

Knowing & Enjoying Christ in 2007



Daily Readings & Studies for the Christian
April – June 2007

Introduction

This manual is intended to be used by God's people for reading and study. It is comprised of 4 sections. The first is a daily reading schedule which if followed will take you through the whole Bible in one year. The second section is in the form of a question with the answer provided. This is the common catechism method for study and learning. The questions and answers follow the Westminster Shorter Catechism, but have been revised to reflect our understanding of baptism and some other minor points. It also has been modernized in language usage to make it easily understandable. The third section comprises the doctrinal content of the 1689 London Baptist Confession and the 1744 Philadelphia Confession of Faith. These are essentially the same document, the one reflecting the English and the other, the American Baptist Confession of Faith. The 1689 Confession of Faith is an outstanding document, very similar to the great Westminster Confession of Faith, differing again mainly in our view of baptism. The final section is the Bible Study section and can be used to study a portion of God's Word everyday.

The advantage that this manual has is to be seen in that it offers a variety of sections to be used. These may be used completely independent of each other or they may be combined with any of the others to give a deeper and richer study. A person can therefore do his or her daily reading only, or add one of the other sections, or add all the other sections.

As with all reading and study, the key to success is daily discipline. Most believers fail in any kind of study because they are quickly overwhelmed with either the volume required, or the intensity of thought required to understand the material. This manual provides for all believers at various stages of their Christian growth. All Christians should make it their goal to read at a minimum the Bible through once in a year. If this is not possible, then the time period should be extended to two or even three years. The questions and answers given in Section Two are the standard questions and answers required of every child for the last 300 years in Reformed Churches. The power of Section Two and also Section Three is that they can be reviewed on an ongoing basis. In fact both sections would provide a firm theological foundation for any Christian.

It is desired that all believers would make use of this manual in the church. This will promote recognition of doctrine when it is preached and also provides the elders a means whereby they can know what people are reading, studying and meditating on.

The manual is divided by the weeks of the year. This Manual is for the second quarter of the year covering April to June 2007. The remaining sections will be added as they become due. The title on the front cover is the theme of this manual. By using this manual it is our prayer that you would know and enjoy the Savior.

Soli Deo Gloria

The daily Bible Reading Program is designed by Russ Atmore along with the Bible Study Section. The Question and Answers Section and the Doctrinal Study section are derived from the Westminster Shorter Catechism and the London Baptist Confession of 1689 and the Philadelphia Confession of 1744. These have been modernized and adapted for easy reading by Russ Atmore.

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SECTION 1

By following the daily readings you will read through the Bible in one year.

HOW TO READ THE BIBLE

1. The Bible should be read regularly to have the most benefit.
2. The Bible should be read prayerfully asking that God would bless His Word to mind and heart.
3. Find a location that remains consistent whenever you read.
4. Ask questions of the passage that you are reading. What does the passage say about God? What does it say about man and sin? What does it say about the Lord Jesus Christ? Does it apply to you only or is it broad in its application? Are there commandments to be obeyed?
5. Meditate on the Word of God – don't be in a rush to read. Take the time to think about God and what the Bible is saying to you.
6. Always look for and consider the context of what you are reading.
7. Share what you have read with your husband, wife, children or friends.
8. Seek to practice what Scripture teaches?
9. If possible, use a notebook and take notes. There may be words that you don't know the meaning of. Make a note of them so you can look them up later.

SECTIONS 2 & 3

These 2 sections are loaded with Scripture references. Make use of them in reading and studying these sections. There are only 2 questions with answers for each week, so the load is not heavy, and there are 3 parts to the Doctrinal section for each week. These may be studied together or separately depending on time available and preference.

SECTION 4

BIBLE STUDY

The second quarter begins with a study of the book of Ruth. Ruth has many lessons for us about redemption and how God works to accomplish His purposes. We also have studies in the books of Philemon, Lamentations and 1 Thessalonians.

Daily Reading:

Apr. 1	Leviticus 24, 25	John 7
Apr. 2	Leviticus 26, 27	John 8
Apr. 3	Numbers 1, 2	John 9
Apr. 4	Numbers 3, 4	John 10
Apr. 5	Numbers 5, 6	John 11
Apr. 6	Numbers 7, 8	John 12
Apr. 7	Numbers 9, 10	John 13

Questions & Answers:**Q. 27. In what did Christ's humiliation consist?**

ANS. Christ's humiliation consisted in his being born, and in a low condition [a], made under the law [b], undergoing the miseries of this life [c], the wrath of God [d], and the cursed death of the cross [e]; in being buried, and continuing under the power of death for a time. [f]

[a]. Luke 2:7; 2 Cor. 8:9; Gal. 4:4

[b]. Gal. 4:4

[c]. Isa. 53:3; Luke 9:58; John 4:6; 11:35; Heb. 2:18

[d]. Ps. 22:1 (Matt. 27:46); Isa. 53:10; 1 John 2:2

[e]. Gal. 3:13; Phil. 2:8

[f]. Matt. 12:40; 1 Cor. 15:3-4

Q. 28. In what did Christ's exaltation consist?

ANS. Christ's exaltation consisted in his rising again from the dead on the third day [a], in ascending up into heaven [b], in sitting at the right hand [c] of God the Father, and in coming to judge the world at the last day [d].

