

Knowing & Enjoying Christ in 2007



Daily Readings & Studies for the Christian
July – September 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 third quarter of the year covering July to September 2007. 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. 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 third quarter is a study in the Epistle of Paul to the Romans. This book should not be underestimated by any Christian. Martin Luther desired that every Christian should memorize the entire book of Romans. Would that we could do that!

Daily Reading:

July 1	1 Kings 5, 6	1 Thessalonians 1
July 2	1 Kings 7, 8	1 Thessalonians 2
July 3	1 Kings 9, 10	1 Thessalonians 3
July 4	1 Kings 11, 12	1 Thessalonians 4
July 5	1 Kings 13, 14	1 Thessalonians 5
July 6	1 Kings 15, 16	2 Thessalonians 1
July 7	1 Kings 17, 18	2 Thessalonians 2

Questions & Answers:**Q. 53. What is the third commandment?**

ANS. 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 that takes his name in vain. [a]

[a]. Ex. 20:7; Deut. 5:11

Q. 54. What is required in the third commandment?

ANS. The third commandment requires the holy and reverent use of God's names, titles [a], attributes [b], ordinances [c], Word [d], and works [e].

[a]. Deut. 10:20; Ps. 29:2; Matt. 6:9

[b]. I Chron. 29:10-13; Rev. 15:3-4

[c]. Acts 2:42; I Cor. 11:27-28

[d]. Ps. 138:2; Rev. 22:18-19

[e]. Ps. 107:21-22; Rev. 4:11

Doctrinal Study:**Good Works**

4. Those who in their obedience attain to the greatest height which is possible in this life, are so far from being able to supererogate, (that is, go beyond what God actually requires) that they fall short of much of what they in duty are bound to do.

(Job 9:2-3; Gal. 5:17; Luke 17:10)

5. We cannot even by our best works merit pardon for sin or eternal life at the hand of God, because those works are out of all proportion to the glory which is to come. More than this, there is the infinite distance that is between us and God, and no works of ours can bring profit or act as payment for the debt of all our former sins. When we have done all we can, we have done only our duty, and we still are unprofitable servants. Any good works produced by us are only good as far as they

proceed from the Holy Spirit. As far as they are our work they are defiled and mixed with so much weakness and imperfection, that they cannot endure the severity of God's punishment.

(Rom. 3:20; Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 4:6; Gal. 5:22-23; Isa. 64:6; Psa. 143:2)

6. Nonetheless, believers are accepted through Christ, and their good works also are accepted in Him; not as though they were in this life wholly unblameable and unreprouvable in God's sight, but that God, looking upon them in His Son, is pleased to accept and reward that which is sincere, although accompanied with many weaknesses and imperfections.

(Eph. 1:6; 1 Peter 2:5; Matt. 25:21, 23; Heb. 6:10)

Bible Study

Romans 1

1. What does Paul say about himself in this chapter? (compare 1 Cor. 4:1; 9:16, 17)
2. Identify what Paul says concerning the Gospel- where does it come from; what is its content and purpose.
3. Identify why the Gospel is powerful and how should it be communicated.
4. Do a study on the "righteousness of God" – see verse 17
5. Identify the sins mentioned in verses 18 – 32. Are they around today?

Daily Reading:

July 8	1 Kings 19, 20	2 Thessalonians 3
July 9	1 Kings 21, 22	1 Timothy 1
July 10	2 Kings 1, 2	1 Timothy 2
July 11	2 Kings 3, 4	1 Timothy 3
July 12	2 Kings 5, 6	1 Timothy 4
July 13	2 Kings 7, 8	1 Timothy 5
July 14	2 Kings 9, 10	1 Timothy 6

Questions & Answers:**Q. 55. What is forbidden in the third commandment?**

ANS. The third commandment forbids all profaning or abusing of anything by which God makes himself known.

[a]. Lev. 19:12; Matt. 5:33-37; Jas. 5:12

Q. 56. What are the reasons associated with the third commandment?

ANS. The reasons connected with the third commandment are that the breakers of this commandment though they may escape punishment from men, yet the Lord our God will not suffer them to escape his righteous judgment [a].

[a]. Deut. 28:58-59; I Sam. 3:13; 4:11

Doctrinal Study:**Good Works**

7. Works that are done by unregenerate men, even though God may have commanded them, and though they may be of good use to themselves and others; yet because they do not proceed from a heart purified by faith, nor are they done in a right manner according to the Word, nor to a right end, which is always the glory of God, they are therefore sinful, and cannot please God, nor make any person able to receive grace from God, and yet the neglect of them is more sinful and displeasing to God.

