

Knowing & Enjoying Christ in 2007



Daily Readings & Studies for the Christian
October – December 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 final quarter of the year covering October to December 2007. The number of Bible Readings have slightly increased during this quarter, in order to finish the Bible in the course of the year. If you have managed to read your Bible through - well done! 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 fourth quarter contains a study of 1 Peter and Ezra. Peter's first epistle is very relevant to the Christian, and Ezra provides an exciting account of the exiles return to Israel and an insight into this great man of God.

Daily Reading:

Sept. 30	Psalm 119:129 - 152 Ezekiel 1	Proverbs 14
Oct. 1	Psalm 119:153 - 176 Ezekiel 2	Proverbs 15
Oct. 2	Psalms 120, 121 Ezekiel 3	Proverbs 16
Oct. 3	Psalms 122, 123 Ezekiel 4	Proverbs 17
Oct. 4	Psalms 124, 125 Ezekiel 5	Proverbs 18
Oct. 5	Psalms 126, 127 Ezekiel 6	Proverbs 19
Oct. 6	Psalms 128, 129 Ezekiel 7	Proverbs 20

Questions & Answers:**Q. 79. What is the tenth commandment?**

A. The tenth commandment is, you shall not covet your neighbor's house, you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant, or his maidservant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's. [a]

[a]. Ex. 20:17; Deut. 5:21

Q. 80. What is required in the tenth commandment?

A. The tenth commandment requires complete contentment with our own condition [a], with a right and charitable frame of spirit toward our neighbor, and all that is his or hers [b].

[a]. Ps. 34:1; Phil. 4:11; 1 Tim. 6:6; Heb. 13:5

[b]. Luke 15:6, 9, 11-32; Rom. 12:15; Phil. 2:4

Doctrinal Study:**The Civil Magistrate**

2. It is lawful for Christians to accept and carry out the duties of public office when called to do so. In the management of this they ought especially to maintain justice and peace, according to the sound laws of each kingdom and state, so for that end they may lawfully now, under the New Testament, wage war when this is just and necessary.

(2 Sam. 23:3; Ps. 82:3-4; Luke 3:14)

3. As civil rulers are set up by God for these purposes just mentioned Christians are to be subject in all lawful things commanded by them as unto the Lord; not only for wrath, but for conscience' sake;

and we ought to make supplications and prayers for kings and all that are in authority, that under them we may live a quiet and peaceable life, in all godliness and honesty.

(Rom. 13:5-7; 1 Peter 2:17; 1 Tim. 2:1-2)

Marriage

1. Marriage is to be between one man and one woman. It is lawful for any man to have more than one wife, nor for any woman to have more than one husband at the same time.

(Gen. 2:24; Mal. 2:15; Matt. 19:5-6)

Bible Study

1 Peter 1

1. How can Christians rejoice in the midst of suffering and trials (vv. 6 – 8)?
2. What kinds of joy does Peter refer to in vv. 3 – 9?
3. What is the work of the Triune God in verse 2? Name each work and try to understand what each means. Meditate on these truths and thank God for them.
4. What was the work of the prophets in verses 10, 11?
5. What has Christ done for us in verses 18 – 25 and how should we respond to this?

Daily Reading:

Oct. 7	Psalms 130, 131 Ezekiel 8	Proverbs 21
Oct. 1	Psalms 132, 133 Ezekiel 9	Proverbs 22
Oct. 2	Psalms 134, 135 Ezekiel 10	Proverbs 23
Oct. 3	Psalms 136, 137 Ezekiel 11	Proverbs 24
Oct. 4	Psalms 138, 139 Ezekiel 12	Proverbs 25
Oct. 5	Psalms 140, 141 Ezekiel 13	Proverbs 26
Oct. 6	Psalms 142, 143 Ezekiel 14	Proverbs 27

Questions & Answers:**Q. 81. What is forbidden in the tenth commandment?**

ANS. The tenth commandment forbids all discontentment with our own estate [a], envying or grieving at the good of our neighbor, and all unlawful desires and affections for anything that is his [b].

[a]. 1 Cor. 10:10; Jas. 3:14-16

[b]. Gal. 5:26; Col. 3:5

Q. 82. Is any person able to perfectly keep the commandments of God?

ANS. No person, since the fall, is able in this life to perfectly keep the commandments of God, but daily breaks them in thought, word, and deed [a].

[a]. Gen. 8:21; Rom. 3:9ff, 23

Doctrinal Study:**Marriage**

2. Marriage was ordained by God for the mutual help of husband and wife, for the increase of mankind, and for preventing immorality.

(Gen. 2:18; Gen. 1:28; 1 Cor. 7:2, 9)

3. It is lawful for all sorts of people to marry, provided they are able to give their rational consent. It is the duty of Christians to marry in the Lord, and those profess the Christian faith, should not marry unbelievers; neither should those who are godly be unequally yoked, by marrying those who are wicked in their life, or maintain damnable heresies.

(Heb. 13:4; 1 Tim. 4:3; 1 Cor. 7:39; Neh. 13:25-27)

4. Marriage should not to be within the degrees of blood relationships or kinship as forbidden in the Word. No incestuous marriage can ever be made lawful, by any law of man or consent of parties, and those thus married can never rightly live as man and wife.