[a]. 1 Cor. 15:4

[b]. Ps. 68:18; Acts 1:11; Eph. 4:8

[c]. Ps. 110:1; Acts 2:33-34; Heb. 1:3

[d]. Matt. 16:27; Acts 17:31

Doctrinal Study:**Jesus Christ As Our Mediator**

2. The Son of God, the second person in the Holy Trinity, being very God and eternal God, the brightness of the Father's glory, being of one substance and equal with Him who made the world, who upholds and governs all things He has made, did, when the fulness of time was come, take upon Himself man's nature, with all the essential properties and common infirmities thereof, yet without sin; being conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary, the Holy Spirit coming

down upon her: and the power of the Most High overshadowing her; and so He was made of a woman of the tribe of Judah, of the seed of Abraham and David according to the Scriptures; so that His two whole, perfect, and distinct natures were inseparably joined together in one person, without conversion, composition, or confusion; which person is very God and very man, yet one Christ, the only mediator between God and man.

(John 1:14; Gal. 4:4; Rom. 8:3; Heb. 2:14, 16-17; 4:15; Matt. 1:22-23; Luke 1:27, 31, 35; Rom. 9:5; 1 Tim. 2:5)

3. The Lord Jesus, in His human nature thus united to the divine, in the person of the Son, was sanctified and anointed with the Holy Spirit above measure, having in Him all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge; in whom it pleased the Father that all fullness should dwell, to the end that being holy, harmless, undefiled, and full of grace and truth, He might be thoroughly furnished to execute the office of a mediator and surety; which office He took not upon Himself, but was called of by His Father; who also put all power and judgment in His hand, and gave Him commandment to execute the same.

(Ps. 45:7; Acts 10:38; John 3:34; Col. 2:3; Col. 1:19; Heb. 7:26; John 1:14; Heb. 7:22; Heb. 5:5; John 5:22, 27; Matt. 28:18; Acts 2:36)

4. This office the Lord Jesus did most willingly undertake, which He might fulfill since He was made under the law, and did perfectly fulfill it, and underwent the punishment due to us, which we should have borne and suffered, being made sin and a curse for us; enduring most grievous sorrows in His soul, and most painful sufferings in His body; was crucified, and died, and remaining in the state of the dead, yet saw no corruption: and on the third day He rose from the dead with the same body in which He suffered, with which He also ascended into heaven, and there sits at the right hand of His Father making intercession for us, and shall return to judge men and angels at the end of the world.

(Ps. 40:7-8; Heb. 10:5-10; John 10:18; Gal. 4:4; Matt. 3:15; Gal. 3:13; Isa. 53:6; 1 Peter 3:18; 2 Cor. 5:21; Matt. 26:37-38; Luke 22:44; Matt. 27:46; Acts 13:37; 1 Cor. 15:3-4; John 20:25, 27; Mark 16:19; Acts 1:9-11; Rom. 8:34; Heb. 9:24; Acts 10:42; Rom. 14:9-10; Acts 1:11; 2 Peter 2:4)

Bible Study

Ruth 1

1. Take note of the decisions that are made in chapter 1. What impact do they have on all the individuals mentioned?
2. Why do think Ruth said what she did in verses 16, 17? What was she thinking about?
3. Why was there a famine in the land? (Compare Deut. 28 – 30 for some reasons).
4. What does Ruth give up in her decision to follow Naomi? Is there a spiritual lesson for us to give up certain things even though they may be good and acceptable?
5. Make a note of when Naomi and Ruth returned to Bethlehem. Notice the changed condition.

Daily Reading:

Apr. 8	Numbers 11, 12	John 14
Apr. 9	Numbers 13, 14	John 15
Apr. 10	Numbers 15, 16	John 16
Apr. 11	Numbers 17, 18	John 17
Apr. 12	Numbers 19, 20	John 18
Apr. 13	Numbers 21, 22	John 19
Apr. 14	Numbers 23, 24	John 20

Questions & Answers:**Q. 29. How are we made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ?**

ANS. We are made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ, by the effectual application of it to us by His Holy Spirit [a].

[a]. Titus 3:4-7

Q. 30. How does the Holy Spirit apply to us the redemption purchased by Christ?

ANS. The Spirit applies to us the redemption purchased by Christ, by working faith in us [a], and so unites us to Christ in our effectual calling [b].

[a]. Rom. 10:17; 1 Cor. 2:12-16; Eph. 2:8; Phil. 1:29

[b]. John 15:5; 1 Cor. 1:9; Eph. 3:17

Doctrinal Study:**Jesus Christ As Our Mediator**

5. The Lord Jesus, by His perfect obedience and sacrifice of Himself, which He through the eternal Spirit once offered up unto God, has fully satisfied the justice of God, securing our reconciliation, and has purchased an everlasting inheritance in the kingdom of heaven for all those whom the Father has given unto Him.

(Heb. 9:14; 10:14; Rom. 3:25-26; John 17:2; Heb. 9:15)

6. Although the price of redemption was not actually paid by Christ till after His incarnation, yet the virtue, efficacy, and benefits of it, were communicated to the elect in all ages successively from the beginning of the world, in and by those promises, types, and sacrifices in which He was revealed, and signified to be the seed which should bruise the serpent's head; and the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world, being the same yesterday, and to-day, and for ever.

(1 Cor. 4:10; Heb. 4:2; 1 Peter 1:10-11; Rev. 13:8; Heb. 13:8)

7. Christ, in the work of His mediation, acted according to both natures, by each nature doing that which is proper to itself; yet by reason of the unity of the person, that which is proper to one nature is sometimes in Holy Scripture, attributed to the person indicated by the other nature.

(John 3:13; Acts 20:28)

Bible Study

Ruth 2

1. Are there such things as chance happenings? (see 2:3, 20)
2. If not, then can you see where God was working to bring about blessing? Was Naomi's going to the land of Moab in the plan of God? If it was, how was it?
3. Can you see any lessons from Ruth about following the Lord Jesus? (see Luke 9:23, 57 – 62; 14:25 – 33)
4. Have you experienced the blessing of God out of situations or circumstances that you originally thought were disastrous?
5. Look at the qualities displayed by Ruth and Boaz. Are there any that you can follow or emulate?