(2 Kings 10:30; 1 Kings 21:27, 29; Gen. 4:5; Heb. 11:4, 6; 1 Cor. 13:1; Matt. 6:2, 5; Amos 5:21-22; Rom. 9:16; Titus 3:5; Job 21:14-15; Matt. 25:41-43)

The Perseverance of the Saints

1. Those whom God has accepted in the Lord Jesus Christ, His Beloved Son, are effectually called and sanctified by His Spirit, and have been given the precious faith of His elect, can never totally nor finally fall from the state of grace that is theirs by virtue of Christ, but shall certainly persevere in that state to the end, and shall be eternally saved. This is because God shall never repent of having

called them and given gifts to them. God continues to give to them faith, repentance, love, joy, hope, and all the graces of the Spirit that lead to immortality; and though many storms and floods arise and beat against them, yet those things shall never be able to take them off that foundation and rock which by faith they are fastened upon. Nonetheless, through unbelief and the temptations of Satan, the sensible sight of the light and love of God may for a time be clouded and obscured from them, yet God is still the same, and they shall be sure to be kept by the power of God unto salvation, where they shall enjoy their purchased possession, since they are engraved on the palm of His hands, and their names have been written in the book of life from all eternity.

(John 10:28-29; Phil. 1:6; 2 Tim. 2:19; 1 John 2:19; Psa. 89:31-32; 1 Cor. 11:32; Mal. 3:6)

2. This perseverance of the saints depends not upon their own free will, but upon the unchangeableness of the decree of election, flowing from the free and unchangeable love of God the Father, upon the efficacy of the merit and intercession of Jesus Christ and union with Him, the oath of God, the abiding of His Spirit, and the seed of God within them, and the nature of the covenant of grace. All of these factors guarantee the certainty and infallibility of the saints' perseverance.

(Rom. 8:30; 9:11, 16; Rom. 5:9-10; John 14:19; Heb. 6:17-18; 1 John 3:9; Jer. 32:40)

Bible Study

Romans 1, 2

1. What does Paul say about man's sin?
2. Is everyone inexcusable before God and if so, why? What does Paul mean?
3. To whom does the wrath of God apply? See also Romans 1:18.
4. Is God's wrath at work today in the world? If so, how?
5. What is God's judgment in Rom. 2:2, 6, 11 and 16?
6. What are the privileges of the Jews in Romans 2:17 – 29?

Daily Reading:

July 15	2 Kings 11, 12	2 Timothy 1
July 16	2 Kings 13, 14	2 Timothy 2
July 17	2 Kings 15, 16	2 Timothy 3
July 18	2 Kings 17, 18	2 Timothy 4
July 19	2 Kings 19, 20	Titus 1
July 20	2 Kings 21, 22	Titus 2
July 21	2 Kings 23, 24	Titus 3

Questions & Answers:**Q. 57. What is the fourth commandment?**

ANS. The fourth commandment is, Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work; but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God: in it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son, nor your daughter, your manservant, nor your maidservant, nor your cattle, nor the stranger that is within your gates. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: therefore, the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and made it holy. [a]

[a]. Ex. 20:8-11; Deut. 5:12-15

Q. 58. What is required in the fourth commandment?

ANS. The fourth commandment requires the keeping holy to God such set times as he has appointed in his Word; namely, one whole day in seven, to be a holy Sabbath to himself [a].

[a]. Ex. 31:13, 16-17

Doctrinal Study:**The Perseverance of the Saints**

3. And though they may, through the temptation of Satan and of the world, and the prevalency of corruption remaining in them, and the neglect of the means of their preservation, fall into grievous sins, and for a time continue therein, by which they incur God's displeasure and grieve His Holy Spirit, come to have their graces and comforts impaired, have their hearts hardened, and their consciences wounded, hurt and scandalize others, and bring temporal judgments upon themselves, yet they shall renew their repentance and be preserved through faith in Christ Jesus to the end. (Matt. 26:70, 72, 74; Isa. 64:5, 9; Eph. 4:30; Psa. 51:10, 12; Psa. 32:3-4; 2 Sam. 12:14; Luke 22:32, 61-62)

The Assurance of Salvation

1. Although temporary believers, and other unregenerate men, may vainly deceive themselves with false hopes and carnal presumptions of being in the favor of God and state of salvation, which hope of theirs shall perish; yet such as truly believe in the Lord Jesus, and love Him in sincerity, endeavoring to walk in all good conscience before Him, may in this life be certainly assured that they are in such state of grace, and may rejoice in the hope of the glory of God, which hope shall never make them ashamed.

(Job 8:13-14; Matt. 7:22-23; 1 John 2:3; 3:14, 18-19, 21, 24; 5:13; Rom. 5:2, 5)

2. This certainty of salvation is not a bare conjecture and probability grounded upon a fallible hope, but an infallible assurance of faith founded on the blood and righteousness of Christ revealed in the Gospel; and also upon the inward evidence of those graces of the Spirit to which God's promises are made, and on the testimony of the Spirit of adoption, witnessing with our spirits that we are the children of God; and, as a fruit thereof, keeping the heart both humble and holy.

