
Announcement
1689 Confession of Faith Memory Verses:
Bible Verses to Memorize with Insight
By Douglass J Webb

Intro:

The author of the Bible is God. The Prophets and the Apostles are under God's control to write what He wills. Humans wrote the Bible without losing their own expression. The books written by the Apostle John express God's thoughts differently than the books written by the Apostle Paul. This expression is under God's control to create a book that reveals His thoughts through human language. To memorize with simple meanings should work in the human soul. This should either bring about salvation that cleanses sin away in Jesus Christ or explains who God is and what He expects from Christians. It is not enough to memorize the Bible. Why is this not enough? The Bible has to be understood within its own context. This means to understand the ideas throughout the 66 books and to understand passages around a particular passage. These memory verses provide a large context. Passages need to be memorized with a simple meaning to avoid just knowing random verses. What happens when the Bible is memorized without insight? Random passages are memorized without insight into what they mean. The goal of this set of memory verses is to lay the foundation of ideas throughout the Bible without going into great detail. This is for children learning about the Bible, a new Christian wondering who the Lord Jesus Christ is, or Christians wanting to build a better foundation. These memory verses should be a good start. There are more passages about each idea than provided. Children and Christians should memorize more passages as needed. This start should lead Christians to greater maturity. Greater maturity is to use other documents in the order of the Baptist Catechism with 114 questions. The next document is the 1689 Confession of Faith. Why follow this order? This document aims to provide the foundation for the Baptist Catechism and the 1689 Confession of Faith. God is there to reveal His thoughts through human language that is understandable and consistent.

Children or adults can read these memory verses slowly out loud, read quietly in private reflection, and sing them. Many children will naturally create songs and learn. The point is to work through the sections and memorize the content. To memorize the Bible means to understand easy ideas

to hard ideas. This will take time and effort. It is important to review sections because the mind forgets.

The memory verses are divided into 32 sections that use the same division of the 1689 Confession of Faith. Chapter order comes from the Puritans. Topics related to God will come first and then topics related to humans will come second. It is best to work through chapter 1 and then the other chapters in order to understand the ideas. The Baptist Catechism questions are listed in each section for further study. Both are linked together for the same ideas or related ideas. It is important to use the Baptist Catechism with 114 questions. Why use this edition? There are modern revisions that add more questions. The memory verses reference the original edition with 114 questions.

A good additional resource to use is the Exposition of Baptist Catechism by Benjamin Beddome.

This document may be freely copied and given out besides covering the cost of printing or creating copies.

Thank you to the Lockman Foundation for providing the NASB 95 to memorize from.

Thank you Dr. Peter Masters for producing a modern english update of the 1689 Confession of Faith that was used in preparing these memory verses.

May God have all the glory and praise. Amen!

Chapter 1: The Holy Scriptures

Baptist Catechism: Questions 4 through 6

Ephesians 2:19-20 (NASB 95) 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner [stone,]

Meaning: God wrote the Bible through the Prophets and the Apostles to one people throughout history. These people are followers of Christ from the Book of Genesis to the Book of Revelation.

Luke 24:44 (NASB 95) 44 Now He said to them, “These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”

Meaning: All the Bible reveals that Christ will come, explains what He did on the earth, and future events with Christ.

2 Peter 1:20-21 (NASB 95) 20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is [a matter] of one’s own interpretation, 21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Meaning: God worked through the Prophets and the Apostles to write the Bible. The meaning of the Bible is not the opinion of any human. God expressed His meaning in human language. Human language makes God’s thoughts understandable.

Hebrews 1:1-2 (NASB 95) 1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, 2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

Meaning: God speaks through Jesus Christ alone now. The ways of the prophets and the apostles as approved writers revealing more from God has ended. Jesus Christ speaks only through the Bible.

Jude 1:3 (NASB 95) 3 Beloved, while I was making every effort to write to you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you

appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.

Meaning: The faith as in the teachings of God are not a personal belief or an opinion of who reads the Bible. God wrote His teaching to be the same for all Christians. Christians should receive the teaching of God revealed through human language. Human language makes God's thoughts understandable.

2 Timothy 3:14-17 (NASB 95) 14 You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned [them,] 15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Meaning: The Bible with the Holy Spirit working together reveals salvation to sinful humans. Christians receive the teaching of God to be equipped for good works. The Bible is enough that does not require any more sources of God speaking after the death of all the Apostles. This includes no more words of God or more knowledge from God other than revealed in the Bible.

John 14:21 (NASB 95) 21 "He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him."

Meaning: Christians are humans who are known by God. Anyone known by God will love God by keeping what He commands. Jesus Christ saves from sin alone. To follow God's commands shows a changed soul away from rebelling against God.

Chapter 2: God and the Holy Trinity

Note: Subsistence means to be real having life and existence. God has three subsistences that have life and are sustained in God. This does not create division or parts because God is one, simple, and unchanging.

Baptist Catechism: Questions 1 through 3 and 7 through 11

Isaiah 45:5 (NASB 95) 5 “I am the LORD, and there is no other; Besides Me there is no God. I will gird you, though you have not known Me;

Meaning: There is no other besides the Trinity. The Father, the Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit just are God in the one being of God.

Philippians 1:2 (NASB 95) 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Meaning: The subsistence of the Father is real and has existence in God. God is the Father and the Father is God.

John 10:32-33 (NASB 95) 32 Jesus answered them, “I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?” 33 The Jews answered Him, “For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out [to be] God.”

Meaning: The subsistence of the son Jesus Christ is real and has existence in God. God is the Son Jesus Christ and the Son Jesus Christ is God. Jesus Christ as God does not change. The human nature in the being of Christ changes.

Luke 2:52 (NASB 95) 52 And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Meaning: Jesus Christ as a human learned as He grew into an adult male. God is pleased with the human servant. Other humans found no fault with Jesus Christ.

Mark 4:38 (NASB 95) 38 Jesus Himself was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke Him and said to Him, “Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?”

Meaning: Jesus Christ is fully human without sin. The human Jesus Christ goes through changes starting with birth, growing into an adult male, slept, and died. Jesus Christ is both fully God without limitation and fully human without sin. These two natures act and will through the one being of Jesus Christ.

Acts 5:3-4 (NASB 95) 3 But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back [some] of the price of the land? 4 “While it remained [unsold,] did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.”

Meaning: The subsistence of the Holy Spirit is real and has existence in God. God is the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit is God.

Deuteronomy 6:4 (NASB 95) 4 “Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!

Meaning: God is one without parts, division, and separation. The Father, the Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit do not create parts, division, and separation in God. God is simple because He is one. God is called the Triune God because He is one with three subsistences.

Isaiah 40:28 (NASB 95) 28 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable.

Meaning: God is infinite and cannot become tired from anything. His knowledge has no limits and cannot be searched by humans. Humans have the Bible to know God and His commands.

Psalms 90:2 (NASB 95) 2 Before the mountains were born Or You gave birth to the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

Meaning: God is not created because He is self-existing and is always the same.

Malachi 3:6 (NASB 95) 6 “For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.

Meaning: God cannot change in any way inside of Himself or outside of Himself.

James 1:17 (NASB 95) 17 Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

Meaning: God has no evil inside Him. Humans are tempted from other sources like themselves.

James 1:5 (NASB 95) 5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

Meaning: God is full of wisdom that Christians should ask for in prayer.

Psalms 115:3 (NASB 95) 3 But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases.

Meaning: God does what He pleases without restriction and without causing sin. Humans and other creatures create evil in the world.