Daily Reading:

Apr. 15	Numbers 25, 26	John 21
Apr. 16	Numbers 27, 28	Acts 1
Apr. 17	Numbers 29, 30	Acts 2
Apr. 18	Numbers 31, 32	Acts 3
Apr. 19	Numbers 33, 34	Acts 4
Apr. 20	Numbers 35, 36	Acts 5
Apr. 21	Deuteronomy 1, 2	Acts 6

Questions & Answers:**Q. 31. What is effectual calling?**

ANS. Effectual calling is the work of the Holy Spirit, by which He convinces us of our sin and misery, enlightens our minds in the knowledge of Christ [a], and renews our wills [b], and thus He does persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ [c], freely offered to us in the Gospel [d].

[a]. Acts 26:18; 1 Cor. 2:10, 12; 2 Cor. 4:6; Eph. 1:17-18

[b]. Deut. 30:6; Ezek. 36:26-27; John 3:5; Titus 3:5

[c]. John 6:44-45; Acts 16:14

[d]. Isa. 45:22; Matt. 11:28-30; Rev. 22:17

Q. 32. What benefits do we who are effectually called partake of in this life?

ANS. All those who are effectually called in this life, partake of justification, adoption, and sanctification, and the several benefits which in this life either accompany or flow from them [a].

[a]. Rom. 8:30; 1 Cor. 1:30; 6:11; Eph. 1:5

Doctrinal Study:**Jesus Christ As Our Mediator**

8. To all those for whom Christ has obtained eternal redemption, He does certainly and effectually apply and communicate that eternal redemption, making intercession for them; uniting them to Himself by His Spirit, revealing to them, in and by His Word, the mystery of salvation, persuading them to believe and obey, governing their hearts by His Word and Spirit, and overcoming all their enemies By His mighty power and wisdom, in such manner and ways as are most consonant to His wonderful and unsearchable dispensation; and all of free and absolute grace, without any condition foreseen in them to procure or merit such salvation.

(John 6:37; 10:15-16; 17:9; Rom. 5:10; John 17:6; Eph. 1:9; 1 John 5:20; Rom. 8:9, 14; Ps. 110:1; 1 Cor. 15:25-26; John 3:8; Eph. 1:8)

9. The office of Mediator between God and man belongs only to the Lord Jesus Christ, who is Prophet, Priest, and King of the church of God; and as such our Lord in His offices may not either in whole, or in any part, be transferred from Him to any other.

(1 Tim. 2:5)

10. The number and order of the offices of our Lord is necessary; since because of our ignorance, we stand in need of His Prophetic office; and in respect of our alienation from God, and imperfection of the best of our services, we need His Priestly office to reconcile us and present us acceptable to God; and in respect of our averseness and utter inability to return to God, and for our rescue and security from our spiritual adversaries, we need His Kingly office to convince, subdue, draw, uphold, deliver, and preserve us to His heavenly kingdom.

(John 1:18; Col. 1:21; Gal. 5:17; John 16:8; Ps. 110:3; Luke 1:74, 75)

Bible Study

Ruth 3

1. God's loving-kindness is displayed to those who trust Him. How is this evident in the life of Ruth? (compare Lam. 3:22 – 26, 31 – 33; Nah. 1:7; Rom. 8:28)
2. Notice the obedience of Ruth to Naomi (3:1 – 6). Are you obedient when the Lord speaks to you through His Word? What stands out in the obedience of Ruth?
3. The word for "kinsman" is the Hebrew word *goel*, which means "next of kin". What is Naomi's thinking (do you think) in mentioning this to Ruth in verse 2, and Ruth's mentioning it to Boaz in verse 9)

Daily Reading:

Apr. 22	Deuteronomy 3, 4	Acts 7
Apr. 23	Deuteronomy 5, 6	Acts 8
Apr. 24	Deuteronomy 7, 8	Acts 9
Apr. 25	Deuteronomy 9, 10	Acts 10
Apr. 26	Deuteronomy 11, 12	Acts 11
Apr. 27	Deuteronomy 13, 14	Acts 12
Apr. 28	Deuteronomy 15, 16	Acts 13

Questions & Answers:**Q. 33. What is justification?**

ANS. Justification is an act of God's free grace [a], by which He pardons all our sins [b], and accepts us as righteous in His sight [c], only by virtue of the righteousness of Christ imputed to us [d], and received by faith alone [e].

[a]. Rom. 3:24

[b]. Rom. 4:6-8; 2 Cor. 5:19

[c]. 2 Cor. 5:21

[d]. Rom. 4:6, 11; 5:19

[e]. Gal. 2:16; Phil. 3:9

Q. 34. What is adoption?

ANS. Adoption is an act of God's free grace [a], by which we are received into the number of God's children, and have a right to all of the privileges of the sons of God [b].

[a]. 1 John 3:1

[b]. John 1:12; Rom. 8:17

Doctrinal Study:**Free Will**

1. God has endued the will of man with that natural liberty and power of acting upon choice, that it is neither forced, nor by any necessity of nature determined to do good or evil.

(Matt. 17:12; James 1:14; Deut. 30:19)

2. Man, in his state of innocency, had freedom and power to will and to do that which was good and well-pleasing to God, but yet was unstable, so that he might fall from it.