(Heb. 6:11, 19; Heb. 6:17-18; 2 Peter 1:4-5, 10-11; Rom. 8:15-16; 1 John 3:1-3)

Bible Study

Romans 3

1. List the 4 objections that people raise against the Gospel from verses 1 – 8. Examine the Old Testament Scriptures mentioned by Paul in verses 11 – 18.
2. What does the Bible say about the condition of all people – focus on life and conduct?
3. Study the righteousness of God as found in verses 21 - 26

Daily Reading:

July 22	2 Kings 25; Esther 1	Philemon
July 23	Esther 2, 3	Hebrews 1
July 24	Esther 4, 5	Hebrews 2
July 25	Esther 6, 7	Hebrews 3
July 26	Esther 8, 9	Hebrews 4
July 27	Esther 10; Psalm 1	Hebrews 5
July 28	Psalms 2, 3	Hebrews 6

Questions & Answers:**Q. 59. Which day of the seven has God appointed to be the weekly Sabbath?**

ANS. From the beginning of the world to the resurrection of Christ, God appointed the seventh day of the week to be the weekly Sabbath [a]; and the first day of the week ever since, to continue to the end of the world, which is the Christian Sabbath or the Lord's Day[b].

[a]. Gen. 2:2-3; Ex. 20:11

[b]. Mark 2:27-28; Acts 20:7; I Cor. 16:2; Rev. 1:10

Q. 60. How is the Sabbath to be sanctified?

ANS. 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 [a]; and spending the whole time in the public and private exercises of God's worship [b], except so much as is to be taken up in the works of necessity and mercy [c].

[a]. Ex. 20:10; Neh. 13:15-22; Isa. 58:13-14

[b]. Ex. 20:8; Lev. 23:3; Luke 4:16; Acts 20:7

[c]. Matt. 12:1-13

Doctrinal Study:**The Assurance of Salvation**

3. This infallible assurance of salvation is not an essential part of salvation, because the true believer may wait a long time, and struggle with many difficulties before he attains it. It is not a matter of extraordinary or additional revelation, for if he makes use of the means of grace, and is enabled by the Holy Spirit to know the things that believers receive freely from God, he may well attain to such an assurance of faith. It therefore is the duty of every one to give all diligence to make their calling and election sure, so that their hearts may be enlarged in peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, in love and thankfulness to God, and in strength and cheerfulness in the duties of obedience, which are the proper fruits of this assurance. Such an assurance does not lead individuals into loose living.

(Isa. 50:10; Psa. 88:1-18; Psa. 77:1-12; 1 John 4:13; Heb. 6:11-12; Rom. 5:1-2, 5; 14:17; Psa. 119:32; Rom. 6:1-2; Titus 2:11-12, 14)

4. True believers may have the assurance of their salvation shaken or fluctuate. It may diminish, sometimes more and at other times, less. This occurs by falling into some particular sin which wounds the conscience and grieves the Holy Spirit. It may be by some sudden or violent temptation, by God's withdrawing the light of His countenance, and permitting those who fear him to walk in darkness and to have no light, yet are they never destitute of the seed of God and life of faith, the love of Christ and the brethren, that sincerity of heart and conscience of duty out of which, by the operation of the Spirit, this assurance may in due time be revived, and by the which, in the meantime, they are preserved from utter despair.

(Song of Sol. 5:2-3, 6; Psa. 51:8, 12, 14; Psa. 116:11; 77:7-8; 31:22; Psa. 30:7; 1 John 3:9; Luke 22:32; Psa. 42:5, 11; Lam. 3:26-31)

The Law of God

1. God gave to Adam a law that required universal obedience. It was written in his heart, and one command in particular, that is, of not eating the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. By this command, God bound Adam and all his posterity to personal, entire, exact, and perpetual obedience; promised life upon the fulfilling, and threatened death upon the breach of it, and endued him with power and ability to keep it.

(Gen. 1:27; Eccl. 7:29; Rom. 10:5; Gal. 3:10, 12)

Bible Study

Romans 4

1. How does this chapter support what Paul has said in Romans 3:19, 20, 28, 30?
2. On what basis were Abraham and David said to be righteous before God?
3. Is there a connection between circumcision and righteousness as far as Abraham is concerned?
4. Consider the faithfulness of God as to His promises to Abraham and Abraham's ability or non-ability to do anything to bring those promises or change them.

Daily Reading:

July 29	Psalms 4, 5	Hebrews 7
July 30	Psalms 6, 7	Hebrews 8
July 31	Psalms 8, 9	Hebrews 9
Aug. 1	Psalms 10, 11	Hebrews 10
Aug. 2	Psalms 12, 13	Hebrews 11
Aug. 3	Psalms 14, 15	Hebrews 12
Aug. 4	Psalms 16, 17	Hebrews 13

Questions & Answers:**Q. 61. What is forbidden in the fourth commandment?**

ANS. The fourth commandment forbids the omission or careless performance of the duties required, and the profaning the day by idleness, or doing that which is in itself sinful, or by unnecessary thoughts, words, or works, about our worldly employments or recreations [a].