Chapter 3: God’s Decree

Baptist Catechism: Questions 11 through 13

Isaiah 46:10 (NASB 95) 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, ‘My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure’

Meaning: A decree is a predetermined plan. Only God decrees before any other being or anything exists to accomplish what He wills to come to pass. God will accomplish all He plans through His decree. There is nothing that will stop God from completing what He decrees.

Ephesians 1:11 (NASB 95) 11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,

Meaning: All things that occur come to pass according to God’s will from within Himself. Only the Triune God decrees everything without forcing humans or angels to sin. There are no other beings or force that decrees with God or overrules God’s plan.

James 1:13-14 (NASB 95) 13 Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.

Meaning: God should not be blamed for sinful actions from humans. Why not? God does not force sin to enter the world or sinful humans to sin in the world. Adam in the state of choosing good and evil in the garden caused sin to enter the world. Sinful humans after Adam sin without God’s restraint. God uses wilful sin from rebelling humans in His decree.

Genesis 50:20 (NASB 95) 20 “As for you, you meant evil against me, [but] God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.

Meaning: Sinful humans sin like the brothers of Joseph selling him into slavery and lying about his death to their father. God used Joseph to preserve Abraham's family that leads to Christ Jesus.

Acts 3:14-15 (NASB 95) 14 "But you disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, 15 but put to death the Prince of life, [the one] whom God raised from the dead, [a fact] to which we are witnesses.

Meaning: The Jews of Christ's day put Jesus to death through sin. God used their rebellion to accomplish salvation by raising the human servant Jesus back to life. The plan of God is to cleanse many sinful humans of rebellion in the soul.

2 Timothy 1:8-9 (NASB 95) 8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with [me] in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, 9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,

Meaning: God saves many sinful humans not through their own merit or ability. Not all sinful humans will be cleansed of sin. Jesus Christ cleanses sin according to God's plan through the giving of grace and faith as a gift. God's gift leads to salvation for many sinful humans that cleanses sin away.

Chapter 4: Creation

Baptist Catechism: Questions 12 and 13

Romans 1:20 (NASB 95) 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

Meaning: God displays His existence and attributes through what He created.

Genesis 1:27 (NASB 95) 27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Meaning: God created humans who are either male or female.

Ecclesiastes 7:29 (NASB 95) 29 “Behold, I have found only this, that God made men upright, but they have sought out many devices.”

Meaning: God created Adam and Eve without sin. Adam sought out sin that doomed all humans with him and after him. All children through Adam and Eve are infected with rebellion against God by nature.

Genesis 3:6-7 (NASB 95) 6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make [one] wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

Meaning: Eve ate and no sin entered the world. God made an agreement with Adam not to eat from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. The consequence is Adam will doom all humans with sin from his failure to follow the agreement. Adam eats to doom all humans because he represents all humans.

Romans 5:19 (NASB 95) 19 For as through the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.

Meaning: Adam makes all humans outside of Christ’s salvation rebellious humans. Christ makes sinful humans pure and holy away from Adam’s disobedience.

Chapter 5: Divine Providence

Baptist Catechism: Questions 14 and 15

Isaiah 46:10-11 (NASB 95) 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, ‘My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure’; 11 Calling a bird of prey from the east, The man of My purpose from a far country. Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned [it, surely] I will do it.

Meaning: God decides what events will occur before they occur and He will do what He planned.

Acts 27:31 (NASB 95) 31 Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, “Unless these men remain in the ship, you yourselves cannot be saved.”

Meaning: God uses normal and ordinary methods to accomplish His plan.

Daniel 3:27 (NASB 95) 27 The satraps, the prefects, the governors and the king’s high officials gathered around [and] saw in regard to these men that the fire had no effect on the bodies of these men nor was the hair of their head singed, nor were their trousers damaged, nor had the smell of fire [even] come upon them.

Meaning: God uses special and supernatural methods to accomplish His plan.

Acts 2:22-23 (NASB 95) 22 “Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know– 23 this [Man,] delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put [Him] to death.

Meaning: It is God’s plan to crucify Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is crucified through sinful humans nailing Him to the cross. God uses different ways to accomplish His plan without forcing or causing sin.

1 Timothy 4:10 (NASB 95) 10 For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers.

Meaning: There is one hope between God and sinful humans. The hope is Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the only saviour known between God and all sinful humans. Only Christians have the saviour Jesus Christ cleansing sin away. The Bible can use ideas like saviour in different ways even in the same passage.

Chapter 6: The Fall of Man, Sin and Its Punishment

Baptist Catechism: Questions 16 through 23

Genesis 2:15-17 (NASB 95) 15 Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. 16 The LORD God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; 17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.”

Meaning: God put Adam into the garden with a covenant. A covenant is an agreement between two parties with commands that have rewards for obedience and consequences for disobedience. God gives Adam one command not to eat from the Tree of Knowledge and gain life. Death in various ways will come if and when Adam eats from the tree. This is called the Covenant of Works.

2 Corinthians 11:3 (NASB 95) 3 But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity [of devotion] to Christ.

Meaning: Satan deceived Eve away from the pure devotion of Christ to eat from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.

Genesis 3:6-7 (NASB 95) 6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make [one] wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

Meaning: Eve ate first and nothing happened. Adam ate and death came into the world because the Covenant of Works is made with him alone. To rebel against God is not enough. There needs to be a covenant active for rebellious acts to be charged as sin. All humans after Adam are under the failed Covenant of Works because he represents all humans to give failure and gives sin to all. To reject Adam's representation and giving death questions the idea of someone giving something to another. This directly affects Christ taking sin from many sinful humans and giving these same sinful humans life in return.

Romans 5:12 (NASB 95) 12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.

Meaning: Adam's first offence condemns all humans who show the fruits of rebellion from birth.

Ephesians 2:3 (NASB 95) 3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

Meaning: All humans excluding Jesus Christ are by nature and disposition under God's justice desiring evil rebellion. This does not mean humans are as bad as all could be. God does restrain evil through prevention in His decree and His providence.

Psalms 58:3 (NASB 95) 3 The wicked are estranged from the womb; These who speak lies go astray from birth.

Meaning: All humans violate God's moral standard best summarized in Exodus 20 from Adam's representation and personal acts. This includes lying. All humans from birth are sinful and rebel against God and other humans.

Romans 8:6-8 (NASB 95) 6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, 7 because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able [to do so,] 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Meaning: Humans in sin cannot keep God's standard, please God in anyway, and are not able to do so.

Chapter 7: God's Covenants

Baptist Catechism: Question 23

Genesis 3:15 (NASB 95) 15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."

Meaning: The skull crushing saviour found in Jesus Christ is coming to resolve the failed covenant of works. This will undo what Adam did in choosing rebellion against God.

Luke 17:10 (NASB 95) 10 "So you too, when you do all the things which are commanded you, say, 'We are unworthy slaves; we have done [only] that which we ought to have done.'"

Meaning: God alone commands through a covenant. A covenant between God and humans is God using His authority to give commands to humans that are expected to be followed. Rewards will come from obedience and consequences will come from disobedience. God's servants can only do what God commands in the Bible alone. Christians need to be in a humble state

knowing what their sin deserves and follow what God commands through grace as strength.

Romans 8:2-4 (NASB 95) 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. 3 For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God [did:] sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and [as an offering] for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Meaning: Christians have been set free of sin by Jesus Christ establishing what is called the Covenant of Grace through the cross. Grace is God's unearned mercy. The Covenant of Grace is an agreement where God keeps His own standard that leads to salvation through grace alone for many sinful humans. True Christians walk in grace provided by Christ who kept all of God's commands for them, gives a perfect record of having no sin, takes God's justice for sin on Himself to appease it, and provides unearned merit to sinful humans. All Christians live through the words of the Bible and the subsistence of the Holy Spirit working together leading them away from sin.