(Eccl. 7:29; Gen. 3:6)

3. Man, by his fall into a state of sin, lost completely all ability of will to any spiritual good accompanying salvation; so as a natural man, being altogether averse from good, and dead in sin, is not able by his own strength to convert himself, or to prepare himself to salvation. (Rom. 5:6; 8:7; Eph. 2:1, 5; Titus 3:3-5; John 6:44)

Bible Study

Ruth 4

1. Study the following passages that deal with the role of a kinsman – Lev. 25:25 - 34, 47 – 49 (Consider the implications of Deut. 25:5 – 10).
2. What must a kinsman-redeemer be able and willing to do (compare Ruth 3:9; 4:4 – 6; Gal. 3:13, 14; Heb. 2:14, 15)
3. Would you agree that the main lesson in the book of Ruth is about God’s tender care and involvement in the small details of our lives? If you do, how does this apply to your situation?
4. What reward did Ruth receive from Boaz and from the Lord (see Ruth 4:11 – 22)

Daily Reading:

Apr. 29	Deuteronomy 17, 18	Acts 14
Apr. 30	Deuteronomy 19, 20	Acts 15
May 1	Deuteronomy 21, 22	Acts 16
May 2	Deuteronomy 23, 24	Acts 17
May 3	Deuteronomy 25, 26	Acts 18
May 4	Deuteronomy 27, 28	Acts 19
May 5	Deuteronomy 29, 30	Acts 20

Questions & Answers:**Q. 35. What is sanctification?**

ANS. Sanctification is the work of God's free grace [a], by which we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God [b], and are enabled more and more to die to sin, and live to righteousness [c].

[a]. Ezek. 36:27; Phil. 2:13; 2 Thess. 2:13

[b]. 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 4:23-24; 1 Thess. 5:23

[c]. Ezek. 36:25-27; Rom. 6:4, 6, 12-14; 2 Cor. 7:1; 1 Pet. 2:24

Q. 36. What are the benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification?

ANS. The benefits in this life which accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification, are the assurance of God's love [a], peace of conscience [b], joy in the Holy Spirit [c], the increase of grace [d], and the perseverance of ourselves to the end [e].

[a]. Rom. 5:5

[b]. Rom. 5:1

[c]. Rom. 14:17

[d]. 2 Pet. 3:18

[e]. Phil. 1:6; 1 Pet. 1:5

Doctrinal Study:**Free Will**

4. When God converts a sinner, and translates him into the state of grace, He frees him from his natural bondage under sin, and by His grace alone enables him freely to will and to do that which is spiritually good; but by reason of his remaining corruptions and sins, he does not perfectly, nor only will, that which is good, but does also chooses and does that which is evil.

(Col. 1:13; John 8:36; Phil. 2:13; Rom. 7:15, 18-19, 21, 23)

5. The will of man is made perfectly and immutably free to good alone in the state of glory only.
(Eph. 4:13)

Effectual Calling

1. Those whom God hath predestined to life, He is pleased in His appointed and accepted time, effectually to call, by His Word and Spirit, out of that state of sin and death in which they are by nature, to grace and salvation by Jesus Christ; enlightening their minds spiritually and savingly to understand the things of God; taking away their heart of stone, and giving to them a heart of flesh: renewing their wills, and by His almighty power bringing them to that which is good, and effectually drawing them to Jesus Christ; but in such a way that they come most freely, being made willing by His grace.

(Rom. 8:30; 11:7; Eph. 1:10-11, 2 Thess. 2:13-14; Eph. 2:1-6; Acts 26:18; Eph. 1:17-18; Ezek.36:26; Deut. 30:6; Ezek.36:27; Eph. 1:19; Ps. 110:3; Song of Sol. 1:4)

Bible Study

Philemon

1. Consider of the degrees of difficulty each person in the book had to face (Paul, Onesimus and Philemon). Who do you think would have had the hardest time?
2. If a Christian wronged you, would you be willing to forgive and receive them back into intimate fellowship or would you keep them at a distance because of the wrong done to you? Would they be useful to you or not?
3. What does Paul ask Philemon to do with Onesimus? Could you do the same?
4. What is true reconciliation and forgiveness? Has God done this with you? What impact does this have on your Christian life?
5. What does the book of Philemon reveal to us about the Apostle Paul? Was he doing what he said the Colossian Christians should do? (Philemon was from Colosse) – see Col. 3:12 – 14.

Daily Reading:

May 6	Deuteronomy 31, 32	Acts 21
May 7	Deuteronomy 33, 34	Acts 22
May 8	Joshua 1, 2	Acts 23
May 9	Joshua 3, 4	Acts 24
May 10	Joshua 5, 6	Acts 25
May 11	Joshua 7, 8	Acts 26
May 12	Joshua 9, 10	Acts 27

Questions & Answers:**Q. 37. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at death?**

ANS. The souls of believers are at their death made perfect in holiness [a], and do immediately pass into glory [b]; and their bodies, being still united to Christ [c], do rest in their graves until the Resurrection [d].

[a]. Heb. 12:23

[b]. Luke 23:43; 2 Cor. 5:6, 8; Phil. 1:23

[c]. 1 Thess. 4:14

[d]. Dan. 12:2; John 5:28-29; Acts 24:15

Q. 38. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the Resurrection?

ANS. At the Resurrection, believers being raised up in glory [a], shall be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the day of judgment [b], and made perfectly blessed in the full enjoyment of God [c] for all eternity [d].

[a]. 1 Cor. 15:42-43

[b]. Matt. 25:33-34, 46

[c]. Rom. 8:29; 1 John 3:2

[d]. Ps. 16:11; 1 Thess. 4:17

Doctrinal Study:**Effectual Calling**

2. This effectual call is of God's free and special grace alone, not from anything at all foreseen in man, nor from any power or agency in man, who is completely passive therein, who is also dead in sins and trespasses, until he is quickened and renewed by the Holy Spirit; only then is he enabled to answer this call, and to embrace the grace offered and conveyed in it, and that by no less power than that which raised up Christ from the dead.