(Lev. 18:1-30; Mark 6:18; 1 Cor. 5:1)

Bible Study

1 Peter 2

1. What new standards should define the life of the Christian?
2. How does Peter describe the Church or the people of God in vv. 4 – 10?
3. What wages war against our souls?
4. Christ is the living stone? What Old Testament passages throw light on this and what does Peter mean by referring to Christ as a stone?
5. In what ways is Christ our example in vv. 18 – 25?

Daily Reading:

Oct. 14	Psalms 144, 145 Ezekiel 15	Proverbs 28
Oct. 15	Psalms 146, 147 Ezekiel 16	Proverbs 29
Oct. 16	Psalms 148 Ezekiel 17	Proverbs 30, 31
Oct. 17	Psalms 149, 150 Ezekiel 18	Song of Solomon 1
Oct. 18	Ecclesiastes 1, 2 Ezekiel 19	Song of Solomon 2
Oct. 19	Ecclesiastes 3, 4 Ezekiel 20	Song of Solomon 3
Oct. 20	Ecclesiastes 5, 6 Ezekiel 21	Song of Solomon 4

Questions & Answers:**Q. 83. Are all transgressions of the law equally heinous?**

ANS. Some sins in themselves, and by reason of various degrees, are more heinous in the sight of God than others [a].

[a]. Ezek. 8:6, 13, 15; Matt. 11:20-24; John 19:11

Q. 84. What does every sin deserve?

ANS. Every sin deserves God's wrath and curse, both in this life, and that which is to come [a].

[a]. Matt. 25:41; Gal. 3:10; Eph. 5:6; Jas. 2:10

Doctrinal Study:**The Church**

1. The universal church, which (with respect to the internal work of the Spirit and truth of grace) may be called invisible, consists of the whole number of the elect, that have been, are, or shall be gathered into one under Christ who is the Head of the Church. The church is the Bride, the body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

(Heb. 12:23; Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:10, 22-23; 5:23, 27, 32)

2. All persons throughout the world, professing the faith of the gospel, and obedience to God by Christ, are and may be called visible saints, providing they do not void their profession by holding

fundamental errors or by living unholy lives; and of such persons shall all local churches be composed.

(1 Cor. 1:2; Acts 11:26; Rom. 1:7; Eph. 1:20-22)

3. The purest churches under heaven are liable to be troubled by mixture and error; and some have so degenerated as to no longer be churches of Christ, but synagogues of Satan. Nevertheless Christ always has had, and ever shall have a kingdom in this world and to the end of the world. This kingdom is made up of those who believe in Him, and make profession of His name.

(1 Cor. 5:1-13; Rev. 2:1-29; 3:1-22; Rev. 18:2; 2 Thess. 2:11-12; Matt. 16:18; Ps. 72:17; 102:28; Rev. 12:17)

Bible Study

1 Peter 3

1. In verses 1 – 7 what qualities in a wife and husband contribute to a harmonious relationship in their marriage?
2. What are the characteristics that should be ours in our relationships with others, both believers and unbelievers? Consider vv. 8 – 12.
3. How should we face suffering?
4. How should we answer those who ask us why we are Christians?

Daily Reading:

Oct. 21	Ecclesiastes 7, 8 Ezekiel 21	Song of Solomon 5
Oct. 22	Ecclesiastes 9, 10 Ezekiel 22	Song of Solomon 6
Oct. 23	Ecclesiastes 11, 12 Ezekiel 23	Song of Solomon 7
Oct. 24	Isaiah 1, 2 Ezekiel 24	Song of Solomon 8
Oct. 25	Isaiah 3, 4 Ezekiel 25	Hosea 1,
Oct. 26	Isaiah 5, 6 Ezekiel 26	Hosea 2
Oct. 27	Isaiah 7, 8 Ezekiel 27	Hosea 3

Questions & Answers:**Q. 85. What does God require of us, so that we may escape his wrath and the curse due to us for sin?**

ANS. To escape the wrath and curse of God, due to us for sin, God requires of us faith in Jesus Christ, repentance to life [a, with the diligent use of all the outward means which Christ communicates to us in or by the benefits of redemption [b].

[a]. Mark 1:15; Acts 20:21

[b]: Acts 2:38; 1 Cor. 11:24-25; Col. 3:16

Q. 86. What is faith in Jesus Christ?

ANS. Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace [a], whereby we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the gospel [b].

[a]. Eph. 2:8-9; cf. Rom. 4:16

[b]. John 20:30-31; Gal. 2:15-16; Phil. 3:3-11

Doctrinal Study:**The Church**

4. The Lord Jesus Christ is the Head of the church, in whom, by the appointment of the Father all power for the calling, institution, order, or government of the church, is invested in a supreme and sovereign manner. It is impossible for the Pope of Rome, in any sense to be the head of the Church, for he is an antichrist, that man of sin, and son of perdition, who exalts himself in the church against

Christ, and above all that is called God; whom the Lord shall destroy with the brightness of His coming.

(Col. 1:18; Matt. 28:18-20; Eph. 4:11-12; 2 Thess. 2:2-9)

5. In the execution of this authority and power which has been entrusted to Him, the Lord Jesus calls out of the world to Himself, through the ministry of His Word, by His Holy Spirit, those who have been given to Him by His Father, so that they may walk before Him in all the ways of obedience, which He prescribes for them in His Word. Those who are thus called, He commands to form together particular churches, for their mutual edification, and the due performance of that public worship, which He requires of them in the world.

