

W @ e k l j P r a d @ r J o u r n a l

**DAILY BIBLE STUDIES**

“Catechism & Communion”  
(Westminster Shorter -Question #96)

*Selected Scripture*

*June 29 – July 4, 2009*

**THE LORD'S DAY** – This week we return to our series dealing with The Lord’s Supper entitled “Catechism & Communion”. In this new series we are looking at a few questions from the “Westminster Shorter Catechism” then Lord willing we will use the “Larger Catechism” in future months. 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 is from the ancient Greek word Katecheo which is recorded in Scripture and translated “teach, instruct, and inform” (**Luke 1:4, Acts 18:25, 1 Corinthians 14:19**). Its proper definition is “to sound towards, sound down upon, resound, to teach orally, to instruct, to inform by word of mouth”. Remember that Sacred Scripture is the final authority not “Catechisms”; but we also thank God for Catechisms based in and on Holy Scripture which help to teach us.

*Suggestion for prayer: Father, teach me this week from Holy Scripture.*

**MONDAY** – #96 of the shorter Catechism: **Question:** What is The Lord’s Supper? **Answer:** *The Lord’s Supper is a sacrament, wherein, by giving and receiving bread and wine, according to Christ’s appointment, His death is showed forth; and the worthy receivers are, not after a corporal and carnal manner, but by faith, made partakers of His body and blood, with all His benefits, to their spiritual nourishment, and growth in grace.* The Lord Jesus gave us The Lord’s Supper as a sacrament. He inaugurated it during the last meal (Passover) He ate with His disciples before He went to the cross. He took bread and broke it and gave it to them telling them it was His body broken for them. He took wine and gave that to them to drink as He told them it was His blood poured out for them for the forgiveness of their sins. Then He told them to eat bread and drink wine in remembrance of Him until He would drink with them again in His Father’s kingdom. The Lord’s Supper is a sign of the covenant God makes with His people. As we eat it, we are showing that we are included in God’s covenant and that we are among God’s people who have had their sins forgiven. We also call the Lord’s Supper a “means of grace” which means this is a God given means to help us grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus. Why did Christ ordain “eating” a supper as a means of grace? Our bodies can’t live without food and so we must receive the food God provides us or we will die. We can have no spiritual life apart from Jesus. Jesus said He was “*The bread of life*” and we must receive Him as the

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

M a t t h e w 6: 9-13

savior God has provided if we are to have eternal life. Jesus said His flesh is the bread He gives so we can have life. Read **John 6:48-51**.

*Suggestion for prayer: Father, thank You for Your grace. Thank You Jesus for being the bread of life which gives me and Your people eternal life.*

**TUESDAY** –The moment we are brought to life (regenerated) by God’s grace and the work of The Holy Spirit through The Gospel of Christ we have our sins forgiven. Once for all time, in that moment of God given repentance and faith we are “justified” in the sight of God. We believe in Jesus, have our sin; past, present, and future forgiven and nothing can make us lose God’s forgiveness. Not only is there nothing we can do to lose our forgiveness; there also is nothing we can do to make God’s forgiveness more complete. Even as believers, we continue to sin every day and in many ways, yet because God has changed our hearts we feel guilty and sad when we sin. This is because our changed heart now desires to please God. The Lord’s Supper is a gracious gift of God to us to remind us as His people that Jesus has indeed truly and fully paid for all our sin and that we are now forgiven. As we come to eat at The Lord’s Table, we are to examine carefully how we have been living to see the ways that we have sinned against God. As we come and eat The Lord’s Supper in faith we are again reassured by The Holy Spirit that we are in Christ, He is in us, and we have and do receive God’s forgiveness. Read **Matthew 26:26-28**.