(2 Tim. 1:9; Eph. 2:8; 1 Cor. 2:14; Eph. 2:5; John 5:25; Eph. 1:19-20)

3. Infants dying in infancy are regenerated and saved by Christ through the Holy Spirit; who works when, and where, and how He pleases; so also, all elect persons, who are incapable of being outwardly called by the ministry of the Word are regenerated and saved
(John 3:3, 5-6; John 3:8)

4. Those who are not elected, although they may be called by the ministry of the Word, and may have some common operations of the Spirit, yet because they are not effectually drawn by the Father, they can never will nor truly come to the Lord Jesus Christ, and therefore cannot be saved. No person can be saved, who is so diligent to frame their lives according to the light of nature and the law of that religion which they may profess. The regeneration of the Holy Spirit is fundamental and necessary to any person's salvation

(Matt. 22:14; 13:20-21; Heb. 6:4-5; John 6:44-45, 65; 1 John 2:24-25 ; Acts 4:12; John 4:22; 17:3)

Bible Study

Lamentations 1

1. Why does Jeremiah mourn and for what does he mourn?
2. How do you regard Lam. 2:5, 6 and 3:22, 23 in the light of the condition of Jerusalem and her people?
3. What is the cause of Jerusalem's desolation? – see vv. 8 -11, in the light of vv. 1 – 7.
4. Jerusalem's cup of sorrow is made up of what? See verses 5, 8, 9, 12, 14, 17, 18, 20 – compare these with Lev. 26:27 – 33 and Heb. 10:29 – 31.
5. Was the tragedy mourned by Jeremiah preventable or avoidable? What does this say to you regarding sin in your life?
6. In what sense do you see the sufferings of the Lord Jesus in Lam. 1:12?

Daily Reading:

May 13	Joshua 11, 12	Acts 28
May 14	Joshua 13, 14	1 Corinthians 1
May 15	Joshua 15, 16	1 Corinthians 2
May 16	Joshua 17, 18	1 Corinthians 4
May 17	Joshua 19, 20	1 Corinthians 5
May 18	Joshua 21, 22	1 Corinthians 6
May 19	Joshua 23, 24	1 Corinthians 7

Questions & Answers:**Q. 39. What is the duty which God requires of man?**

ANS. The duty which God requires of man, is obedience to His revealed will [a].

[a]. Deut. 29:29; Mic. 6:8; 1 John 5:2-3

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

ANS. The rule which God at first revealed to man for his obedience, was the Moral Law [a].

[a]. Rom. 2:14-15; 10:5

Doctrinal Study:**Justification**

1. Those whom God effectually calls, He also freely justifies, not by infusing righteousness into them, but by pardoning their sins, and by accounting and accepting their persons as righteous; not for anything wrought in them, or done by them, but for Christ's sake alone; not by imputing faith itself, the act of believing, or any other evangelical obedience to them, as their righteousness; but by imputing Christ's active obedience unto the whole law, and passive obedience in His death for their whole and sole righteousness, they receiving and resting on Him and His righteousness by faith, which faith they have not of themselves; because it is the gift of God.

(Rom. 3:24; 8:30; Rom. 4:5-8; Eph. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:30-31; Rom. 5:17-19; Phil. 3:8-9; Eph. 2:8-10; John 1:12; Rom. 5:17)

2. Faith thus receiving and resting on Christ and His righteousness, is therefore the alone instrument of justification; yet it is not alone in the person justified, but ever accompanied with all other saving graces, and is not a dead faith, but works by love.

(Rom. 3:28; Gal. 5:6; James 2:17, 22, 26)

3. Christ, by His obedience and death, did fully discharge the debt of all those that are justified; and did, by the sacrifice of Himself in the blood of His cross, undergoing in their stead the penalty due to them, make a proper, real, and full satisfaction to God's justice in their behalf, yet inasmuch as He

was given by the Father for them, and His obedience and satisfaction accepted in their stead, and both freely, not for anything in them, their justification is only of free grace, that both the exact justice and rich grace of God might be glorified in the justification of sinners.
(Heb. 10:14; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Isa. 53:5-6; Rom. 8:32; 2 Cor. 5:21; Rom. 3:26; Eph. 1:6-7; 2:7)

Bible Study

Lamentations 2, 3

1. Consider the anger of God in 2:1 – 9. Why is God angry?
2. Meditate on the devastation listed in 2:9. The city is destroyed, the people, the king and the princes are in exile, the Law is no more and the prophets have no word from God. This is a picture of spiritual desolation. Have you ever being in this situation, and if you have how did you recover from it?
3. Is there evidence in chapter 2 that the judgments of God were having their intended effect upon the people (compare 2 Chron. 7:13, 14). Are you sensitive to God's dealing with you? Meditate on Lam. 2:17.
4. Notice the significant difference in Lam. 3:19, 20 and 21.
5. Notice the intensity of Jeremiah's suffering in 3: 1 – 18. Notice all the references to what the Lord has done to Jeremiah in chapter 3:1 – 18, and compare these verses with the rest of chapter 3.

Daily Reading:

May 20	Judges 1, 2	1 Corinthians 8
May 21	Judges 3, 4	1 Corinthians 9
May 22	Judges 5, 6	1 Corinthians 10
May 23	Judges 7, 8	1 Corinthians 11
May 24	Judges 9, 10	1 Corinthians 12
May 25	Judges 11, 12	1 Corinthians 13
May 26	Judges 13, 14	1 Corinthians 14

Questions & Answers:**Q. 41. Where do we find the Moral Law laid down for us?**

ANS. The Moral Law is given to us in the Ten Commandments [a].