John 6:37 (NASB 95) 37 "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out.

Meaning: The subsistence of the Father determines who is in this group whom Christ will sacrifice himself for. All humans rebel seeking after sin alone and are unable to follow God in anyway. Sinful humans cannot determine who is or is not in this group.

John 6:44-45 (NASB 95) 44 "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day. 45 "It is written in the prophets, 'AND THEY SHALL ALL BE TAUGHT OF GOD.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me.

Meaning: God draws many sinful humans to Himself to give salvation. All sinful humans drawn by God will come into eternal salvation and all will be taught by God.

John 10:27-28 (NASB 95) 27 “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; 28 and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.

Meaning: Eternal life is knowing Christ in and through salvation forever. Christians are cleansed of sin in the soul that will listen to Christ’s words. The Bible is the place to hear Christ’s words. Nothing can remove eternal life or Christ and God is a liar.

Hebrews 8:7 (NASB 95) 7 For if that first [covenant] had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a second.

Meaning: The covenant made between God and Israel is faulty and is unable to cleanse sin away.

Hebrews 8:12-13 (NASB 95) 12 “FOR I WILL BE MERCIFUL TO THEIR INIQUITIES, AND I WILL REMEMBER THEIR SINS NO MORE.” 13 When He said, “A new [covenant,]” He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.

Meaning: The covenant of grace is the new covenant that Christ establishes through the cross. It replaces older covenants that cannot cleanse sin or appease God’s justice.

Hebrews 9:15 (NASB 95) 15 For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were [committed] under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

Meaning: Christ’s death on the cross saves many sinful humans from Genesis to Revelation. There is one Bible written through approved writers, one

people of God found in Christ, the same moral standard and the same Gospel of Grace that cleanses sin away through various covenants.

Chapter 8: Christ the Mediator

Baptist Catechism: Questions 23 through 33

2 Timothy 1:8-9 (NASB 95) 8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with [me] in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, 9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,

Meaning: The three subsistences of God made a covenant that will send the divine subsistence of Jesus Christ to die on the cross as a sinless human to accomplish the Covenant of Grace. The Covenant of Grace is God creating an agreement for sinful humans based on Christ's merit and free forgiveness of sin. A covenant between the subsistences in God is not the same as between God and humans. There is no separation in God. The subsistences through the one being and one will of God agree on what will occur with perfect unity and equality through a decree. God will act upon His decree through providence. Providence has God working in the world that accomplishes the eternal decree.

Acts 2:22-24 (NASB 95) 22 "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know– 23 this [Man,] delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put [Him] to death. 24 "But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.

Meaning: Jesus Christ's death is preplanned in God's decree before creating the world and is completed through God's action in the world. This does not remove human responsibility.

1 Peter 1:19-20 (NASB 95) 19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, [the blood] of Christ. 20 For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you

Meaning: Jesus is foreknown as in following the predetermined plan to become a mediator between God and sinful humans to provide salvation in a personal way.

Romans 8:29-30 (NASB 95) 29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined [to become] conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; 30 and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

Meaning: God knows many humans cleansed of sin through His decree and providence because of Jesus Christ's sacrifice alone. Many sinful humans are called out of sin to salvation and cleansed of sin after the creation of the world to follow the voice of Jesus Christ. The Bible alone is His voice.

Galatians 4:4-5 (NASB 95) 4 But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, 5 so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

Meaning: The divine son Jesus Christ comes as a sinless human who is under the law. This is where He keeps the law and God's moral requirements perfectly to give a perfect record to many sinful humans.

Luke 23:33 (NASB 95) 33 When they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified Him and the criminals, one on the right and the other on the left.

Meaning: Jesus Christ dies according to His human nature through being nailed on the cross. The subsistence of Jesus Christ does not die. Jesus Christ is fully God without limitation and fully human without sin.

1 John 1:7 (NASB 95) 7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Meaning: The blood of Jesus Christ through His death on the cross cleanses sin away. How? The infinite sacrifice of Christ accomplishes salvation that cleanses sin away.

Revelation 5:9 (NASB 95) 9 And they *sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood [men] from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

Meaning: The one people of God are cleansed of Adam’s rebellion and personal acts of rebellion through Christ’s blood. This is for many humans from different nations and groups.

Acts 13:36-38 (NASB 95) 36 “For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep, and was laid among his fathers and underwent decay; 37 but He whom God raised did not undergo decay. 38 “Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you,

Meaning: Humans like King David see decay from physical death. Jesus Christ does not see decay in His sinless human body because God raised Christ back from the dead. The mediator is alive forever between God and Christians who deserve God’s justice.

1 Timothy 2:5-6 (NASB 95) 5 For there is one God, [and] one mediator also between God and men, [the] man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony [given] at the proper time.

Meaning: There is only one mediator between God and sinful humans. This is Jesus Christ alone. All sinful humans who were given to Jesus Christ will have God's forgiveness for sin, cleansing of sin, and will always be one of God's people forever from different nations and groups.

Chapter 9: Free Will

Baptist Catechism: 16, 34, 44

Deuteronomy 30:19-20 (NASB 95) 19 "I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, 20 by loving the LORD your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them."

Meaning: Humans have the ability and responsibility to make choices. The nature and disposition of the soul determines whether humans follow evil or good.

Ephesians 2:1-5 (NASB 95) 1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

Meaning: Humans in Adam seek out rebellion against God through a sinful nature and disposition.

John 8:36 (NASB 95) 36 “So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

Meaning: Jesus Christ through salvation frees sinful humans of their sin to enable them to do spiritual good. Spiritual good requires humans making good decisions from a restored nature and disposition.

Ephesians 4:11-13 (NASB 95) 11 And He gave some [as] apostles, and some [as] prophets, and some [as] evangelists, and some [as] pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

Meaning: Humans only do good that God considers to be good because of being joined with Christ. Christians are joined with Christ in the body of Christ.

Chapter 10: Effectual Calling

Baptist Catechism: Questions 32 through 35, 94 and 95

Acts 16:14 (NASB 95) 14 A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul.

Meaning: The Bible is taught where God opens some sinful souls that come to salvation. Sinful humans are unable to rest and trust in Jesus Christ without God opening souls. Humans respond to God’s salvation after God works in the soul. The cleansed soul acts through repenting of sin that turns to follow God.

Psalms 110:3 (NASB 95) 3 Your people will volunteer freely in the day of Your power; In holy array, from the womb of the dawn, Your youth are to You [as] the dew.

Meaning: God brings light to the human soul where the soul is refreshed and made new again.

2 Timothy 1:8-9 (NASB 95) 8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with [me] in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, 9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,

Meaning: God's purpose is to cleanse sin away. No Christian is cleansed of sin through their own ability or choice. It is only through God's power in His predetermined plan.

John 3:8 (NASB 95) 8 "The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Meaning: The Holy Spirit moves across the earth opening souls of dying infants to dying adults that brings salvation. This brings many humans into the Covenant of Grace.

Titus 3:5 (NASB 95) 5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

Meaning: The Holy Spirit cleanses sin away through God's choice and power. No permission is needed for the Holy Spirit to do this.

John 6:39 (NASB 95) 39 "This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day.

Meaning: Christ will not lose any sinful humans given to Him. This group of sinful humans will have salvation through Him.

Matthew 13:20-21 (NASB 95) 20 “The one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; 21 yet he has no [firm] root in himself, but is [only] temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away.

