

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

DAILY BIBLE STUDIES

**“Catechism & Communion”
Part – 3 (Heidelberg #'s 79-82)**

Selected Scripture

July 27 – August 2, 2008

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

THE LORD'S DAY –As we continue in our monthly ongoing series dealing with The Lord’s Supper we come to Part 3 of a series of lessons entitled “*Catechism & Communion*”. These lessons are 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.*

TUESDAY – 79. Q. Why then does Christ call the bread His body and the cup His blood, or the new covenant in His blood, and why does Paul speak of a participation in the body and blood of Christ?

M a t t h @ 6: 9-13

A. Christ speaks in this way for a good reason: He wants to teach us by His supper that as bread and wine sustain us in this temporal life, so His crucified body and shed blood are true food and drink for our souls to eternal life.[1] But, even more important, He wants to assure us by this visible sign and pledge, first, that through the working of the Holy Spirit we share in His true body and blood as surely as we receive with our mouth these holy signs in remembrance of Him,[2] and, second, that all His suffering and obedience are as certainly ours as if we personally had suffered and paid for our sins.[3]

[1] John 6:51, 55. [2] I Corinthians 10:16, 17; 11:26. [3] Rom. 6:5-11.

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

Suggestion for prayer: Thank God for the real sustenance for our souls provided through the crucified body and shed blood of Jesus.

WEDNESDAY – 80. Q. What difference is there between the Lord's supper and the papal mass?

A. The Lord's supper testifies to us, first, that we have complete forgiveness of all our sins through the one sacrifice of Jesus Christ, which He Himself accomplished on the cross once for all;[1] and, second, that through the Holy Spirit we are grafted into Christ,[2] who with His true body is now in heaven at the right hand of the Father,[3] and this is where He wants to be worshipped.[4] But the mass teaches, first, that the living and the dead do not have forgiveness of sins through the suffering of Christ unless He is still offered for them daily by the priests; and, second, that Christ is bodily present in the form of bread and wine, and there is to be worshipped. Therefore the mass is basically nothing but a denial of the one sacrifice and suffering of Jesus Christ, and an accursed idolatry.

[1] Matthew 26:28; John 19:30; Hebrews 7:27; 9:12, 25, 26; 10:10-18. [2] I Corinthians 6:17; 10:16, 17. [3] John 20:17; Acts 7:55, 56; Hebrews 1:3; 8:1. [4] John 4:21-24; Philipians 3:20; Colossians 3:1; I Thessalonians 1:10.

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

Suggestion for prayer: Thank You God that our Saviors sacrifice for our sin was sufficient. Jesus, praise You for taking away our sin "once for all".

THURSDAY – 81. Q. Who are to come to the table of the Lord?

A. Those who are truly displeased with themselves because of their sins and yet trust that these are forgiven them and that their remaining weakness is covered by the suffering and death of Christ, and who also desire more and more to strengthen their faith and amend their life. But hypocrites and those who do not repent eat and drink judgment upon themselves.[1]

[1] I Corinthians 10:19-22; 11:26-32.

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

Suggestion for prayer: Father, help us to confess our sins and to prepare ourselves before coming to The Lord's Supper.

FRIDAY – 82. Q. Are those also to be admitted to the Lord's supper who by their confession and life show that they are unbelieving and ungodly?

A. No, for then the covenant of God would be profaned and His wrath kindled against the whole congregation.[1] Therefore, according to the command of Christ and His apostles, the Christian church is duty-bound to exclude such persons by the keys of the kingdom of heaven, until they amend their lives.

[1] Psalms 50:16; Isaiah 1:11-17; I Corinthians 11:17-34.

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

Suggestion for prayer: Father, give us courage to fence The Table and warn those who would eat and drink damnation upon themselves.

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.