[a]. Neh. 13:15-22; Isa. 58:13-14; Amos 8:4-6

Q. 62. What are the reasons associated with the fourth commandment?

ANS. The reasons associated with the fourth commandment are, God's allowing us six days of the week for our own employments [a], his requiring a special propriety in the seventh, his own example, and his blessing the Sabbath day [b].

[a]. Ex. 20:9; 31:15; Lev. 23:3

[b]. Gen. 2:2-3; Ex. 20:11; 31:17

Doctrinal Study:**The Law of God**

2. The same law that was first written in the heart of man continued to be a perfect rule of righteousness after the Fall, and was delivered by God upon Mount Sinai, in Ten Commandments, and written in two tables, the four first containing our duty towards God, and the other six, our duty to man.

(Rom. 2:14-15; Deut. 10:4)

3. Besides this law, commonly called the Moral Law, God was pleased to give to the people of Israel Ceremonial laws, containing types and figures that prefigured Christ, His graces, actions, sufferings, and benefits; and in part communicating various instructions related to moral duties, in addition to all ceremonial laws which were given only until the time of reformation, are done away with by Jesus Christ, the true Messiah and only Law-giver, who was furnished with power from the Father for this purpose and end.

(Heb. 10:1; Col. 2:17; 1 Cor. 5:7; Col. 2:14, 16-17; Eph. 2:14, 16)

4. To them also He gave various other judicial or civil laws, which ended with the demise of the nation of Israel. The principles of equity which appear in them are still valid for us, simply by virtue of their unchanging character.

(1 Cor. 9:8-10)

Bible Study

Romans 5

1. What blessings does justification bring to the believer? List them and then ask yourself if you enjoy them presently.
2. In verses 3 -5 consider Paul's approach to or view of suffering. Does suffering take away or affect the blessings we enjoy?
3. What are the results and consequences of Adam's fall into sin?
4. What are the results and consequences of Christ's obedience?

Daily Reading:

Aug. 5	Psalms 18, 19	James 1
Aug. 6	Psalms 20, 21	James 2
Aug. 7	Psalms 22, 23	James 3
Aug. 8	Psalms 24, 25	James 4
Aug. 9	Psalms 26, 27	James 5
Aug. 10	Psalms 28, 29	1 Peter 1
Aug. 11	Psalms 30, 31	1 Peter 2

Questions & Answers:**Q. 63. What is the fifth commandment?**

ANS. The fifth commandment is, Honor your father and your mother; that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving to you. [a]

[a]. Ex. 20:12; Deut. 5:16

Q. 64. What is required in the fifth commandment?

ANS. The fifth commandment requires the preserving of the honor, and performing the duties, belonging to everyone in their several places and relations, as superiors, inferiors, or equals [a].

[a]. Rom. 13:1, 7; Eph. 5:21-22, 24; 6:1, 4-5, 9; I Pet. 2:17

Doctrinal Study:**The Law of God**

5. The Moral Law does forever bind all people, both unregenerate and regenerate to complete obedience. This is due to the content of this Moral Law which is a reflection of the character of God our Creator. The Lord Jesus Christ does not in any way, in the Gospel dissolve or do away with this Law, but rather strengthens our obligation to it.

(Rom. 13:8-10; James 2:8, 10-12; James 2:10-11; Matt. 5:17-19; Rom. 3:31)

6. Although true believers are not under the Law as a Covenant of Works, by which they are justified or condemned, yet it is of great use to them as well as to others, as a rule of life, informing them of the will of God and their duty. It directs and binds them to walk according to the Law, discovering to each person, the sinful pollutions of their natures, hearts, and lives, so as examining themselves by this Law, they may come to further conviction of, humiliation for, and hatred against, sin; together with a clearer sight of the need they have of Christ and the perfection of His obedience. It is also of use to the regenerate to restrain their corruptions, in that it forbids sin; and the threatening of it serves to show us what our sins deserve, and what afflictions in this life we may expect for them, even though we have been set free from the curse of the Law. These promises, also

show us God's approbation of obedience, and the blessings that we may expect upon obedience, though not due to us by the Law as a Covenant of Works. A man's doing good and refraining from evil, simply because the Law encourages one and deters another, is no evidence of his being under the Law and not under grace.

(Rom. 6:14; Gal. 2:16; Rom. 8:1; 10:4; Rom. 3:20; 7:7-25; Rom. 6:12-14; 1 Peter 3:8-13)

7. The aforementioned uses of the Law of God do not run contrary to the grace of the Gospel, but do sweetly comply with it; the Spirit of Christ subduing and enabling the will of man to do freely and cheerfully revealed the will of God, as found in the Law, that God requires to be done.