(John 10:16; 12:32; Matt. 28:20; Matt. 18:15-20)

6. The members of these churches are saints by calling, visibly manifesting and evidencing (in and by their profession and walking) their obedience to that call of Christ; and do willingly consent to walk together, according to the appointment of Christ; giving up themselves to the Lord, and one to another, by the will of God, in professed subjection to the ordinances of the Gospel.

(Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:2; Acts 2:41-42; 5:13-14; 2 Cor. 9:13)

Bible Study

1 Peter 4

1. Consider the sufferings of Christ and how we ought to live in the light of them (refer to 3:18 – 4:3).
2. In what practical activities should all Christians take part, and what is the goal to which they should tend?
3. What kinds of suffering should a Christian avoid and rejoice in? (refer vv. 12 – 19)

Daily Reading:

Oct. 28	Isaiah 9, 10 Ezekiel 28	Hosea 4
Oct. 29	Isaiah 11, 12 Ezekiel 29	Hosea 5
Oct. 30	Isaiah 13, 14 Ezekiel 30	Hosea 6
Oct. 31	Isaiah 15, 16 Ezekiel 31	Hosea 7
Nov. 1	Isaiah 17, 18 Ezekiel 32	Hosea 8
Nov. 2	Isaiah 19, 20 Ezekiel 33	Hosea 9
Nov. 3	Isaiah 21, 22 Ezekiel 34	Hosea 10

Questions & Answers:**Q. 87. What is repentance unto life?**

ANS. Repentance unto life is a saving grace [a], by which a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ [b], does, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it to God [c], with a full purpose and endeavor after new obedience [d].

[a]. Acts 11:18; 2 Tim. 2:25

[b]. Ps. 51:1-4; Joel 2:13; Luke 15:7, 10; Acts 2:37

[c]. Jer. 31:18-19; Luke 1:16-17; 1 Thess. 1:9

[d]. 2 Chron. 7:14; Ps. 119:57-64; Matt. 3:8; 2 Cor. 7:10

Q. 88. What are the outward and ordinary means by which Christ communicates to us the benefits of redemption?

ANS. The outward and ordinary means by which Christ communicates to us the benefits of redemption are, his ordinances, especially the Word, ordinances, and prayer; all which are made effectual to the elect for salvation [a].

[a]. Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 21:41, 42

Doctrinal Study:**The Church**

7. To each of these churches thus gathered, according to His mind declared in His Word, He has given all that power and authority, which is in any way needful for their carrying on that order in

worship and discipline, which He has instituted for them to observe; with commands and rules for the due and right exerting, and executing of that power.

(Matt. 18:17-18; 1 Cor. 5:4-5; 5:13; 2 Cor. 2:6-8)

8. A particular church, gathered and completely organized according to the mind of Christ, consists of officers and members; and the officers appointed by Christ to be chosen and set apart by the church (so called and gathered), for the peculiar administration of ordinances, and execution of power or duty, which He entrusts them with, or calls them to, to be continued to the end of the world, are elders, and deacons.

(Acts 20:17, 28; Phil. 1:1)

9. The way appointed by Christ for the calling of any person, fitted and gifted by the Holy Spirit, to the office of elder in a church, is, that he be chosen by the common suffrage of the church itself; and solemnly set apart by fasting and prayer, by the laying on of the hands of the eldership of the church, if there be any before constituted therein. In the same way shall a deacon be chosen and set apart by prayer, and the laying on of hands.

(Acts 14:23; 1 Tim. 4:14; Acts 6:3, 5-6)

Bible Study

1 Peter 5

1. What are the characteristics of a good elder?
2. What is biblical humility?
3. How are we to handle the enemy of our souls?
4. What will God do for us after we have suffered for a while?
5. How do you understand the dominion of God in verse 11? Is it present dominion or future dominion (or both)?

Daily Reading:

Nov. 4	Isaiah 23, 24 Ezekiel 35	Hosea 11
Nov. 5	Isaiah 25, 26 Ezekiel 36	Hosea 12
Nov. 6	Isaiah 27, 28 Ezekiel 37	Hosea 13
Nov. 7	Isaiah 29, 30 Ezekiel 38	Hosea 14
Nov. 8	Isaiah 31, 32 Ezekiel 39	Joel 1
Nov. 9	Isaiah 33, 34 Ezekiel 40	Joel 2
Nov. 10	Isaiah 35, 36 Ezekiel 41	Joel 3

Questions & Answers:**Q. 89. How is the Word made effective for salvation?**

ANS. The Spirit of God makes the reading, but especially the preaching of the Word, an effective means of convincing and converting sinners, and of building them up in holiness and comfort, through faith, unto salvation [a].

[a]. Neh. 8:8-9; Acts 20:32; Rom. 10:14-17; 2 Tim. 3:15-17

Q. 90. How is the Word to be read and heard, so that it may become effective to salvation?

ANS. That the Word may become effective to salvation, we must attend to it with all diligence, preparation, and prayer [a]; receive it with faith and love, lay it up in our hearts, and practice it in our lives [b].