Meaning: Many humans who appear to have faith will return to their sin. This group of humans never had faith to start with despite showing spiritual interest. This is called a temporary faith.

Chapter 11: Justification

Romans 5:9 (NASB 95) 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath [of God] through Him.’

Meaning: All humans are under God’s justice where all are condemned with a legal debt. Sin rebels against God where God charges an offence. To be justified means to be free of this legal criminal debt through Jesus Christ’s blood on the cross.

Isaiah 53:5-6 (NASB 95) 5 But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being [fell] upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. 6 All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.

Meaning: The criminal debt is taken by Christ who will suffer for many sinful humans to free them of the legal debt owed to God. Christ takes sin from many sinful humans to give freedom and life to the same sinful humans who give Him sin.

Ephesians 1:7 (NASB 95) 7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace

Meaning: Jesus Christ cleanses away criminal offences that Christians have done through His divine mercy. Grace is unearned favour because Christ freely gives mercy to many sinful humans.

John 1:12-13 (NASB 95) 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, [even] to those who believe in His name, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Meaning: Sinful humans become children of God through the Holy Spirit who opens souls together with the gift of faith and grace. This gift is given after the Holy Spirit works. This clears the eternal legal debt of sin that all humans owe to God.

Matthew 6:12 (NASB 95) 12 ‘And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

Meaning: God through Jesus Christ continues to forgive Christians of rebellion after salvation.

Chapter 12: Adoption

Baptist Catechism: Questions 35 through 39

Proverbs 15:29 (NASB 95) 29 The LORD is far from the wicked, But He hears the prayer of the righteous.

Meaning: God is far from sinful humans where He does not listen to their prayers and does not provide special care. Adopted sinful humans have God listening to them and providing His special care.

Ephesians 4:30 (NASB 95) 30 Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Meaning: The Covenant of Grace will keep all in it through Christ's accomplished salvation. The Holy Spirit in many sinful humans kills sin and brings spiritual goodness that will endure forever.

Romans 8:15 (NASB 95) 15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"

Meaning: The Holy Spirit is the spirit of adoption where sinful humans are now heard by God. The prayer for salvation in Christians comes after the Holy Spirit works in the human soul. God does not hear or respond to the prayers of sinful humans who are outside of Christ.

Ephesians 1:5-6 (NASB 95) 5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

Meaning: God adopts many sinful humans through the Holy Spirit to be spiritual sons and daughters out of sin. There is only one way to have sin cleansed away where God hears humans. It is called salvation.

1 Peter 5:6-7 (NASB 95) 6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, 7 casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

Meaning: All Christians should know their adopted spiritual father listens to their concerns and cares for them. The same cannot be said for sinful humans.

Chapter 13: Sanctification

Baptist Catechism: Question 35 through 39

1 Thessalonians 5:21-23 (NASB 95) 21 But examine everything [carefully;] hold fast to that which is good; 22 abstain from every form of evil. 23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Meaning: God starts with salvation to cleanse sin away, removing the legal debt owing, and gives life. Justification through adoption does this once when salvation comes. A different and connected work continues to transform Christians away from temptation and immaturity to follow what God commands through the Bible. This work is called sanctification.

Galatians 5:24 (NASB 95) 24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Meaning: Mortification means to put to death. God puts to death the remaining effects of sin that remain after salvation and the power of temptation.

Romans 7:22-23 (NASB 95) 22 For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, 23 but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members.

Meaning: Christians will have their souls love God through loving God's word and having a body desiring sin. There is war between both that will be a struggle throughout life. God's salvation will always win in true Christians.

Romans 6:14 (NASB 95) 14 For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

Meaning: Christ's salvation will overcome sin through unmerited favour and mercy called grace. The law through the defined moral standard only points out rebellion where grace defeats sin.

Chapter 14: Saving Faith

Baptist Catechism: Questions 89 to 95

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NASB 95) 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, [it is] the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Meaning: God gives faith as to trust and grace as unmerited favour as a gift to many sinful humans that leads to salvation. All who receive this gift will come to saving faith from sin and God's justice.

2 Corinthians 4:13 (NASB 95) 13 But having the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I BELIEVED, THEREFORE I SPOKE," we also believe, therefore we also speak,

Meaning: The Holy Spirit is the spirit of adoption and saving faith. He moves in sinful humans to cause them to rest and trust in Christ for salvation. Sinful humans confess saving faith with the mouth because of the Holy Spirit alone.

Romans 10:14-17 (NASB 95) 14 How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? 15 How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!" 16 However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, "LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT?" 17 So faith [comes] from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

Meaning: Christians are required to share the contents of the Bible that brings about saving faith. The Bible and the Holy Spirit work together to bring about saving faith.

Romans 10:8-10 (NASB 95) 8 But what does it say? "THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART"–that is, the word of

faith which we are preaching, 9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus [as] Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

Meaning: Sinful humans will follow Christ into salvation through confessing Christ as their lord and saviour. God is the divine king that rules Christians. Yet, God is the saviour from Adam imputing as to give the sinful nature to all humans except Christ and personal acts of rebellion. Lord and saviour cannot be separated because God through salvation causes Christians to love Him by keeping what He commands.

John 14:21 (NASB 95) 21 “He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him.”

Meaning: Saving faith leads to loving and following what God commands found in the Bible.

2 Peter 1:1 (NASB 95) 1 Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ:

Meaning: The weakest faith to the strongest faith is superior to those who have a temporary faith that returns to sin.

Chapter 15: Repentance and Salvation

Baptist Catechism: Questions 3, 23, 27 through 29, and 89 to 95

Romans 3:9-12 (NASB 95) 9 What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin; 10 as it is written, “THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE; 11 THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD; 12 ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY

HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE.”

Meaning: No one either Jew or non-jew is good according to God. All humans after Adam do not seek for God, understand God, or do good because of the failed Covenant of Works. Sinful humans sin from Adam imputing as to give the sinful nature and personal acts of rebellion.

Titus 1:15 (NASB 95) 15 To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled.

Meaning: Sin taints everything all sinful humans do. Christ through saving faith makes every Christian pure because Christ imputes as to give His perfect record to Christians.

John 17:3 (NASB 95) 3 “This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

Meaning: Eternal life is knowing Jesus Christ in and through salvation.

Romans 6:23 (NASB 95) 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Meaning: God’s gift to many sinful humans is to be known by Himself. Eternal life is knowing Jesus Christ in and through salvation.

Acts 11:18 (NASB 95) 18 When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, “Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance [that leads] to life.”

Meaning: True rest and trust in Christ for salvation is from God granting life. This is not an act of human ability or desire.

2 Corinthians 7:10-11 (NASB 95) 10 For the sorrow that is according to [the will of] God produces a repentance without regret, [leading] to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death. 11 For behold what earnestness this very thing, this godly sorrow, has produced in you: what vindication of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what avenging of wrong! In everything you demonstrated yourselves to be innocent in the matter.

Meaning: There is a type of sorrow that leads to a temporary faith without turning away from sin. God's true saving faith leads to many sinful humans resting on Jesus Christ for salvation with great humility. This is the power of God using the Covenant of Grace through the Bible and the Holy Spirit.

Chapter 16: Good Works

Baptist Catechism: Question 44

James 2:18-22 (NASB 95) 18 But someone may [well] say, "You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works." 19 You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. 20 But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? 22 You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected;

Meaning: True saving faith leads to Christians loving Jesus Christ and following what He commands. Christ saves from sin alone. Good works from Christians do not save from sin. Salvation and good works should not be confused with each other. A true living faith always has Christians following what God commands in thought, speech, and action despite weaknesses.