(Gal. 3:21; Ezek.36:27)

Bible Study

Romans 6

1. What is our current position in Christ as regarding sin and God.
2. How is victory over sin to be achieved? See verses 11 – 14 and note the words that are used – consider, yield, let not, etc.
3. What 2 masters are mentioned in Romans 6:15 – 23?

Daily Reading:

Aug. 12	Psalms 32, 33	1 Peter 3
Aug. 13	Psalms 34, 35	1 Peter 4
Aug. 14	Psalms 36, 37	1 Peter 5
Aug. 15	Psalms 38, 39	2 Peter 1
Aug. 16	Psalms 40, 41	2 Peter 2
Aug. 17	Psalms 42, 43	2 Peter 3
Aug. 18	Psalms 44, 45	1 John 1

Questions & Answers:**Q. 65. What is forbidden in the fifth commandment?**

ANS. The fifth commandment forbids the neglecting of, or doing anything against, the honor and duty which belongs to everyone in their several places and relations.

[a]. Matt. 15:4-6; Rom. 13:8

Q. 66. What is the reason associated with the fifth commandment?

ANS. The reasons associated with the fifth commandment are, the promise of long life and prosperity (as far as it shall serve for God's glory and their own good) to all such as keep this commandment [a].

[a]. Ex. 20:12; Deut. 5:16; Eph. 6:2-3

Doctrinal Study:**The Gospel & The Extent of Grace**

1. The Covenant of Works which was broken by sin, and made unprofitable for life, God was pleased to give forth the promise of Christ, the seed of the woman, as the means of calling the elect, and begetting in them faith and repentance. In this promise, the Gospel, as to the substance of it, was revealed, and [is] thus effectual for the conversion and salvation of sinners.

(Gen. 3:15; Rev. 13:8)

2. This promise of Christ, and salvation by Him, is revealed only in the Word of God; neither are the works of creation or providence, with the light of nature, able to reveal Christ and his grace to men, either in a general or obscure way; much less is it possible that men who lack the revelation of Jesus by the promise or gospel, should be enabled to attain to saving faith or repentance.

(Rom. 1:17; Rom. 10:14-15, 17; Prov. 29:18; Isa. 25:7; 60:2-3)

3. The revelation of the gospel to sinners, given in various times and in various ways, together with the promises and precepts which obedience requires is merely by the sovereign will and good

pleasure of God. The promise of God in the Gospel is not contingent upon any good use made by men using their natural abilities, or by virtue of common light received by all, because such a development can never take place of itself. Thus in all ages, the preaching of the gospel has been granted to persons and nations, in varying measures according to the all wise will of God. (Psa. 147:20; Acts 16:7; Rom. 1:18-32)

Bible Study

Romans 7

1. Is the Law sinful? If not, why not?
2. How does Paul relate marriage to the Law?
3. What does the Law do?
4. Consider the power of sin, the Law and righteousness in the life of the believer?

Daily Reading:

Aug. 19	Psalms 46, 47	1 John 2
Aug. 20	Psalms 48, 49	1 John 3
Aug. 21	Psalms 50, 51	1 John 4
Aug. 22	Psalms 52, 53	1 John 5
Aug. 23	Psalms 54, 55	2 John
Aug. 24	Psalms 56, 57	3 John
Aug. 25	Psalms 58, 59	Jude

Questions & Answers:**Q. 67. What is the sixth commandment?**

ANS. The sixth commandment is, You shall not murder.

[a]. Ex. 20:13; Deut. 5:17

Q. 68. What is required in the sixth commandment?

ANS. The sixth commandment requires all lawful endeavors to preserve our own life, and the life of others.

[a]. Eph. 5:28-29

Doctrinal Study:**The Gospel & The Extent of Grace**

4. Although the gospel is the only outward means of revealing Christ and his saving grace, and is, as such, abundantly sufficient to accomplish such salvation. Men who are dead in trespasses may be born again, quickened or regenerated. In addition, there is a necessary, effectual insuperable work of the Holy Spirit upon the whole soul, in order to produce in them a new spiritual life; without which no other means will effect their conversion unto God.

(Psa. 110:3; 1 Cor. 2:14; Eph. 1:19-20; John 6:44; 2 Cor. 4:4, 6)

Christian Liberty & Liberty Of Conscience

1. The liberty which Christ has purchased for believers under the Gospel, consists in their freedom from the guilt of their sin, the condemning wrath of God, the rigor and curse of the law, and in their being delivered from this present evil world, bondage to Satan, and dominion of sin, from the evil of afflictions, the fear and sting of death, the victory of the grave, and everlasting damnation. In addition, believers have free access to God, and they yield obedience to Him, not out of slavish fear, but out of a child-like love and willing mind. All of this was also common to believers under the Law, but under the New Testament the liberty of Christians is further enlarged, in their freedom from the yoke of a ceremonial law, to which Israel was subjected. There is greater boldness of

access to the throne of grace, and a fuller communication of the free Spirit of God, that believers under the Law did not so readily and ordinarily enjoy and partake of.