[a]. Deut. 6:6ff; Ps. 119:18; 1 Pet. 2:1-2

[b]. Ps. 119:11; 2 Thess. 2:10; Heb. 4:2; Jas. 1:22-25

Doctrinal Study:**The Church**

10. The work of elders being constantly to attend the service of Christ, in His churches, in the ministry of the Word and prayer, with watching for their souls, as they that must give an account to Him; it is incumbent on the churches to whom they minister, not only to give them all due respect, but also to communicate to them of all their good things, according to their ability, so as they may

have a comfortable supply, without being themselves entangled in secular affairs; and may also be capable of exercising hospitality towards others; and this is required by the law of nature, and by the express order of our Lord Jesus, who has ordained that they that preach the Gospel should live of the Gospel.

(Acts 6:4; Heb. 13:17; 1 Tim. 5:17-18; Gal. 6:6-7; 2 Tim. 2:4; 1 Tim. 3:2; 1 Cor. 9:6-14)

11. Although it be incumbent on the elders of the churches, to be constant in preaching the Word, by way of office, yet the work of preaching the Word is not so peculiarly confined to them but others also gifted and fitted by the Holy Spirit for it, who are approved and called by the church, may and ought to perform it.

(Acts 11:19-21; 1 Peter 4:10-11)

12. All believers are bound to join themselves to particular churches, when and where they have opportunity to do so, so that all are admitted to the privileges of a church, and are also under the censures and government of such a church, which is according to the rule of Christ.

(1 Thess. 5:14; 2 Thess. 3:6, 14-15)

Bible Study

Ezra 1 (read 2 Chron. 36 for context)

1. What was the word of the Lord spoken by the mouth of Jeremiah in verse 1? (examine Jer. 25)
2. What did Cyrus mean when he said that God had charged him to build a house for God in Jerusalem? How could God use a wicked king in this way?
3. How many vessels of gold and silver were to return? (refer 2 Kings 24:11 – 14; 2 Chron. 36:7)

Daily Reading:

Nov. 11	Isaiah 37, 38 Ezekiel 42	Amos 1
Nov. 12	Isaiah 39, 40 Ezekiel 43	Amos 2
Nov. 13	Isaiah 41, 42 Ezekiel 44	Amos 3
Nov. 14	Isaiah 43, 44 Ezekiel 45	Amos 4
Nov. 15	Isaiah 45, 46 Ezekiel 46	Amos 5
Nov. 16	Isaiah 47, 48 Ezekiel 47	Amos 6
Nov. 17	Isaiah 49, 50 Ezekiel 48	Amos 7

Questions & Answers:**Q. 91. How do the ordinances become effective means of salvation?**

ANS. The sacraments become effective means of salvation, not from any virtue in them, or in him who administers them; but only by the blessing of Christ, and the working of his Spirit in them who by faith receive them [a].

[a]. 1 Cor. 3:7; cf. 1 Cor. 1:12-17

Q. 92. What is an ordinance?

ANS. An ordinance is holy being instituted by Christ [a]; wherein, by sensible signs, Christ, and the benefits of the new covenant, these are represented, sealed, and applied to believers [b].

[a]. Matt. 28:19; 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 1:22-26

[b]. Gal. 3:27; 1 Cor. 10:16-17

Doctrinal Study:**The Church**

13. No church members, upon any offence taken by them, having performed their duty required of them towards the person they are offended at, ought to disturb any church-order, or absent themselves from the assemblies of the church, or administration of any ordinances, upon the account

of such offence at any of their fellow members, but to wait upon Christ, in the further proceedings of the church.

(Matt. 18:15-17; Eph. 4:2-3)

14. As each church, and all the members of it, are bound to pray continually for the good and prosperity of all the churches of Christ, in all places, and upon all occasions to further every one within the bounds of their places and callings, in the exercise of their gifts and graces, so the churches, when planted by the providence of God, may enjoy opportunity and advantage, and thus ought to hold communion among themselves, for their peace, increase of love, and mutual edification.

(Eph. 6:18; Ps. 122:6; Rom. 16:1-2; 3 John 1:8-10)

15. In cases of difficulties or differences, either in point of doctrine or administration, wherein either the churches in general are concerned, or any one church, in their peace, union, and edification; or any member or members of any church are injured, in or by any proceedings in censures not agreeable to truth and order: it is according to the mind of Christ, that many churches holding communion together, do, by their messengers, meet to consider, and give their advice concerning such matters. These messengers assembled, are not entrusted with any church-power properly so called; or with any jurisdiction over the churches themselves, nor can they exercise any censures either over any churches or persons; nor impose their determination on the churches or their officers.

(Acts 15:2, 4, 6, 22-23, 25; 2 Cor. 1:24; 1 John 4:1)

Bible Study

Ezra 2

1. How many exiles returned?
2. How many priests returned?
3. How many donkeys returned?
4. What was given into the treasury for the work?

Daily Reading:

Nov. 18	Isaiah 51, 52 2 Chronicles 1	Amos 8
Nov. 19	Isaiah 53, 54 2 Chronicles 2	Amos 9
Nov. 20	Isaiah 55, 56 2 Chronicles 3	Obadiah
Nov. 21	Isaiah 57, 58 2 Chronicles 4	Jonah 1
Nov. 22	Isaiah 59, 60 2 Chronicles 5	Jonah 2
Nov. 23	Isaiah 61, 62 2 Chronicles 6	Jonah 3
Nov. 24	Isaiah 63, 64 2 Chronicles 7	Jonah 4

Questions & Answers:**Q. 93. Which are the ordinances of the New Testament?**

ANS. The ordinances of the New Testament are, Baptism [a], and the Lord's Supper [b].