John 15:4-5 (NASB 95) 4 "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither [can] you unless you

abide in Me. 5 “I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

Meaning: Good works come from God working in Christians. Christians have holy fruit because of being known by Jesus Christ in and through salvation.

Philippians 2:12-13 (NASB 95) 12 So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for [His] good pleasure.

Meaning: God works in Christians to cause holy fruit in thought, speech, and action. Christians still use their will and abilities cleansed of sin to seek to understand the Bible and follow what it commands.

Matthew 25:21-23 (NASB 95) 21 “His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ 22 “Also the one who [had received] the two talents came up and said, ‘Master, you entrusted two talents to me. See, I have gained two more talents.’ 23 “His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’

Meaning: Christian’s good works will have weaknesses. They are still accepted only through Jesus Christ who provides His perfect record to cover and strengthen the good works of Christians.

Chapter 17: The Perseverance of the Saints

Baptist Catechism: Question 39

Jeremiah 32:40 (NASB 95) 40 “I will make an everlasting covenant with them that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; and I will put the fear of Me in their hearts so that they will not turn away from Me.

Meaning: The Covenant of Grace establishes an agreement that will never end. God and Christians have an everlasting agreement based on Jesus Christ who cleanses sin away forever. Salvation is not dependant on human will.

John 14:19 (NASB 95) 19 “After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you [will] see Me; because I live, you will live also.

Meaning: Christians truly live away from sin because of Jesus Christ who grants eternal life to many. Eternal life is being known by God. Salvation is based on Jesus Christ and not human ability or will.

John 10:27-29 (NASB 95) 27 “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; 28 and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. 29 “My Father, who has given [them] to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch [them] out of the Father’s hand.

Meaning: The Father, the Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit give eternal life. God’s actions cannot be separated into only one subsistence acting because the one God has one will that involves all of God when acting. This eternal life cannot be removed from Christians despite struggles with sin and temptation.

Philippians 1:6 (NASB 95) 6 [For I am] confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

Meaning: Salvation begins and ends with Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ will continue His work forever being the saviour that cleanses sin away. Christians will be with God forever without the risk of losing eternal life.

Chapter 18: Assurance of Salvation

Baptist Catechism: Questions 39 and 114

James 4:6 (NASB 95) 6 But He gives a greater grace. Therefore [it] says, “GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.”

Meaning: Christians should seek to be humble knowing they only have salvation because of God having mercy. There is no requirement or force that makes God provide salvation besides His own free choice.

Hebrews 6:17-19 (NASB 95) 17 In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath, 18 so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us. 19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a [hope] both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil,

Meaning: God cannot lie. The Bible reveals that salvation rests on Jesus Christ’s ability to cleanse sin in sinful humans and keep them safe forever. Christians should look towards Jesus Christ for their assurance that they have true faith.

Isaiah 50:10 (NASB 95) 10 Who is among you that fears the LORD, That obeys the voice of His servant, That walks in darkness and has no light? Let him trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God.

Meaning: Christians will still struggle with sin and temptation throughout life. This will bring discouragement. Jesus Christ’s salvation should be trusted because Jesus Christ covers and forgives these weaknesses after salvation comes.

Psalms 119:32 (NASB 95) 32 I shall run the way of Your commandments, For You will enlarge my heart.

Meaning: Christians should follow what God commands in the Bible. This includes commands for asking for forgiveness from following temptation, asking for strength to avoid the trap of temptation, and asking for humility.

Chapter 19: The Law of God

Baptist Catechism: Questions 44 through 89

Deuteronomy 10:4 (NASB 95) 4 “He wrote on the tablets, like the former writing, the Ten Commandments which the LORD had spoken to you on the mountain from the midst of the fire on the day of the assembly; and the LORD gave them to me.

Meaning: The Ten Commandments were written in stone for the Jews to learn God’s perfect moral standard. This is called moral law.

Romans 2:14-15 (NASB 95) 14 For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, 15 in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them,

Meaning: All humans have the Ten Commandments found in Exodus 20 written in their soul.

Romans 7:7 (NASB 95) 7 What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, “YOU SHALL NOT COVET.”

Meaning: Moral law reveals what sin is that needs Jesus Christ’s cleansing power.

Colossians 2:16 (NASB 95) 16 Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day

Meaning: Israel is given more laws to run the nation and special laws to govern worship. There were special days of worship as in festivals and laws addressing food. Both civil law that runs the nation and ceremonial law that directs worship in Israel were to be followed until Christ's coming onto the earth to die on the cross. These laws lose their authority to be followed after Christ's death on the cross.

Colossians 2:17 (NASB 95) 17 things which are a [mere] shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.

Meaning: Civil law and ceremonial law are meant to point forward to Jesus Christ in some way. There are benefits in seeing how moral law is intermixed with civil law and ceremonial law to run a nation without reinstating such laws. These laws that end show how moral law can be used throughout life and why sinful humans need Jesus Christ.

Romans 3:31 (NASB 95) 31 Do we then nullify the Law through faith? May it never be! On the contrary, we establish the Law.

Meaning: Moral law is not removed by the Covenant of Grace. The Covenant of Grace gives the ability to follow such moral commands. Christians follow and uphold the moral law because of God's grace alone.

Chapter 20: The Gospel and Its Influence

Baptist Catechism: Questions 16 to 41

Genesis 3:15 (NASB 95) 15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."

Meaning: Adam fails the Covenant of Works. Jesus Christ will come to establish the Covenant of Grace.

Proverbs 29:18 (NASB 95) 18 Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained, But happy is he who keeps the law.

Meaning: God's word and law exists to guide sinful humans to salvation and guide Christians into greater purity away from sin.

1 Corinthians 2:14 (NASB 95) 14 But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

Meaning: Sinful humans who follow Adam in the failed Covenant of Works will not accept God's word and salvation. Christians who follow Jesus Christ in the Covenant of Grace will accept God's word and salvation only because of God working in their souls to remove sin.

Chapter 21: Christian Liberty and Liberty of Conscience

Baptist Catechism: Question 39

Galatians 3:13-14 (NASB 95) 13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us–for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE"– 14 in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Meaning: The moral law reveals crimes against God. Christians are Jews and non-Jews together as one people freed from the imputed sinful nature from Adam and personal acts of rebellion. The inherited sinful nature causes personal acts of rebellion. These are crimes against God.

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 (NASB 95) 9 For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from

idols to serve a living and true God, 10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, [that is] Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

Meaning: Christians are freed from being found guilty before the holy and pure God because of Jesus Christ being found guilty in their place. Sin is imputed to Jesus and Jesus imputes as to give life to Christians. Christians follow God's word because of Jesus Christ giving a holy nature.

Romans 8:15 (NASB 95) 15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"

Meaning: All Christians can approach God as His children because God adopts who He pleases into His kingdom. Christians can call out to God by calling Him father with respect and honour.

Hebrews 10:19-22 (NASB 95) 19 Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, 21 and since [we have] a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled [clean] from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Meaning: All Christians from Genesis to Revelation only can approach God through Christ's blood poured out on the cross. Christians should come near to God through Christ's sacrifice that is applied once when salvation comes. There is no need to keep going to Christ for more grace, merit, or anything else to approach God.

James 4:12 (NASB 95) 12 There is [only] one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is able to save and to destroy; but who are you who judge your neighbor?

Meaning: God is the only one through the Bible who gives spiritual commands to Christians to follow. The government can give lawful earthly commands like pay taxes that Christians are to follow.

Acts 4:19-20 (NASB 95) 19 But Peter and John answered and said to them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge; 20 for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

Meaning: Christians are to follow the Bible over earthly authorities when an earthly command violates God’s word. This can be easily misunderstood by Christians thinking there is a violation when there is none.