(Gal. 3:13; Gal. 1:4; Acts 26:18; Rom. 8:3; Rom. 8:28; 1 Cor. 15:54-57; 2 Thess. 1:10; Rom. 8:15; Luke 1:73-75; 1 John 4:18; Gal. 3:9, 14; John 7:38-39; Heb. 10:19-21)

2. God alone is Lord of the conscience, and has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are contrary to His Word, or not contained in it. To believe such doctrines, or obey such commands, is to betray true liberty of conscience, and the requiring of an implicit faith, with an absolute and blind obedience, is to destroy the liberty of conscience and reason also.

(James 4:12; Rom. 14:4; Acts 4:19, 29; 1 Cor. 7:23; Matt. 15:9; Col. 2:20, 22-23; 1 Cor. 3:5; 2 Cor. 1:24)

Bible Study

Romans 8

1. What is the condition of those who are united to Christ?
2. How has our deliverance being accomplished?
3. In verses 5 – 17 life in the flesh is contrasted with life in the Spirit. Examine this contrast and note how it takes place in your life day by day.
4. How can Paul be so confident that our present suffering will become glory in verses 18 – 27?
5. How many reasons does Paul give as to why we can rejoice even though the world is against us (see verses 28 – 39).

Daily Reading:

Aug. 26	Psalms 60, 61	Revelation 1
Aug. 27	Psalms 62, 63	Revelation 2
Aug. 28	Psalms 64, 65	Revelation 3
Aug. 29	Psalms 66, 67	Revelation 4
Aug. 30	Psalms 68, 69	Revelation 5
Aug. 31	Psalms 70, 71	Revelation 6
Sept. 1	Psalms 72, 73	Revelation 7

Questions & Answers:**Q. 69. What is forbidden in the sixth commandment?**

ANS. The sixth commandment forbids the taking away of our own life, or the life of our neighbor, unjustly, or whatever tends to the above mentioned [a].

[a]. Gen. 9:6; Matt. 5:22; I John 3:15

Q. 70. What is the seventh commandment?

ANS. The seventh commandment is, You shalt not commit adultery.

[a]. Ex. 20:14; Deut. 5:18

Doctrinal Study:**Christian Liberty & Liberty Of Conscience**

3. They who upon pretence of Christian liberty do practice any sin, or cherish any sinful lust, pervert the main design of the grace of the gospel to their own destruction, so that they wholly destroy the end of Christian liberty, which is, that being delivered out of the hands of all our enemies, we might serve the Lord without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him, all the days of our lives.

(Rom. 6:1-2; Gal. 5:13; 2 Peter 2:18, 21)

Worship & the Lord's Day

1. The light of nature shows that there is a God, who has Lordship and Sovereignty over all; who is just, good and does good to all; and is therefore to be feared, loved, praised, called upon, trusted in, and served, with all the heart and all the soul, and with all the might. The acceptable way of worshipping the true God, is instituted by God alone, and is thus limited by His own revealed will, so that He may not be worshipped according to the imagination and devices of men, or according to the suggestions of Satan, nor under any visible representations, or in any other way not prescribed in the Holy Scriptures.

(Jer. 10:7; Mark 12:33; Deut. 12:32; Exod. 20:4-6)

2. Religious worship is to be given to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and to Him alone; not to angels, saints, or any other creatures; and since the Fall, not without a Mediator, such a Mediator being Christ alone.

(**Matt. 4:9-10; John 6:23; Matt. 28:19; Rom. 1:25; Col. 2:18; Rev. 19:10; John 14:6; 1 Tim. 2:5**)

Bible Study

Romans 9, 10, 11

1. Why does Paul speak of sorrow when chapter 8 is so full of joy?
2. What 2 principles of God's election do we find in the births of Isaac, Esau and Jacob?
3. How does God retain his liberty without compromising his righteousness by electing some individuals to salvation?
4. What is God's purpose in election?
5. Examine "righteousness by faith" in 10:8 – 15.
6. What 3 reasons does God give in chapter 11 that He has not cast away Israel, and who really is Israel?
7. Paul warns the Gentiles against having an elitist attitude since it appears that Israel has been rejected. What lessons can the Gentiles learn from Israel?

Daily Reading:

Sept. 2	Psalms 74, 75	Revelation 8
Sept. 3	Psalms 76, 77	Revelation 9
Sept. 4	Psalms 77, 78	Revelation 10
Sept. 5	Psalms 79, 80	Revelation 11
Sept. 6	Psalms 81, 82	Revelation 12
Sept. 7	Psalms 83, 84	Revelation 13
Sept. 8	Psalms 85, 86	Revelation 14

Questions & Answers:**Q. 71. What is required in the seventh commandment?**

ANS. The seventh commandment requires the preservation of our own and our neighbor's chastity, in heart, speech, and behavior.

