

W @ K L J P r a J @ r J O U r n a l

DAILY BIBLE STUDIES

*“Catechism & Communion”
Part – 2 (Heidelberg #'s 75-78)*

Selected Scripture

June 29 – July 5, 2008

THE LORD'S DAY –As we continue in our monthly ongoing series dealing with The Lord’s Supper we come to Part 2 of a series of lessons entitled “*Catechism & Communion*”. These lessons will be taken directly from questions and answers from The Heidelberg Catechism which we are going through for Bible Study on Wednesday nights. Our Lord’s Day sermons will correspond to the material we cover in these lessons. My prayer is that we will truly learn and apply the Biblical principles taught here in this Catechism. Read **Nehemiah 8:1-6**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: *Ask the Lord to teach you from His Word this week.*

MONDAY –The word catechism is defined as “an elementary book containing a summary of the principles of the Christian religion, esp. as maintained by a particular church, in the form of questions and answers.” Our English word comes from the ancient Greek word Katecheo which is recorded in Scripture and is translated “teach, instruct, and inform”. Its proper definition is “to sound towards, sound down upon, resound, to teach orally, to instruct, to inform by word of mouth”. The Heidelberg Catechism was written in Heidelberg at the request of Elector Frederick III, ruler of the most influential German province, the Palatinate, from 1559 to 1576. He commissioned Zacharius Ursinus, (a twenty-eight year old professor of theology at the Heidelberg University), and Caspar Olevianus, (a twenty-six year old and Frederick’s court preacher), to prepare a catechism for instructing the youth and for guiding pastors and teachers. Frederick obtained the advice and cooperation of the entire theological faculty in the preparation of the Catechism. The Heidelberg Catechism was adopted by a Synod in Heidelberg and published in German with a preface by Frederick III, dated January 19, 1563. The Catechism was soon divided into fifty-two sections, so that a section of the Catechism could be explained to the churches each Sunday of the year. Read **Deuteronomy 6:1-9**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: *Father, help me to understand the importance of learning Your Word. Thank You for means such as Catechisms based in Holy Scripture that help teach me. May I not only learn Your truth but put it into practice.*

Praise & Prayer	ADORATION Hallowed be Your name. (6:9)	AUTHORITY Your Kingdom come... (6:10)	APPEAL Give us this day... (6:11)	AQUITTAL Forgive us our debts... (6:12)	ASSISTANCE Deliver us from evil. (6:13a)	ADMIRATION For Yours is the Kingdom... (6:13)	Lord's Day	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat

M a t t h @ W 6: 9-13

TUESDAY – 75. Q. How does the Lord's Supper signify and seal to you that you share in Christ's one sacrifice on the cross and in all His gifts?

A. In this way: Christ has commanded me and all believers to eat of this broken bread and drink of this cup in remembrance of Him. With this command He gave these promises: First, as surely as I see with my eyes the bread of the Lord broken for me and the cup given to me, so surely was His body offered for me and His blood poured out for me on the cross. Second, as surely as I receive from the hand of the minister and taste with my mouth the bread and the cup of the Lord as sure signs of Christ's body and blood, so surely does He Himself nourish and refresh my soul to everlasting life with His crucified body and shed blood.

Read **Matthew 26:26-28, Mark 14:22-24, Luke 22:19, 20, 1 Corinthians 11:23-25.**

What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: Thank God for the 'Gospel in visible form' which is seen at The Lord's Supper. Thank God for the surety of forgiveness through Christ.

WEDNESDAY – 76. Q. What does it mean to eat the crucified body of Christ and to drink His shed blood?

A. First, to accept with a believing heart all the suffering and the death of Christ, and so receive forgiveness of sins and life eternal. Second, to be united more and more to His sacred body through the Holy Spirit, who lives both in Christ and in us. Therefore, although Christ is in heaven and we are on earth, yet we are flesh of His flesh and bone of His bones, and we forever live and are governed by one Spirit, as the members of our body are by one soul.

Read **John 6:35, 40, 50-58, 15:1-6, Acts 1:9-11, 3:21, 1 Corinthians 6:15-17, 11:26, 12:13, Ephesians 4:15-16, 5:29-30, Colossians 3:1, 1 John 3:24, 4:13.**

What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: Thank God for the gift of faith which enables us to "eat" and obtain eternal life from & through Christ who will raise us up at the last day.

THURSDAY – 77. Q. Where has Christ promised that He will nourish and refresh believers with His body and blood as surely as they eat of this broken bread and drink of this cup?

A. In the institution of the Lord's Supper: The Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, "Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. This promise is repeated by Paul where he says: The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are

many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. Read **1 Corinthians 10:16-17, 11:23-26.**

What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: Thank You Jesus for shared life in You. Thank you for the unity we as genuine believers both possess and see illustrated in communion.

FRIDAY – 78. Q. Are then the bread and wine changed into the real body and blood of Christ?

A. No. Just as the water of baptism is not changed into the blood of Christ and is not the washing away of sins itself but is simply God's sign and pledge, so also the bread in the Lord's supper does not become the body of Christ itself, although it is called Christ's body in keeping with the nature and usage of sacraments.

Read **Ephesians 5:26, Titus 3:5, Matthew 26:26-29, 1 Corinthians 10:3-4, 16-17, 11:26-28, Gen. 17:10-11, Exodus 12:11-13, 1 Peter 3:21.**

What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: Protect and keep us dear God from worshipping Your gifts to us (even the means of Grace) rather than You as The Great God and giver of all.

SATURDAY – In the Netherlands this Heidelberg Catechism became generally and favorably known almost as soon as it came from the press, mainly through the efforts of Petrus Dathenus, who translated it into the Dutch language and added this translation to his Dutch rendering of the Genevan Psalter, which was published in 1566. In the same year, Peter Gabriel set the example of explaining this catechism to his congregation at Amsterdam in his Sunday afternoon sermons. The National Synods of the sixteenth century adopted it as one of the Three Forms of Unity, requiring office-bearers to subscribe to it and ministers to explain it to the churches. These requirements were strongly emphasized by the great Synod of Dort in 1618-19. The Heidelberg Catechism has been translated into many languages and is the most influential and the most generally accepted of the several catechisms of Reformation times. As it is proper for us to use means such as catechisms to help instruct us in the teachings of Holy Scripture, we must remember that Scripture alone is our final authority and even genuine Christian men can falter and err in their understanding of God's Word. May we always be diligent to use the Scripture to evaluate all that we read and are taught. Read **2 Timothy 2:1-2.**

What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thank you Holy Trinity for who You are. Thank You that You alone are God. Help me to always be diligent to study and learn Your Word. Thanks for practical tools such as The Heidelberg Catechism but help me to always compare all things by Your Holy, inerrant, and complete Word.