Romans 6:1-2 (NASB 95) 1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? 2 May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?

Meaning: Salvation leads to avoiding sin and to follow the teachings contained within the Bible. Jesus Christ gives a new nature desiring to worship God over sin. Christian liberty should lead to following God’s word more with grace as strength.

Chapter 22: Worship and the Sabbath Day

Baptist Catechism: Questions 62 to 67

Matthew 4:8-10 (NASB 95) 8 Again, the devil *took Him to a very high mountain and *showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; 9 and he said to Him, “All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me.” 10 Then Jesus *said to him, “Go, Satan! For it is written, ‘YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.’”

Meaning: Only God is to be given great worth. This is called worship.

Genesis 2:2 (NASB 95) 2 By the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.

Meaning: There is nothing that exhausts God. God sets one day apart out of seven days for worship.

Exodus 20:3-6 (NASB 95) 3 “You shall have no other gods before Me. 4 “You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. 5 “You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

Meaning: Christian liberty leads to worshipping God in how He prescribes. Worship is not determined by what Christians think or how they believe they should worship.

John 14:6 (NASB 95) 6 Jesus *said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

Meaning: The worship of God requires Jesus Christ to cleanse sin away, take the guilt of sin on Himself, free sinful humans from God’s justice, and impute as to give life to sinful humans. Christians need Jesus Christ as a mediator for giving God worth.

Psalms 65:2 (NASB 95) 2 O You who hear prayer, To You all men come.

Meaning: Prayer is an important and natural part of worship.

2 Samuel 7:28-29 (NASB 95) 28 “Now, O Lord GOD, You are God, and Your words are truth, and You have promised this good thing to Your servant. 29 “Now therefore, may it please You to bless the house of Your servant, that

it may continue forever before You. For You, O Lord GOD, have spoken; and with Your blessing may the house of Your servant be blessed forever."

Meaning: Christians should pray about requests that God finds pleasing in the Bible. Prayers should use the common language of who is listening. Why? So any prayer is known with a clear meaning.

1 Timothy 4:13 (NASB 95) 13 Until I come, give attention to the [public] reading [of Scripture,] to exhortation and teaching.

Meaning: Worship includes reading and teaching the Bible. To teach the Bible means to quote what it says and explain what it means beyond facts, giving information, or stories.

Colossians 3:16 (NASB 95) 16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms [and] hymns [and] spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Meaning: To sing is a part of worship. It is best to sing songs that are the words of the Bible or good summaries of the Bible.

Revelation 1:10 (NASB 95) 10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like [the sound] of a trumpet,

Meaning: There is a special day for Christian worship called the Lord's Day. This day is set apart for Christians coming together for worship together. The Lord's Day includes collecting money, praying to God, singing to God, reading from the Bible, and teaching from the Bible.

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 (NASB 95) 1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also. 2 On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.

Meaning: Christians should gather together on the day after the Jewish Sabbath called the Lord's Day. This is the Sunday in modern times. These gatherings should collect money for Christians who are in need and for the poor. The Lord's Day includes praying to God, singing to God, reading from the Bible, and teaching from the Bible.

Hebrews 10:23-25 (NASB 95) 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; 24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging [one another;] and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

Meaning: Christians should not forsake to gather with Christians on the Lord's Day. This day is meant for worship and to avoid distractions like needless employment or entertainment that takes away from giving God great worth. Christians will be weak and stay in immaturity when avoiding this day set apart for worship.

Chapter 23: Lawful Oaths and Vows

Baptism Catechism: Questions 81 to 83

Jeremiah 4:2 (NASB 95) 2 And you will swear, 'As the LORD lives,' In truth, in justice and in righteousness; Then the nations will bless themselves in Him, And in Him they will glory."

Meaning: An oath is an affirmation or promise to perform something where God is the witness. This is an act of worship that should be done with caution and plain words that have a clear meaning. God will judge as the most holy and impartial judge.

James 5:12 (NASB 95) 12 But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath; but your yes is to be yes, and your no, no, so that you may not fall under judgment.

Meaning: An oath should be done with seriousness to God alone. Christians can take other types of oaths.

Nehemiah 13:25 (NASB 95) 25 So I contended with them and cursed them and struck some of them and pulled out their hair, and made them swear by God, “You shall not give your daughters to their sons, nor take of their daughters for your sons or for yourselves.

Meaning: Oaths can be done with government authorities or other authorities like Nehemiah and the Jewish people. Christians can take on these kinds of oaths where God is still their witness.

Leviticus 19:12 (NASB 95) 12 ‘You shall not swear falsely by My name, so as to profane the name of your God; I am the LORD.

Meaning: Any oath should be performed where God’s name, glory and anything that belongs to God receives praise and honour. An oath should not misuse God’s name, authority, words in the Bible, and anything that belongs to God.

Psalms 24:4 (NASB 95) 4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood And has not sworn deceitfully.

Meaning: Oaths should have a clear meaning that everyone involved understands. There should be no deception, unclear statements, complex statements, and have no intention to follow the agreement.

Chapter 24: The Civil Magistrate

Baptist Catechism: Questions 68 to 71 - These questions address following different authorities

Romans 13:1-4 (NASB 95) 1 Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists authority has

opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. 3 For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; 4 for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.

Meaning: The government exists because God through His decree creates and establishes governing authorities. Any government is to encourage what is good according to God's moral standard. Christians are to follow the Bible and laws from ruling powers that do not violate the Bible.

Note: Often Christians at the time of writing do not like a law or the government. This dislike leads to not following the ruling authorities when there is no conflict with moral law or other commands contained within the Bible that still apply. Christians need to be careful and examine their attitudes in their soul to follow ruling authorities. Christians can still use lawful ways to cause the government to change orders or laws.

Romans 13:5-7 (NASB 95) 5 Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake. 6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for [rulers] are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing. 7 Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax [is due;] custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.

Meaning: Christians should follow what the government requires. The government should be given respect and honour like through prayer. Christians should follow whatever the government says to do like paying taxes and any other lawful order.

Note: Christians need to disobey the government only if there is a clear violation of the Bible. This violation has to be more than personal opinion or a matter of conscience. Why? A violation applies to all Christians who are

affected by a sinful order or law from a ruling power. Christians can still use lawful ways to cause the government to change orders or laws.

If Christians want to rebel against ruling authorities then they should keep God and the Bible out of it to avoid hurting God's witness on the earth assuming there is no violation of the Bible. These Christians deserve whatever consequences ruling authorities give.

Luke 3:14 (NASB 95) 14 [Some] soldiers were questioning him, saying, "And [what about] us, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not take money from anyone by force, or accuse [anyone] falsely, and be content with your wages."

Meaning: Governments should have forces or a military to stop and punish crime committed by citizens or defence against countries who seek to invade or attack. Many wars or conflicts are sinful and unjust. There are times to have wars to protect the greater good determined by moral law.

1 Timothy 2:1-2 (NASB 95) 1 First of all, then, I urge that entreaties [and] prayers, petitions [and] thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.

Meaning: Christians should pray for the government or ruling authorities while following the Bible into greater purity away from sin.

Chapter 25: Marriage

Baptist Catechism: Questions 75 to 77

Genesis 2:24 (NASB 95) 24 For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

Meaning: God created male and female to join together to become one after a certain time of maturity. There is a time to leave mother and father to join

with one male or one female for as long as possible. It is always either one male with one female or one female with one male.

Genesis 1:27-28 (NASB 95) 27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Meaning: One male and one female are created to join together in marriage that leads to having children.