[a]. Matt. 28:19

[b]. 1 Cor 11:23-26

Q. 94. What is Baptism?

ANS. Baptism is a ordinance, wherein the washing with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost [a], signifies and seals our grafting into Christ, and partaking of the benefits of the covenant of grace, and our commitment to be the Lord's [b].

[a]. Matt. 28:19

[b]. Acts 2:38-42; 22:16; Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:26-27; 1Pet. 3:21

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

1. All saints that are united to Jesus Christ, their head, by His Spirit, and faith, although they are not made one person with Him, have fellowship in His graces, sufferings, death, resurrection, and glory; and, being united to one another in love, they have communion in each others gifts and graces, and

are obliged to the performance of such duties, public and private, in an orderly way, for their mutual good, both in the inward and outward man.

(1 John 1:3, 16; Phil. 3:10; Rom. 6:5-6; Eph. 4:15-16; 1 Cor. 12:7; 3:21-23; 1 Thess. 5:11, 14; Rom. 1:12; 1 John 3:17-18; Gal. 6:10)

2. Saints by profession are bound to maintain an holy fellowship and communion in the worship of God, and in the performing of such spiritual services that tend to their mutual edification, thus also in relieving each other in outward things according to their several abilities, and necessities; which communion, according to the rule of the gospel, is especially to be exercised by them, in the relation wherein they stand, whether in families, or churches, yet, as God offers opportunity, is to be extended to all the household of faith, even all those who in every place call upon the name of the Lord Jesus; nevertheless their communion one with another as saints, does not take away or infringe the title or propriety which each man hath in his goods and possessions.

(Heb. 10:24-25; 3:12-13; Acts 11:29-30; Eph. 6:4; 1 Cor. 12:14-27; Acts 5:4; Eph. 4:28)

Baptism & The Lord's Supper

1. Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of positive and sovereign institution, appointed by the Lord Jesus, the only lawgiver, to be continued in His church to the end of the world.

(Matt. 28:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:26)

Bible Study

Ezra 3, 4

1. What were the motives in the hearts of the exiles at the time of their return?
2. Who supervised the workers in the house of God?
3. Why did the old men weep and the people rejoice (refer 2:10 – 13)?
4. Who opposed the exiles in their building, and how did they do it?

WEEK 48

November 25 – December 1

Daily Reading:

Nov. 25	Isaiah 65, 66 2 Chronicles 8	Micah 1
Nov. 26	Jeremiah 1, 2 2 Chronicles 9	Micah 2
Nov. 27	Jeremiah 3, 4 2 Chronicles 10	Micah 3
Nov. 28	Jeremiah 5, 6 2 Chronicles 11	Micah 4
Nov. 29	Jeremiah 7, 8 2 Chronicles 12	Micah 5
Nov. 30	Jeremiah 9, 10 2 Chronicles 13	Micah 7
Dec. 1	Jeremiah 11, 12 2 Chronicles 14	Nahum 1

Questions & Answers:

Q. 95. To whom is Baptism to be administered?

ANS. Baptism is not to be administered to any that are out of the visible church, till they profess their faith in Christ, and obedience to him [a]; excepting the infants of such as are members of the visible church.

[a]. Acts. 2:41; 8:12, 36, 38; 18:8

Q. 96. What is the Lord's Supper?

ANS. The Lord's Supper is an ordinance, wherein, by giving and receiving bread and wine, according to Christ's appointment, his death is proclaimed [a]; and the worthy receivers are, not after a corporal and fleshly manner, but by faith, made partakers of his body and blood, with all his benefits, to their spiritual nourishment, and growth in grace [b].

[a]. Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-26

[b]. 1 Cor. 10:16-17

Doctrinal Study:

Baptism & The Lord's Supper

2. These holy appointments are to be administered by those only who are qualified and thereunto called, according to the commission of Christ.

(Matt. 28:19; 1 Cor. 4:1)

Baptism

1. Baptism is an ordinance of the New Testament, ordained by Jesus Christ, to be to the party baptized, a sign of his fellowship with Him, in His death and resurrection; of his being engrafted into Him; of remission of sins; and of giving up into God, through Jesus Christ, to live and walk in newness of life.

(Rom. 6:3-5; Col. 2:12; Gal. 3:27; Mark 1:4; Acts 22:16; Rom. 6:4)

2. Those who do actually profess repentance towards God, faith in, and obedience to, our Lord Jesus Christ, are the only proper subjects of this ordinance.

(Mark 16:16; Acts 2:41; 8:12, 36-37; 18:8)

Bible Study

Ezra 5, 6

1. What means did God use to cause the building to recommence?
2. How was the building to be paid for?
3. How did the exiles celebrate the dedication of the building?
4. Notice what God did to the exiles and to the king of Assyria in 6:22. Explain this.