*Suggestion for prayer: O thank You Father for forgiving me in Jesus. Help me to come to The Lord’s Table and eat by faith in Jesus finished work for me.*

**WEDNESDAY** – After a long day of work or play when we have eaten nothing since breakfast or lunch we feel hungry. Our bodies are tired and weak. In eating we begin to feel refreshed and strong again and our energy is renewed. Especially as we day by day consistently eat proper nourishing foods we begin to grow more and more strong and healthy. Just as good food nourishes our physical bodies, The Lord’s Supper nourishes the souls of God’s people. Sometimes as we live for God we grow weary and discouraged and we need to be refreshed, encouraged, and strengthened. The Lord’s Supper refreshes and nourishes Christians the way food refreshes our bodies. God has given us The Supper to encourage and strengthen us as we eat. The Apostle John records Jesus speaking to people who failed to see that they needed spiritual food just as they needed physical food. These people were looking for Jesus to provide them with food for the body and they were not at all looking for Him to provide food for their souls. They had seen Him work the miracle of feeding the five thousand so they followed Him and asked Him for more of this physical food. Read Jesus’ words to them in **John 6:25-27**.

*Suggestion for prayer: Jesus, help me to obey Your words and not labor for food which is merely physical and perishes but for food that endures to eternal life.*

**THURSDAY** – As we come to The Lord’s Supper, we take the bread that has been broken and we eat it. We also take of the cup that has been poured out for us and we drink it. In doing this, we as God’s people, by faith receive the body and blood of Christ. We as Christians are not merely depending on ourselves for what we need to live in this life or for eternity; rather, we humbly receive what God has given to and provided for us for our “daily bread”. We in obedience have believed in Christ as our savior from sin, and are trusting in Him alone to save us. We have received from God the forgiveness of our sin by faith. As we come and regularly eat of The Lord’s Supper, we continue to express our trust in Him and we continue to feed on Him by faith as our necessary food. Read **John 6:28-35**.

*Suggestion for prayer: Jesus, I thank You “bread of life” for nourishing my soul.*

**FRIDAY** –Scripture tells us that those who share in The Lord’s Supper by faith are joined to Christ and have partnership with Him (**1 Corinthians 10:16**). As the catechism also says, “*the worthy receivers are, not after a corporal and carnal manner, but by faith, made partakers of His body and blood, with all His benefits, to their spiritual nourishment, and growth in grace*”. Being made partakers of “*all His benefits*” could be summarized by what we call the Doctrine of Imputation and Substitution (**2 Corinthians 5:21**). This means that all Jesus did here on earth in His physical body, His total obedience to the Father and the perfect keeping of God’s law is credited to us His people by faith, as if we had lived His life. We are joined to Christ in that His obedience and the rewards from the father for it belong to us as well. Jesus also died to pay for sin; not His sin but ours, so all of the punishment He received; He received in our place so God will never punish us. He has become our substitute and has been punished in our place, while He credits us as having lived His perfect life of righteousness. As we as God’s people eat and drink the bread and wine in The Lord’s Supper, we receive by faith, the benefits earned for us by Jesus. Read **John 6:53-56**.

*Suggestion for prayer: Father, thank You for treating Jesus as if He committed my sin and treating me as if I had lived His perfect life. Jesus thanks for such love.*

**SATURDAY** – The Catechism states that in the Sacrament “*His death is showed forth*”. This doesn’t mean we are merely announcing that Jesus died a sad, terrible death. There are times when our society remembers with a “moment of silence” the death of certain individuals. When certain leaders die we remember them by the lowering of the flag to half mast. These are ways we remember and show respect to those who have died. The Lord’s Supper is not just a mere memorial or temporary time to remember like this. “*His death is showed forth*” by Gods people when we come eat The Supper and proclaim to all our faith in what Jesus actually did and accomplished when He died for us. By eating and drinking we proclaim Jesus died on the cross for the sins of His people and show our confidence that His death was enough to save us from our sin. Read **1 Corinthians 11:26**.

*Suggestion for prayer: Thank You God for The Supper. Help me eat in & by faith.*