Hebrews 13:4 (NASB 95) 4 Marriage [is to be held] in honor among all, and the [marriage] bed [is to be] undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

Meaning: Marriage requires the ability to commit and stay faithful to the other spouse throughout life. God’s grace as strength is there to assist. Christians with the ability to reason and have enough maturity should marry and avoid joining with others physically or emotionally.

1 Corinthians 7:39 (NASB 95) 39 A wife is bound as long as her husband lives; but if her husband is dead, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.

Meaning: Marriage should last as long as possible. Christians should marry another human who professes Christ has washed their sin away and has good works to show there is living faith. It is not good enough to marry someone who says that he or she follows Christ and lives anyway they want.

Note: Many churches can produce sinful humans who are still following Adam in sin and say I love Jesus Christ. To look moral or good on the outside is not enough. It is not good enough to say I love and follow Jesus Christ and live a life that rejects what God commands.

1 Corinthians 5:1 (NASB 95) 1 It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father’s wife.

Meaning: Marriage is between one male and one female. This should not be done between close family members. Notice that the Bible does not provide restrictions for marriage like in avoiding certain skin colours or age restrictions. Any restrictions are explained above. Christians who are mature enough to leave mother and father to join one male with one female or one female with one male should marry.

Chapter 26: The Church

Baptist Catechism: Questions 94 and 95

John 10:16 (NASB 95) 16 “I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock [with] one shepherd.

Meaning: Jesus Christ brings Jew and non-jew together to be cleansed of sin through one salvation. Who is the leader of these people? Jesus Christ is the shepherd and leader.

2 Timothy 2:10 (NASB 95) 10 For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus [and] with [it] eternal glory.

Meaning: God chooses many sinful humans to wash their sin away. These cleansed humans join the church. Children of believers and family members or someone close to humans cleansed of sin are not a part of the church. To be cleansed of sin in the soul is required to be a part of the church.

Colossians 1:18 (NASB 95) 18 He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.

Meaning: Christ is the head of the church where all cleansed humans join together. This is called the invisible church because they are a part of Christ throughout the world and different times.

Romans 1:7 (NASB 95) 7 to all who are beloved of God in Rome, called [as] saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Meaning: There will be a mixture of sinful humans falsely following Christ with humans cleansed of sin who truly follow Christ in the best churches. This is called the visible church.

1 Corinthians 5:4 (NASB 95) 4 In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and I with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus,

Meaning: Christians gather together under the authority of Jesus Christ. This is called the local church.

1 Corinthians 12:11-12 (NASB 95) 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills. 12 For even as the body is one and [yet] has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.

Meaning: The subsistence of the Holy Spirit provides spiritual gifts to have Christians share Christ's mercies with gracious words and to have the local church teach God's word. Spiritual gifts are not meant to be a distraction or violate the Christian mission of teaching and sharing Christ's mercies. There are no gifts that add or remove any content in the Bible.

Acts 20:17 (NASB 95) 17 From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church.

with

Acts 20:28 (NASB 95) 28 “Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

with

Philippians 1:1 (NASB 95) 1 Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons:

Meaning: The only official earthly Christian leaders with positions are male elders and male deacons. Deacons assist with physical needs in the local church. Elders assist with spiritual needs like teaching the Bible on the Lord’s Day. These leaders only have authority in their own local church. There are no other leaders or positions that the local church should create or seek. Christians should join the local church to follow and be protected by male elders and male deacons.

Note: The requirements for male elders and male deacons are found in 1 Timothy 3.

1 Timothy 3:15 (NASB 95) 15 but in case I am delayed, [I write] so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.

with

1 Corinthians 12:12 (NASB 95) 12 For even as the body is one and [yet] has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.

with

Hebrews 13:17 (NASB 95) 17 Obey your leaders and submit [to them,] for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

Meaning: Christians who submit and join the local church are church members. Why? They have joined the assembly of Christians with the teaching of the Prophets and the Apostles, submit to male leaders, and work with male leaders. Local churches need to know who are members and who are not.

2 Thessalonians 3:6 (NASB 95) 6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us.

Meaning: There can be Christians in great error and are not fit to have responsibilities in the local church. These Christians are not church members until they submit to male leaders, repent of error, and embrace the teaching of the Prophets and the Apostles. Local churches should not admit unruly Christians who often have strange ideas into membership or they risk destroying themselves from within.

Acts 6:3-5 (NASB 95) 3 “Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task. 4 “But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” 5 The statement found approval with the whole congregation; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch.

Meaning: Christians who join the local church have the responsibility to work with leaders and give approval of new male leaders. This is a balance between male leaders and Christians who are members in the local church. To help select new male leaders is a good example of this balance between male leaders and church members.

Ephesians 4:2-3 (NASB 95) 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, 3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Meaning: The book of Ephesians is addressing an assembled local church with male leaders and Christians who are members. This book is not addressing random Christians who are not a part of the local church. Members of churches should seek unity and to be in peace with each other.

Chapter 27: The Communion of Saints

Baptist Catechism: Questions 94 to 95

1 John 1:3 (NASB 95) 3 what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.

Meaning: Christians through Jesus Christ have fellowship with God, church members and other Christians in other local churches.

Ephesians 4:14-16 (NASB 95) 14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; 15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all [aspects] into Him who is the head, [even] Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

Meaning: Christ is the head of Christian fellowship. True Christian fellowship whether between local churches, within the local church, or Christians gathered together is focused and points to Jesus Christ. There will be times to discuss life and times to focus on Christ with each other.

Hebrews 3:12-13 (NASB 95) 12 Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. 13 But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is [still] called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Meaning: Christian fellowship is meant to build up each other in various ways for various needs. The goal of Christian fellowship is not meant to distract from building each other up in Christ. Much of what Christians can do during fellowship times is a distraction or should not be called Christian fellowship. Christians can get together without it being Christian fellowship.

Chapter 28: Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Baptist Catechism: Questions 96 to 104

Matthew 28:19-20 (NASB 95) 19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

with

1 Corinthians 11:26 (NASB 95) 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

Meaning: God commands all Christians to receive Water Baptism once and take part in the Lord's Table in the local church as members regularly. The Lord's Table is the local church together with accountability like seen in 1 Corinthians.

Matthew 26:26-28 (NASB 95) 26 While they were eating, Jesus took [some] bread, and after a blessing, He broke [it] and gave [it] to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." 27 And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave [it] to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; 28 for

this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.

with

Acts 8:12 (NASB 95) 12 But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike.

Note: Philip was a male deacon voted on by church members in Acts 6.

with

1 Corinthians 4:1 (NASB 95) 1 Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

Meaning: Male Elders and Male Deacons should oversee both Water Baptism and the Lord's Table. Christ as the spiritual leader gave the Lord's Table to His disciples. Male Elders and Male Deacons both performed Water Baptism. Only qualified male leaders should assist in providing Water Baptism and the Lord's Table.

Chapter 29: Baptism

Baptist Catechism: Questions 97 to 101

Romans 6:3-6 (NASB 95) 3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have become united with [Him] in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be [in the likeness] of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old self was crucified with [Him,] in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;

Meaning: Christ starts and commands Water Baptism. Water Baptism reflects what Christ has done in the souls of many sinful humans to cleanse sin away to set them free of sin. Christians were there when Christ atoned for sin that leads to Christ raising Christians up from death that Adam introduced. This is a work of God that leads Christians to walk in a new life away from sin.

1 Peter 3:21-22 (NASB 95) 21 Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you–not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience–through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.