[a]. Deut. 4:13; Matt. 19:17-19

Q. 42. What is the sum of the Ten Commandments?

ANS. The sum of the Ten Commandments is, to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind; and our neighbor as ourselves [a].

[a]. Matt. 22:37-40

Doctrinal Study:**Justification**

4. God did from all eternity decree to justify all the elect, and Christ did in the fullness of time die for their sins, and rise again for their justification; nevertheless, they are not justified personally, until the Holy Spirit does in time actually apply Christ to them.

(Gal. 3:8; 1 Peter 1:2; 1 Tim. 2:6; Rom. 4:25; Col. 1:21-22; Titus 3:4-7)

5. God continues to forgive the sins of those that are justified, and although they can never fall from the state of justification, yet they may, by their sins, fall under God's fatherly displeasure; and in that condition they do not usually have the light of His countenance upon them, until they humble themselves, confess their sins, beg His pardon, and renew their faith and repentance.

(Matt. 6:12; 1 John 1:7, 9; John 10:28; Ps. 89:31-33; Ps. 32:5; Ps. 51:1-19; Matt. 26:75)

6. The justification of believers under the Old Testament was, in all these respects, one and the same with the justification of believers under the New Testament.

(Gal. 3:9; Rom. 4:22-24)

Bible Study

Lamentations 4, 5

1. Who is affected by the divine judgment in chapter 4? Make a list of all these.
2. What caused such a great catastrophe (compare Jer. 23:9 – 40)
3. List some of the conditions in the land from chapter 5.
4. Before there can be restoration there has to be repentance. How does Jeremiah reflect this in chapter 5?
5. Finish this study in Lamentations by focusing on Lam. 3:21 – 25. How is this applicable to you?

Daily Reading:

May 27	Judges 15, 16	1 Corinthians 15
May 28	Judges 17, 18	1 Corinthians 16
May 29	Judges 19, 20	2 Corinthians 1
May 30	Judges 21, Ruth 1	2 Corinthians 2
May 31	Ruth 2, 3	2 Corinthians 3
June 1	Ruth 4, 1 Samuel 1	2 Corinthians 4
June 2	1 Samuel 2, 3	2 Corinthians 5

Questions & Answers:**Q. 43. What is the preface to the Ten Commandments?**

ANS. The preface to the Ten Commandments is in these words, I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. [a]

[a]. Ex. 20:2; Deut. 5:6

Q. 44. What does the preface to the Ten Commandments teach us?

ANS. The preface to the Ten Commandments teaches us, that because God is the Lord, and our God, and Redeemer, we are therefore bound to keep all His commandments [a].

[a]. Luke 1:74-75; 1 Pet. 1:14-19

Doctrinal Study:**Adoption**

1. All those that are justified, God has vouchsafed, in and for the sake of His only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to make us partakers of the grace of adoption, by which we are taken into the number, and enjoy the liberties and privileges of the children of God, and have His name put on us, receive the spirit of adoption, have access to the throne of grace with boldness, are enabled to cry Abba, Father, are pitied, protected, provided for, and chastened by God as by a Father, yet never cast off, but sealed to the day of redemption, and do inherit all the promises of God as heirs of everlasting salvation.

(Eph. 1:5; Gal. 4:4-5; John 1:12; Rom. 8:17; 2 Cor. 6:18; Rev. 3:12; Rom. 8:15; Gal. 4:6; Eph. 2:18; Ps. 103:13; Prov. 14:26; 1 Peter 5:7; Heb. 12:6; Isa. 54:8-9; Lam. 3:31; Eph. 4:30; Heb. 1:14; 6:12)

Sanctification

1. All those who are united to Christ, effectually called, and regenerated, having a new heart and a new spirit created in them through the virtue of Christ's death and resurrection, are also farther sanctified, really and personally through the same virtue, by His Word and Spirit dwelling in them; the dominion of the whole body of sin is destroyed, and our various lusts are more and more

weakened and mortified, and we are more and more quickened and strengthened in all saving graces, to the practice of all true holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.

(Acts 20:32; Rom. 6:5-6; John 17:17; Eph. 3:16-19; 1 Thess. 5:21-23; Rom. 6:14; Gal. 5:24; Col. 1:11; 2 Cor. 7:1; Heb. 12:14)

2. This sanctification is throughout the whole man, yet imperfect in this life; because there abides still some remnants of corruption in every part, from which rises a continual and irreconcilable war; the flesh lusting against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh.

(1 Thess. 5:23; Rom. 7:18, 23; Gal. 5:17; 1 Peter 2:11)

Bible Study

1 Thessalonians 1

1. Read about the founding of the church at Thessalonica in Acts 17: 1- 10.
2. How did the Thessalonians become Christians as indicated by chapter 1?
3. Consider these 3 truths: faith, love, and hope in the light of Christ's return – see verse 3, 9, 10.
4. What is connected in verse 3 with faith, love and hope?
5. Study the contrast between the Thessalonians former way of life with their faith in Christ – see vv. 9, 10.
6. How did they receive the Word of God, and what did they do with the Word in response? Is the church like this today?