Daily Reading:

Dec. 2	Jeremiah 13, 14 2 Chronicles 15	Nahum 2
Dec. 3	Jeremiah 15, 16 2 Chronicles 16	Nahum 3
Dec. 4	Jeremiah 17, 18 2 Chronicles 17	Habakkuk 1
Dec. 5	Jeremiah 19, 20 2 Chronicles 18	Habakkuk 2
Dec. 6	Jeremiah 21, 22 2 Chronicles 19	Habakkuk 3
Dec. 7	Jeremiah 23, 24 2 Chronicles 20	Zephaniah 1
Dec. 8	Jeremiah 25, 26 2 Chronicles 21	Zephaniah 2

Questions & Answers:**Q. 97. What is required for the worthy receiving of the Lord's Supper?**

ANS. It is required of them that would worthily partake of the Lord's Supper, that they examine themselves of their knowledge to discern the Lord's body, of their faith to feed upon him, of their repentance, love, and new obedience; lest, coming unworthily, they eat and drink judgment to themselves [a].

[a]. 1 Cor. 11:27-32

Q. 98. What is prayer?

ANS. Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God [a], for things agreeable to his will [b], in the name of Christ [c], with confession of our sins [d], and thankful acknowledgement of his mercies. [e]

[a]. Ps. 10:17; 62:8; Matt. 7:7-8

[b]. 1 John 5:14

[c]. John 16:23-24

[d]. Ps. 32:5-6; Dan. 9:4-19; 1 John 1:9

[e]. Ps. 103:1-5; 136; Phil. 4:6

Doctrinal Study:**Baptism**

3. The outward element to be used in this ordinance is water, wherein the party is to be baptized, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

(Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 8:38)

4. Immersion, or dipping of the person in water, is necessary to the due administration of this ordinance.

(Matt. 3:16, John 3:23)

The Lord's Supper

1. The supper of the Lord Jesus was instituted by Him the same night in which He was betrayed. It is to be observed in His churches, unto the end of the world, for the perpetual remembrance, and showing forth the sacrifice of Christ in His death, for the confirmation of the faith of believers in all the benefits connected with Christ, for their spiritual nourishment and growth in Him, for their further engagement in, and to all duties which they owe to Him, and to be a bond and pledge of their communion with Him, and with each other.

(1 Cor. 11:23-26; 1 Cor. 10:16-17, 21)

Bible Study

Ezra 7, 8

1. Have you noticed how many reigns of kings have occurred up to this point in the book. Can you name these kings?
2. Provide an outline of Ezra the man. What was he like? Did he accomplish his aims?
3. Why did Ezra take courage?
4. How many males were with Ezra?
5. Why did Ezra not ask the king for an escort? Would it have been wrong for him to do so? (compare Nehemiah 2:9)
6. How did Ezra begin the journey? Are there lessons for us in how to begin a journey?

Daily Reading:

Dec. 9	Jeremiah 27, 28 2 Chronicles 22	Zephaniah 3
Dec. 10	Jeremiah 29, 30 2 Chronicles 23	Haggai 1
Dec. 11	Jeremiah 31, 32 2 Chronicles 24	Haggai 2
Dec. 12	Jeremiah 33, 34 2 Chronicles 25	Zechariah 1
Dec. 13	Jeremiah 35, 36 2 Chronicles 26	Zechariah 2
Dec. 14	Jeremiah 37, 38 2 Chronicles 28	Zechariah 3
Dec. 15	Jeremiah 39, 40 2 Chronicles 29	Zechariah 4

Questions & Answers:**Q. 99. What rule has God given for our direction in prayer?**

ANS. The whole Word of God is of use to direct us in prayer [a]; but the special rule of direction is that form of prayer which Christ taught his disciples, commonly called The Lord's Prayer. [b]

[a]. 1 John 5:14

[b]. Matt. 6:9-13

Q. 100. What does the preface of the Lord's Prayer teach us?

ANS. The preface of the Lord's Prayer, which is, Our Father who art in heaven, teaches us to draw near to God with all holy reverence [a] and confidence [b], as children to a father [c], able and ready to help us [d]; and that we should pray with and for others [e].

[a]. Ps. 95:6

[b]. Eph. 3:12

[c]. Matt. 7:9-11, cf. Luke 11:11-13; Rom. 8:15

[d]. Eph. 3:20

[e]. Eph. 6:18; 1 Tim. 2:1-2

Doctrinal Study:**The Lord's Supper**

2. In this ordinance Christ is not offered up to His Father, nor any real sacrifice made at all for remission of sin of the quick or dead, but only a memorial of that one offering up of Himself by Himself upon the cross, once for all. It is also a spiritual offering of all possible praise unto God for the once-for-all work of Calvary. Thus the popish sacrifice of the mass, as they call it, is most abominable, injurious to Christ's own sacrifice who is the alone propitiation for all the sins of the elect.

(Heb. 9:25-26, 28; 1 Cor. 11:24; Matt. 26:26-27)

3. The Lord Jesus has, in this ordinance, appointed His ministers to pray, and bless the elements of bread and wine, and thus to set them apart from a common use to a holy use, and to take and break the bread; to take the cup, and, they communicating also themselves, to give both to the communicants.

(1 Cor. 11:23-26)

4. The denial of the cup to the people, worshipping the elements, the lifting them up, or carrying them about for adoration, and reserving them for any pretended religious use, are all contrary to the nature of this ordinance, and to the institution of Christ.