Meaning: Christ's cleansing power of sin saves alone. The cross is where salvation is accomplished through Christ's broken body and blood poured out which is enough to save from sin. Water baptism is not a requirement or needed for salvation. Christians are cleansed of sin with Christ fulfilling all the requirements including giving faith and grace that leads to turning away from sin and embracing a new life.

Mark 1:4 (NASB 95) 4 John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

Meaning: Water Baptism points to Christ forgiving sin with all its consequences through salvation. Does water baptism cleanse sin away? No. Water Baptism points to what Christ has done in the souls of Christians.

Acts 2:41 (NASB 95) 41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

with

Acts 8:12 (NASB 95) 12 But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike.

with

Acts 18:8 (NASB 95) 8 Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, believed in the Lord with all his household, and many of the Corinthians when they heard were believing and being baptized.

Meaning: The teaching of the Bible with the Holy Spirit leads to repenting of sin and resting on Christ for salvation that precedes water baptism. Adults, children, and homes need to profess trust in Christ before receiving water baptism.

Acts 8:38 (NASB 95) 38 And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him.

with

John 3:23 (NASB 95) 23 John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there; and [people] were coming and were being baptized–

Meaning: Water is required for water baptism. Water baptism involves putting professing Christians under water to be brought back out of the water. This points to Christ's cleansing power to remove sin and its consequences. Water baptism should not be confused or combined with Christ's ability to save from sin.

Chapter 30: The Lord's Supper

Baptist Catechism: Questions 102 to 104

1 Corinthians 11:23-25 (NASB 95) 23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 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." 25

In the same way [He took] the cup also after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink [it,] in remembrance of Me.”

Meaning: Christ introduced the Lord’s Table to His disciples while on earth. All local churches should continue to provide this spiritual feast until Christ’s second return. Male elders following Christ’s example with His disciples should pray and lead Christians to the Lord’s Table.

1 Corinthians 10:16-17 (NASB 95) 16 Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ? 17 Since there is one bread, we who are many are one body; for we all partake of the one bread.

Meaning: The spiritual feast of the Lord’s Table is a time to encourage and remind all Christians of all the benefits Christ gives them. Previous memory verses have explored Christ’s benefits.

Hebrews 9:28 (NASB 95) 28 so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without [reference to] sin, to those who eagerly await Him.

Meaning: Christ dies once on the cross to accomplish salvation. The sacrifice of Christ is not an ongoing sacrifice every time the Lord’s Table is offered. It is once for many sinful humans. The bread remains bread and the wine remains wine.

1 Corinthians 11:26-28 (NASB 95) 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes. 27 Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. 28 But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

Meaning: The Lord's Table should use bread and wine when possible. There is no special power in the bread or wine. Christians need to self-examine themselves to see if there are any sins from violating moral law or commands that apply that need to be repented of. The local church through male elders should address any sins or issues with members before taking the Lord's Table.

1 Corinthians 11:28-30 (NASB 95) 28 But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly. 30 For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep.

Meaning: Non-believers and Christians with unrepentant sin should not take the Lord's Table. Why not? It will bring God's justice on them. The Lord's Table is more than remembering what Christ did because God is active to encourage and active to judge sin.

Chapter 31: Man's State After Death, and the Resurrection

Baptist Catechism: Questions 21 and 22 and 31 and 32

Genesis 3:19 (NASB 95) 19 By the sweat of your face You will eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return."

Meaning: The human body is made of the elements from the earth. Humans after Adam introducing sin into the world die. The body breaks down into simple parts like dust and returns to the earth.

Ecclesiastes 12:7 (NASB 95) 7 then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.

Meaning: The human soul returns to God for temporary judgment or temporary rest. There is the waiting for the final places of judgment and rest.

Luke 16:23-26 (NASB 95) 23 “In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and *saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom. 24 “And he cried out and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.’ 25 “But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony. 26 ‘And besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, so that those who wish to come over from here to you will not be able, and [that] none may cross over from there to us.’

Meaning: All humans enter a temporary place until the earth is purged of sin and hell receives all creatures under God’s judgment. One place puts the human soul that is alive and awake in paradise with God. The other place puts the human soul that is alive and awake in torment under God’s judgment. There are no other places where the soul will be.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 (NASB 95) 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

Meaning: Christians who are living when Christ returns to judge the world will be changed as God calls His people from the earth.

Job 19:26-27 (NASB 95) 26 “Even after my skin is destroyed, Yet from my flesh I shall see God; 27 Whom I myself shall behold, And whom my eyes will see and not another. My heart faints within me!

Meaning: The dead will have the same bodies rejoined with their souls.

Acts 24:14-15 (NASB 95) 14 “But this I admit to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect I do serve the God of our fathers, believing everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the

Prophets; 15 having a hope in God, which these men cherish themselves, that there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.

with

John 5:28-29 (NASB 95) 28 “Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, 29 and will come forth; those who did the good [deeds] to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil [deeds] to a resurrection of judgment.

Meaning: Both Christians and non-believers will be raised from the dead to be either in God’s mercy through Jesus Christ or under God’s justice through Adam.

Chapter 32: The Last Judgment

Baptist Catechism: Questions 21 and 22 and 31 and 32

Acts 17:30-31 (NASB 95) 30 “Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all [people] everywhere should repent, 31 because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.”

Meaning: Both Christians and non-believers will be judged by Jesus Christ.

Jude 1:6-7 (NASB 95) 6 And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day, 7 just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.

Meaning: All rebelling humans and angels will be judged and found guilty of sin before God. This will lead to the final place of judgment in eternal hell that does not destroy.

Matthew 12:36 (NASB 95) 36 “But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment.

Meaning: Every sinful thought, spoken word, and action from humans will be judged by God. Christians should remember they are guilty within themselves. Christ is there to declare them not guilty through His perfect record covering all their guilt from rebellion before and after salvation.

Romans 9:22-23 (NASB 95) 22 What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction? 23 And [He did so] to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory,

Meaning: The purpose of God having a day of judgment is to show His mercy through Jesus Christ and His justice for following Adam and personal acts of rebellion.

Matthew 25:21 (NASB 95) 21 “His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’

with

Matthew 25:34 (NASB 95) 34 “Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

Meaning: Christians only through Jesus Christ atoning for sin and giving them life will enter paradise where sin, illness, and death are gone.

Matthew 25:46 (NASB 95) 46 “These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Meaning: Non-believers will enter eternal punishment that will never end or destroy.

2 Thessalonians 1:6-10 (NASB 95) 6 For after all it is [only] just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, 7 and [to give] relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, 8 dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, 10 when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed–for our testimony to you was believed.

Meaning: Non-believers will enter everlasting destruction in Hell for ignoring the command to turn to Jesus Christ for mercy away from sin and God’s justice. These humans followed sin willingly to rebel against God. What does everlasting destruction mean in Greek? To be put into a poor state under God’s punishment forever.

2 Corinthians 5:10-11 (NASB 95) 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. 11 Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men, but we are made manifest to God; and I hope that we are made manifest also in your consciences.

Meaning: All Christians and non-believers must face God to be judged. Christians should have the desire to follow the Bible more to move away from sin or worthless things. This should lead to greater worship of God through conformity to the Bible and grace assisting to provide strength. Christians need strength to follow what God commands.

Revelation 22:20 (NASB 95) 20 He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming quickly.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Meaning: Christians should pray often that Christ will come soon to help them and repay rebellion towards the sinful world according to God’s infinite wisdom, grace, and justice.

About the Book:

- 32 Subjects to Memorize
- Chapter Order & Subjects taken from the 1689 Confession
- Baptist Catechism with 114 Questions Referenced
- Each memory verse has a short commentary

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