[a]. I Cor. 7:2-3, 5; I Thess. 4:3-5

Q. 72. What is forbidden in the seventh commandment?

ANS. The seventh commandment forbids all unchaste thoughts, words, and actions.

[a]. Matt. 5:28; Eph. 5:3-4

Doctrinal Study:**Worship & the Lord's Day**

3. Prayer, with thanksgiving, being one part of natural worship, is required by God of all men. In order for such worship to be accepted, it is to be made in the name of the Son, by the help of the Spirit, according to His will; with understanding, reverence, humility, fervency, faith, love, and perseverance; and always when with others, in a known language.

(Psa. 95:1-7; 65:2; John 14:13-14; Rom. 8:26; 1 John 5:14 12; 1 Cor. 14:16-17)

4. Prayer is to be made for things lawful, and for all sorts of men now living, or that shall be born; but not for the dead, nor for those of whom it is known that they have sinned the sin unto death.

(1 Tim. 2:1-2; 2 Sam. 7:29; 2 Sam. 12:21-23; 1 John 5:16)

5. The reading of the Scriptures, preaching, and hearing the Word of God, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in our hearts to the Lord; as also the administration of baptism, and the Lord's supper, are all parts of religious worship of God, to be performed in obedience to Him, with understanding, faith, reverence, and godly fear;

moreover, solemn humiliation, with fasting, and thanksgiving, upon special occasions, ought to be used in an holy and reverent manner.

(1 Tim. 4:13; 2 Tim. 4:2; Luke 8:18; Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:19; Matt. 28:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:26; Esth. 4:16; Joel 2:12; Exod. 15:1-19; Psa. 107:1-43)

Bible Study

Romans 12

1. What should our attitude be toward God and to the world? What results will the right attitude produce?
2. Meditate on verses 9 – 21 and then try to put these verses into practice.

Daily Reading:

Sept. 9	Psalms 87, 88	Revelation 15
Sept. 10	Psalms 89, 90	Revelation 16
Sept. 11	Psalms 91, 92	Revelation 17
Sept. 12	Psalms 93, 94	Revelation 18
Sept. 13	Psalms 95, 96	Revelation 19
Sept. 14	Psalms 97, 98	Revelation 20
Sept. 15	Psalms 99, 100	Revelation 21

Questions & Answers:**Q. 73. What is the eighth commandment?**

ANS. The eighth commandment is, You shall not steal.

[a]. Ex. 20:15; Deut. 5:19

Q. 74. What is required in the eighth commandment?

ANS. The eighth commandment requires the lawful procuring and furthering the wealth and outward estate of ourselves and others.

[a]. Lev. 25:35; Eph. 4:28b; Phil. 2:4

Doctrinal Study:**Worship & the Lord's Day**

6. Neither prayer nor any other part of religious worship, depends for its efficacy on the place in which it is performed, or towards which it is directed; but God is to be worshipped everywhere in spirit and in truth; as in private families daily, and in secret each one by himself; so more solemnly in the public assemblies, which are not carelessly nor wilfully to be neglected or forsaken, when God by His Word or Providence has determined such.

(John 4:21; Mal. 1:11; 1 Tim. 2:8; Acts 10:2; Matt. 6:11; Psa. 55:17; Matt. 6:6; Heb. 10:25; Acts 2:42)

7. As it is a law of nature, applicable to all, that a portion of time, by God's appointment, be set apart for the worship of God, so by His Word, in a positive moral, and perpetual commandment, binding all men, in all ages, He has particularly appointed one day in seven for a Sabbath to be kept holy unto Him, which from the beginning of the world to the resurrection of Christ was the last day of the week, and from the resurrection of Christ was changed into the first day of the week, and is now called the Lord's Day: and is to be continued to the end of the world as a Christian Sabbath, with the observation of the last day of the week being abolished.

(Exod. 20:8; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; Acts 20:7; Rev. 1:10)

8. The Sabbath or Lord's Day is then kept holy unto the Lord, when men, after a due preparation of their hearts, and ordering their common affairs beforehand, do not only observe a holy rest all day, from their own works, words and thoughts, as related to their worldly employment and recreations, but are also taken up the whole time in the public and private exercises of His worship, and in the duties of necessity and mercy.

(Isa. 58:13; Neh. 13:15-22; Matt. 12:1-13)

Bible Study

Romans 13

1. What 3 reasons does Paul give in verses 1 – 7 as to why it is right to submit to government. Is it always right to submit to the government? When is it not?
2. What should motivate us as we live in this world? – see verses 8 – 10.
3. What does the phrase “the mercies of God” as found in Romans 12:1 mean in verses 11 – 14?