(Matt. 26:26-28; 15:9; Exod. 20:4-5)

Bible Study

Ezra 9, 10

1. See Deuteronomy 7:1 – 4 for the background to what happened in Ezra 9. How had the people sinned? Can we commit similar sin today?
2. What are the responsibilities of leadership?
3. What are the major characteristics of Ezra's prayer? (refer also to Nehemiah 9 and Daniel 9)
4. What does Ezra 10 teach us about the faithfulness of God?
5. Is there a cost to repentance? If so, what is it or can you think of other costs?

Daily Reading:

Dec. 16	Jeremiah 41, 42 2 Chronicles 30	Zechariah 5
Dec. 17	Jeremiah 43, 44 2 Chronicles 31	Zechariah 6
Dec. 18	Jeremiah 45, 46 2 Chronicles 32	Zechariah 7
Dec. 19	Jeremiah 47, 48 2 Chronicles 33	Zechariah 8
Dec. 20	Jeremiah 49, 50 2 Chronicles 34	Zechariah 9
Dec. 21	Jeremiah 51, 52 2 Chronicles 35	Zechariah 10
Dec. 22	Lamentations 1, 2 2 Chronicles 36	Zechariah 11

Questions & Answers:**Q. 101. What do we pray for in the first petition?**

ANS. In the first petition, which is, Hallowed be your name, we pray, that God would enable us, and others, to glorify him in everything by which he makes himself known [a]; and that he would dispose all things to his own glory [b].

[a]. Ps. 67:1-3; 99:3; 100:3-4

[b]. Rom. 11:33-36; Rev. 4:11

Q. 102. What do we pray for in the second petition?

ANS. In the second petition, which is, Your kingdom come, we pray, that Satan's kingdom may be destroyed [a]; and that the kingdom of grace may be advanced [b], ourselves and others brought into it, and kept in it [c]; and that the kingdom of glory may be hastened [d].

[a]. Matt. 12:25-28; Rom. 16:20; 1 John 3:8

[b]. Ps. 72:8-11; Matt. 24:14; 1 Cor. 15:24-25

[c]. Ps. 119:5; Luke 22:32; 2 Thess. 3:1-5

[d]. Rev. 22:20

Doctrinal Study:**The Lord's Supper**

5. The outward elements in this ordinance – bread and wine - duly set apart for the use ordained by Christ bear such a relation to the Lord crucified, that, in a true sense although in terms used

figuratively, they are sometimes called by the names of the things they represent, namely, the body and blood of Christ, even though, in substance and nature, they still remain truly and only bread and wine, as they were before they were set apart for their special use.

(1 Cor. 11:27; 1 Cor. 11:26-28)

6. That doctrine which maintains a change of the substance of bread and wine, into the substance of Christ's body and blood, commonly called transubstantiation, by consecration of a priest, or by any other way, is repugnant to Scripture, and also by common sense and reason, overthrows the nature of the ordinance, and has been, and is, the cause of many superstitions, yes, even gross idolatries.

(Acts 3:21; Luke 24:6, 39; 1 Cor. 11:24-25)

7. Worthy receivers, outwardly partaking of the visible elements in this ordinance, do them also inwardly by faith, really and indeed, yet not carnally and corporally, but spiritually receive, and feed upon Christ crucified, and all the benefits of His death. The body and blood of Christ being then not corporally or carnally, is spiritually present to the faith of believers in that ordinance, as the elements themselves are to their outward senses.

(1 Cor. 10:16; 11:23-26)

Bible Study

Matthew 1:18 – 25; 2:1 – 18; Luke 1:39 - 56

1. What do these verses teach about the Virgin Birth, and why is this important for the Christian?
2. Consider the significance of the wise men in light of Isaiah 49:6, Luke 2:32; John 10:16.
3. What does Mary's song reveal to us about the character of God, and His working among men?
4. What features of Mary's character are revealed in her song?
5. Why did Jesus come into this world (see Matt. 1)?

Daily Reading:

Dec. 23	Lamentations 3, 4	Zechariah 12
Dec. 24	Lamentations 5	Zechariah 13
Dec. 25	Daniel 1, 2	Zechariah 14
Dec. 26	Daniel 3, 4	Malachi 1
Dec. 27	Daniel 5, 6	Malachi 2
Dec. 28	Daniel 7, 8	Malachi 3
Dec. 29	Daniel 9, 10	Malachi 4
Dec. 30	Daniel 11	
Dec. 31	Daniel 12	

Questions & Answers:**Q. 103. What do we pray for in the third petition?**

ANS. In the third petition, which is, Your will be done in earth, as it is in heaven, we pray, that God, by his grace, would make us able and willing to know, obey, and submit to his will in all things [a], as the angels do in heaven [b].

[a]. Ps. 19:14; 119; 1 Thess. 5:23; Heb. 13:20-21

[b]. Ps. 103:20-21; Heb. 1:14

Q. 104. What do we pray for in the fourth petition?

ANS. In the fourth petition, which is, Give us this day our daily bread, we pray that of God's free gift we may receive a competent portion of the good things of this life, and enjoy his blessing with them [a].

