) to be to the person baptised a sign of his fellowship with Him in His death, and burial, and resurrection (Rom 6:3; Col 2:12), of his being engrafted into Him (Gal 3:27), of remission of sins (Mar 1:4; Act 22:16), and of his giving up himself to God through Jesus Christ, to live and walk in newness of life (Rom 6:4-5).
- 76. Q.** To whom is Baptism to be administered?
- A.** Baptism is to be administered to all those who actually profess repentance towards God (Act 2:38; Mat 3:6; Mar 16:16; Act 8:12, 36-37, 10:47-48), and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and to none other.
- 77. Q.** Are the infants of those who are professing believers to be baptised?
- A.** The infants of those who are professing believers are not to be baptised, because there is neither command nor example in the Holy Scriptures for their baptism (Exo 23:13; Pro 30:6).
- 78. Q.** How is baptism rightly administered?
- A.** Baptism is rightly administered by immersion, or dipping the whole body of the person in water (Mat 3:16; Joh 3:23), in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, according to Christ's institution, and the practice of the apostles (Mat 28:19-20), and not by sprinkling or pouring of water, or dipping some part of the body, after the tradition of men (Joh 4:1-2; Act 8:38-39).
- 79. Q.** What is the duty of those who are rightly baptised?
- A.** It is the duty of those who are rightly baptised to give up themselves to some particular order and Church of Jesus Christ (Act 2:47; Act 9:26; 1Pe 2:5), that they may walk in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless (Luk 1:6).
- 80. Q.** What is the Lord's Supper?
- A.** The Lord's Supper is an ordinance of the New Testament, instituted by Jesus Christ; in which, by giving and receiving bread and wine, according to His appointment, His death is shown forth (1Co 11:23-26), and the worthy receivers are, not after a corporeal and earthly manner, but by faith, made partakers of His body and blood with all His benefits, to their spiritual nourishment and growth in grace (1Co 10:16).
- 81. Q.** What is required of the worthy receiving of the Lord's Supper?
- A.** It is required of those who would worthily partake of the Lord's Supper, that they examine themselves of their knowledge to discern the Lord's body (1Co 11:28-29), of their faith to feed upon him (2Co 13:5), of their repentance (1Co 11:31), love (1Co 11:18-20), and new obedience (1Co 5:8), lest coming unworthy, they eat and drink judgment to themselves (1Co 11:27-29).
- 82. Q.** What is meant by the words "until he come," which are used by the Apostle Paul in reference to the Lord's Supper?
- A.** They plainly teach us that our Lord Jesus Christ will come a second time; which is the joy and hope of all believers (Act 1:11; 1Th 4:16).