Daily Reading:

Sept. 16	Psalms 101, 102	Revelation 22
Sept. 17	Psalms 103, 104	Proverbs 1
Sept. 18	Psalms 105, 106	Proverbs 2
Sept. 19	Psalms 107, 108	Proverbs 3
Sept. 20	Psalms 109, 110	Proverbs 4
Sept. 21	Psalms 111, 112	Proverbs 5
Sept. 22	Psalms 113, 114	Proverbs 6

Questions & Answers:**Q. 75. What is forbidden in the eighth commandment?**

ANS. The eighth commandment forbids whatever does, or may, unjustly hinder our own, or our neighbor's wealth or outward estate.

[a]. Prov. 28:19ff; Eph. 4:28a; II Thess. 3:10; I Tim. 5:8

Q. 76. What is the ninth commandment?

ANS. The ninth commandment is, You shall not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

[a]. Ex. 20:16; Deut. 5:20

Doctrinal Study:**Lawful Oaths & Vows**

1. A lawful oath is a part of religious worship, in which a person swearing in truth, righteousness, and judgment, solemnly calls upon God to witness what he swears to, and to judge him according to the truth or falseness of his oath.

(Exod. 20:7; Deut. 10:20; Jer. 4:2; 2 Chr. 6:22-23)

2. The name of God only is that by which men ought to swear; and as such it is to be used, with all holy fear and reverence. To swear vainly or rashly by God's glorious and dreadful name, or to swear at all by any other thing, is sinful, and to be abhorred; yet in all weighty and momentous matters, for confirmation of truth, and the ending of all strife, an oath is warranted by the Word of God.

Therefore, a lawful oath being imposed by lawful authority in such matters, ought to be taken.

(Matt. 5:34, 37; James 5:12; Heb. 6:16; 2 Cor. 1:23; Neh. 13:25)

3. Whoever takes an oath warranted by the Word of God, ought duly to consider the weightiness of so solemn an act, and thus state only what he knows to be the truth; because by rash, false, and vain oaths, the Lord is provoked, and for them this land mourns and is miserable.

(Lev. 19:12; Jer. 23:10)

Bible Study

Romans 14, 15

1. As Christians we are “free”. What does this really mean for the Christian? (see 14:1 – 12)
2. Explain what Martin Luther meant when he said (1) “the Christian is the most free lord of all, subject to none” and (2) “the Christian is the most dutiful servant of all, subject to all.”
3. If you are in doubt about something, should you do it anyway, since you are truly free in Christ? If not, why not?
4. How does Paul’s counsel in 15:1, 2 help us? (see verses 3 – 5 for help)
5. If you follow Jesus’ example, what will that mean for you? (see 15:7 – 12).
6. Make a careful study of Romans 15:14 – 21 to see what motivated Paul.

Daily Reading:

Sept. 23	Psalms 115, 116	Proverbs 7
Sept. 24	Psalms 117, 118	Proverbs 8
Sept. 25	Psalms 119:1 - 32	Proverbs 9
Sept. 26	Psalms 119:33 - 56	Proverbs 10
Sept. 27	Psalms 119:57 - 80	Proverbs 11
Sept. 28	Psalms 119:81 - 104	Proverbs 12
Sept. 29	Psalms 119:105 - 128	Proverbs 13

Questions & Answers:**Q. 77. What is required in the ninth commandment?**

ANS. The ninth commandment requires the maintaining and promoting of truth between man and man, and of our own and our neighbor's good name [a], especially in witness bearing [b].

[a]. Zech. 8:16; Acts 25:10; III John 12

[b]. Prov. 14:5, 25

Q. 78. What is forbidden in the ninth commandment?

ANS. The ninth commandment forbids whatever is prejudicial to truth, or injurious to our own, or our neighbor's, good name [a].

[a]. Lev. 19:16; Ps. 15:3; Prov. 6:16-19; Luke 3:14

Doctrinal Study:**Lawful Oaths & Vows**

4. An oath is to be taken in the plain and common sense of the words, without equivocation or mental reservation.

(Psa. 24:4)

5. A vow, which is not to be made to any creature, but to God alone, is to be made and performed with all religious care and faithfulness; but monastical vows of perpetual single life, professed poverty, and regular obedience, are so far from being degrees of higher perfection, that they are superstitious and sinful snares, in which no Christian may entangle himself or herself.

(Psa. 76:11; Gen. 28:20-22; 1 Cor. 7:2, 9; Eph. 4:28; Matt. 19:11)

The Civil Magistrate

1. God, being the supreme Lord and King of all the world, has ordained civil magistrates to be under Him, over the people, for His own glory and the public good; and to this end he has armed them

with the power of the sword, for the safety and encouragement of all who do good, and for the punishment of evil doers.

(Rom. 13:1-4)

Bible Study

Romans 16

1. Who was Phoebe and what example does she provide for us to follow?
2. Look at all the people that Paul mentions and connect their names to Christian service and suffering for Jesus' sake.
3. How often does Paul mention the Lord Jesus Christ in Romans 16, and what do you think his reason for doing so was?