[a]. Prov. 30:8-9; Matt. 6:31-34; Phil. 4:11, 19; 1 Tim. 6:6-8

Q. 105. What do we pray for in the fifth petition?

ANS. In the fifth petition, which is, And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, we pray that God, for Christ's sake, would freely pardon all our sins [a]; which we are the rather encouraged to ask, because by his grace we are enabled from the heart to forgive others [b].

[a]. Ps. 51:1-2, 7, 9; Dan. 9:17-19; 1 John 1:7

[b]. Matt. 18:21-35; Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:13

Q. 106. What do we pray for in the sixth petition?

ANS. In the sixth petition, which is, And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, we pray, that God would either keep us from being tempted to sin [a], or support and deliver us when we are tempted [b].

[a]. Ps. 19:13; Matt. 26:41; John 17:15

[b]. Luke 22:31-32; 1 Cor. 10:13; 2 Cor. 12:7-9; Heb. 2:18

Q. 107. What does the conclusion of the Lord's Prayer teach us?

ANS. The conclusion of the Lord's Prayer, which is, For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever, Amen, teaches us to take our encouragement in prayer from God only [a], and in our prayers to praise him, ascribing kingdom, power, and glory to him [b]; and, in testimony of our desire, and assurance to be heard, we say, Amen. [c]

[a]. Dan. 9:4, 7-9, 16-19; Luke 18:1, 7-8

[b]. 1 Chron. 29:10-13; 1 Tim. 1:17; Rev. 5:11-13

[c]. 1 Cor. 14:16; Rev. 22:20

Doctrinal Study:

The Lord's Supper

8. All ignorant and ungodly persons, as they are unfit to enjoy communion with Christ, so are they unworthy of the Lord's table, and cannot, without great sin against Him, while they remain such, partake of these holy mysteries, or be admitted thereunto Thus whoever shall receive unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord, eating and drinking judgment to themselves. **(2 Cor. 6:14-15; 1 Cor. 11:29; Matt. 7:6)**

Man After Death & The Resurrection of the Dead

1. The bodies of men after death return to dust, and see corruption but their souls, which neither die nor sleep, being inherently immortal, immediately return to God who gave them. The souls of the righteous being then made perfect in holiness, are received into paradise, where they are with Christ, and behold the face of God in light and glory, waiting for the full redemption of their bodies; and the souls of the wicked are cast into hell; where they remain in torment and utter darkness, reserved to the judgment of the great day. Besides these two places, for souls separated from their bodies, the Scripture acknowledges none other.

(Gen. 3:19; Acts 13:36; Eccl. 12:7; Luke 23:43; 2Cor. 5:1, 6, 8; Phil. 1:23, Heb. 12:23; Jude 1:6-7; 1 Peter 3:19; Luke 16:23-24)

2. At the last day, those saints who are found alive, shall not sleep, but shall be changed; and all the dead shall be raised up with the selfsame bodies, and none other; although with different qualities, which shall be united again to their souls for ever.

(1 Cor. 15:51-52; 1 Thess. 4:17; Job 19:26-27; 1 Cor. 15:42-43)

3. The bodies of the unjust shall, by the power of Christ, be raised to dishonor; the bodies of the just, by His Spirit, unto honor, and be made conformable to His own glorious body.

(Acts 24:15; John 5:28-29; Phil. 3:21)

The Last Judgment

1. God has appointed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness, by Jesus Christ; to whom all power and judgment is given of the Father; on which day, not only the apostate angels

shall be judged, but likewise all persons that have lived upon the earth shall appear before the tribunal of Christ, to give an account of their thoughts, words, and deeds, and to receive according to what they have done in the body, whether good or evil.

(Acts 17:31; John 5:22, 27; 1 Cor. 6:3; Jude 1:6; 2 Cor. 5:10; Eccl. 12:14; Matt. 12:36; Rom. 14:10, 12; Matt. 25:32-46)

2. The end of God's appointing this day, is for the manifestation of the glory of His mercy, in the eternal salvation of the elect; and of His justice, in the eternal damnation of the reprobate, who are wicked and disobedient: for then shall the righteous go into everlasting life, and receive that fullness of joy and glory with everlasting rewards, in the presence of the Lord; but the wicked, who know not God, and obey not the gospel of Jesus Christ, shall be cast aside into everlasting torments, and punished with everlasting destruction, from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power.

(Rom. 9:22-23; Matt. 25:21, 34; 2 Tim. 4:8; Matt. 25:46; Mark 9:48; 2 Thess. 1:7-10)

3. As Christ would have us to be certainly persuaded that there shall be a day of judgment, both to deter all men from sin, and for the greater consolation of the godly in their adversity, so will He have the day unknown to men, that they may shake off all carnal security, and be always watchful, because they know not at what hour the Lord will come, and may they ever be prepared to say, "Come Lord Jesus; come quickly". Amen.

(2 Cor. 5:10-11; 2 Thess. 1:5-7; Mark 13:35-37; Luke 12:35-40; Rev. 22:20)

Bible Study

Revelation 22:6 – 21

1. What word of Jesus is repeated in these verses?
2. How do you reconcile Jesus' words with the fact that He still has not come, and what should our attitude and response be to what our Lord says?
3. Can these words help us as we enter the New Year? If so, how would they?
4. What theological framework would you be able to develop in the light of all this year's studies? Where would you begin and where would you end (see Q&A from Study Guide 1 and this guide)?