Daily Reading:

June 3	1 Samuel 4, 5	2 Corinthians 6
June 4	1 Samuel 6, 7	2 Corinthians 7
June 5	1 Samuel 8, 9	2 Corinthians 8
June 6	1 Samuel 10, 11	2 Corinthians 9
June 7	1 Samuel 12, 13	2 Corinthians 10
June 8	1 Samuel 14, 15	2 Corinthians 11
June 9	1 Samuel 16, 17	2 Corinthians 12

Questions & Answers:**Q. 45. What is the first commandment?**

ANS. The first commandment is, You shall have no other gods before Me. [a]

[a]. Ex. 20:3; Deut. 5:7

Q. 46. What is required in the first commandment?

ANS. The first commandment requires us to know and acknowledge God to be the only true God, and our God; and to worship and glorify Him accordingly [a].

[a]. 1 Chron. 28:9; Isa. 45:20-25; Matt. 4:10

Doctrinal Study:**Sanctification**

3. In which war, although the remaining corruption for a time may greatly prevail, yet, through the continual supply of strength from the sanctifying Spirit of Christ, the believer does overcome; and so the saints grow in grace, perfecting holiness in the fear of God, pressing after an heavenly life, in evangelical obedience to all the commands which Christ as Head and King, in His Word has prescribed to them.

(Rom. 7:23; Rom. 6:14; Eph. 4:15-16; 2 Cor. 3:18; 7:1)

Saving Faith

1. The grace of faith, by which the elect are enabled to believe to the saving of their souls, is the work of the Spirit of Christ in their hearts, and is usually brought about by the ministry of the Word; which by the administration of baptism and the Lord's Supper, prayer, and other means of grace appointed by God, is increased and strengthened.

(2 Cor. 4:13; Eph. 2:8; Rom. 10:14, 17; Luke 17:5; 1 Peter 2:2; Acts 20:32)

2. By this faith a Christian believes to be true whatever is revealed in the Word as being of the authority of God Himself, and also apprehends an excellency in The Holy Scriptures above all other writings and all things in the world, as it bears forth the glory of God in His attributes, the

excellency of Christ in His nature and offices, and the power and fullness of the Holy Spirit in His workings and operations: and so the believer is enabled to cast his soul upon the truth of God which he has believed; who also acts differently upon that which each particular passage contains; yielding obedience to the commands, trembling at the threatenings, and embracing the promises of God for this life and that which is to come; but the principle acts of saving faith have immediate relation to Christ, accepting, receiving, and resting upon Him alone for justification, sanctification, and eternal life, by virtue of the covenant of grace.

(Acts 24:14; Ps. 19:7-10; 119:72; 2 Tim. 1:12; John 15:14; Isa. 66:2; Heb. 11:13; John 1:12; Acts 16:31; Gal. 2:20; Acts 15:11)

Bible Study

1 Thessalonians 2

1. Make a note of the characteristics of a faithful Christian worker from chapter 2 (compare vv. 1 – 12, 17 – 20).
2. How can you improve on any of these characteristics?
3. Why is the Word of God not received by all? See vv. 13 -16. How does Satan thwart or hinder the Word of God?

Daily Reading:

June 10	1 Samuel 18, 19	2 Corinthians 13
June 11	1 Samuel 20, 21	Galatians 1
June 12	1 Samuel 22, 23	Galatians 2
June 13	1 Samuel 24, 25	Galatians 3
June 14	1 Samuel 26, 27	Galatians 4
June 15	1 Samuel 28, 29	Galatians 5
June 16	1 Samuel 30, 31	Galatians 6

Questions & Answers:**Q. 47. What is forbidden in the first commandment?**

ANS. The first commandment forbids the denying [a], or not worshipping and glorifying the true God as God [b], and our God [c]; and the giving of that worship and glory to any other, which is due to God alone [d].

[a]. Ps. 14:1

[b]. Rom. 1:20-21

[c]. Ps. 81:10-11

[d]. Ezek. 8:16-18; Rom. 1:25

Q. 48. What are we specially taught by these words, "before me," in the first commandment?

ANS. These words, *before me*, in the first commandment teach us, that God, who sees all things, takes notice of, and is much displeased with, the sin of having any other God [a].

[a]. Deut. 30:17-18; Ps. 44:20-21; Ezek. 8:12

Doctrinal Study:**Saving Faith**

3. This faith, although it be different in degrees, and may be weak or strong, yet it is in the least degree of it different in the kind or nature of it, as is all other saving grace, from the faith and common grace of temporary believers; and therefore, though it may be many times assailed and weakened, yet it gets the victory, growing up in the attainment of a full assurance through Christ, who is both the author and finisher of our faith.

(Heb. 5:13-14; Matt. 6:30; Rom. 4:19-20; 2 Peter 1:1; Eph. 6:16; 1 John 5:4-5; Heb. 6:11-12; Col. 2:2; Heb. 12:2)

Repentance

1. Those of the elect who are converted in later years, having sometime lived in the state of nature, and therein served various lusts and pleasures, God in their effectual calling gives them repentance unto life.

(Titus 3:2-5)

2. Since there is none that does good and does not sin, and the best of men may, through the power and deceitfulness of their corruption dwelling in them, with the prevalency of temptation, fall into great sins against God; God has, in the covenant of grace, mercifully provided that believers who so sin and fall be renewed through repentance to salvation.

(Eccl. 7:20; Luke 22:31-32)

Bible Study

1 Thessalonians 3

1. What should we pray for when we pray for other Christians? How does Paul pray for the Thessalonians?

2. Does chapter 3 say anything about suffering for Christ?

Review John 16:33; 2 Tim. 3:12; 1 Pet. 5:8, 9 and list ways how to successfully face suffering.

3. What does Paul mean when he says that we have been destined for afflictions in verse 3?

4. Meditate on the doxological implications of verses 11 through 13, and what they mean for the believer.

Daily Reading:

June 17	2 Samuel 1, 2	Ephesians 1
June 18	2 Samuel 3, 4	Ephesians 2
June 19	2 Samuel 5, 6	Ephesians 3
June 20	2 Samuel 7, 8	Ephesians 4
June 21	2 Samuel 9, 10	Ephesians 5
June 22	2 Samuel 11, 12	Ephesians 6
June 23	2 Samuel 13, 14	Philippians 1

Questions & Answers:**Q. 49. What is the second commandment?**

ANS. The second commandment is, You shalt not make unto yourselves any graven 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 upon the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me; and showing mercy to thousands of those who love me, and keep my commandments. [a]

[a]. Ex. 20:4-6; Deut. 5:8-10

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

ANS. The second commandment requires the receiving, observing, and keeping pure and entire, all such religious worship and ordinances as God hath appointed in his Word [a].

[a]. Deut. 12:32; Matt. 28:20

Doctrinal Study:**Repentance**

3. This saving repentance is an evangelical grace, by which a person, being by the Holy Spirit made sensible of the manifold evils of his sin, does, by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, humble himself with godly sorrow, detesting his sins, and with self-aborrancy, prays for pardon and strength of grace, with a purpose and endeavor, by the help of the Holy Spirit, to walk before God and be well-pleasing in all things to Him.

(Zech.12:10; Acts 11:18; Ezek.36:31; 2 Cor. 7:11; Ps. 119:6, 128)

4. As repentance is to be continued through the whole course of our lives, because of our body of death, and what issues from it, so it is every man's duty to repent of his particular known sins particularly.

(Luke 19:8; 1 Tim. 1:13, 15)

5. Such is the provision which God has made through Christ in the covenant of grace for the preservation of believers unto salvation, that although there is no sin so small but it deserves damnation, yet there is no sin so great that it shall bring damnation on those who repent, which makes the constant preaching of repentance necessary.

(Rom. 6:23; Isa. 1:16-18; 55:7)

Bible Study

1 Thessalonians 4

1. What is the will of God for the Christian as described in verses 1 – 12?
2. How is a Christian to walk before his or her fellow Christians, and why should we walk in this way?
3. How can the Lord's return be said to bring us comfort in verse 18?
4. Is 1 Thess. 4:13 -18 primarily concerned with the rapture or the Resurrection? Depending on your answer to this question, what is the relationship of the one to the other? (The English word "rapture" is not in the NT – it is derived from the Latin word "rapio" – *caught up*)
5. What are the Thessalonians not to grieve? Is it because Jesus is coming or because there will be a resurrection? What does your answer to this question tell you about the prevailing view among churches and Christians about the rapture as opposed to the Resurrection?
6. On what grounds are you certain that what is described in verses 13 -18 will happen to you?

Daily Reading:

June 24	2 Samuel 15, 16	Philippians 2
June 25	2 Samuel 17, 18	Philippians 3
June 26	2 Samuel 19, 20	Philippians 4
June 27	2 Samuel 21, 22	Colossians 1
June 28	2 Samuel 23, 24	Colossians 2
June 29	1 Kings 1, 2	Colossians 3
June 30	1 Kings 3, 4	Colossians 4

Questions & Answers:**Q. 51. What is forbidden in the second commandment?**

ANS. The second commandment forbids the worshipping of God by images [a], or any other way not appointed in His Word [b].

[a]. Deut. 4:15-19; Rom. 1:22-23

[b]. Lev. 10:1-2; Jer. 19:4-5; Col. 2:18-23

Q. 52. What are the reasons associated with the second commandment?

ANS. These reasons are God's sovereignty over us [a], His image in us [b], and the zeal He has regarding His own worship and glory [c].

[a]. Ps. 95:2-3, 6-7; 96:9-10

[b]. Ex. 19:5; Ps. 45:11; Isa. 54:5

[c]. Ex. 34:14; 1 Cor. 10:22

Doctrinal Study:**Good Works**

1. Good works are only those which God has commanded in His Holy Word, and are not those devised by men out of blind zeal, or upon any pretence of good intentions.

(Micah 6:8; Heb. 13:21; Matt. 15:9; Isa. 29:13)

2. These good works, done in obedience to God's commandments, are the fruits and evidences of a true and lively faith; and by them believers manifest their thankfulness, strengthen their assurance, edify their brethren, adorn the profession of the gospel, stop the mouths of the adversaries, and glorify God, whose workmanship they are, created in Christ Jesus having their fruit unto holiness so that they may have eternal life at the end.

(James 2:18, 22; Ps. 116:12-13; 1 John 2:3, 5; 2 Peter 1:5-11; Matt. 5:16; 1 Tim. 6:1; 1 Peter 2:15; Phil. 1:11; Eph. 2:10; Rom. 6:22)

3. Their ability to do good works is not from themselves, but is wholly from the Spirit of Christ; so that they may be enabled, besides the graces which they have already received, and there being a

necessary and actual influence of the Holy Spirit, to cause them to will and to do His good pleasure; yet they are not to grow negligent because of this, as if they were not bound to perform any duty, but they ought to be diligent in stirring up the grace of God that is in them.

(John 15:4-5; 2 Cor. 3:5; Phil. 2:13; Phil. 2:12; Heb. 6:11-12; Isa. 64:7)

Bible Study

1 Thessalonians 5

1. What impact will the “Day of the Lord” have on the world in verses 1 – 11?
2. What does the “Day of the Lord” mean for believers and for unbelievers?
3. What distinguishes believers from unbelievers in this chapter?
4. Meditate on the significant and serious language in verse 9 – “destined for wrath” vs. “obtain salvation”
5. What are Elders to do that should merit respect from the church?
6. Notice the injunctions in verses 12 – 22. How can you live each one of these out in obedience?
7. What will God do for us in verse 24?