

A Baptist Catechism for Calvary Baptist Church Sleepy Eye, MN

In 1 Cor. 14:19 Paul says, “Yet in the church I would rather speak five words with my understanding, that I may teach others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue.” In Gal. 6:6 he says, “Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches.” Acts 18:25 says that Apollos “has been instructed in the way of the Lord.” In Luke 1:4, Luke states that Theophilus was also instructed. In each of these verses the Greek word for “instruct” or “teach” is *katecheo*. From this word we get our English word “catechism.” A catechism is simply a means to teach Biblical truth in an orderly, systematic way. Generally, this is done with questions and answers accompanied by Biblical support and explanation.

This is a modified version of *The Baptist Catechism* first put forth by Baptists in 1689 in Great Britain. It was adopted by the Philadelphia Baptist Association in 1742. It is patterned on the well-known Reformed work, *The Westminster Catechism*. Baptist churches have historically used catechisms like this one to teach Bible doctrine to young people. Benjamin Keach (1640-1704), a Baptist leader many years ago, published a catechism much like this one. Charles H. Spurgeon (1834-1892), a famous Baptist pastor in London, also used a similar catechism “as a hedge against heresy and a wedge to open the mind to truth.”

This work also contains suggested memory verses (in **bold**) as well as suggested hymns that would go along with the teaching.

This particular *Catechism* is based loosely on *A Baptist Catechism* adapted by John Piper (Bethlehem Baptist Church, Mpls., MN). Some additions come from *A Family Catechism* by Gerald Priest, Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary. This edition was originally compiled and edited by Brad Anderson of Liberty Baptist Church, Antigo, WI. We have made a few modifications to adapt it to our local assembly.

SUNDAY # 1

Question 1: Who is the first and best of beings?

ANSWER: God is the first and best of beings.

SCRIPTURE: **1 Sam. 2:2**; Ps. 8:1; 96:4-6; 97:9; Isa. 44:6

“No one is holy like the LORD, For there is none besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God.”

COMMENT: God is the Maker and Supreme Ruler of all things, and the greatest and best of beings.

Question 2: What is the chief end (goal or purpose) of man?

ANSWER: Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever.

SCRIPTURE: Ps. 16:11; 37:4; 73:25-28; Isa. 43:6-7; **1 Cor. 10:31**

“Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

COMMENT: “Glorify” does not mean *make* glorious. It means to reflect or display as glorious. We glorify God by honoring and praising Him. All creatures ought to love, serve and obey God their creator. This is their duty and privilege.

HYMN: *How Great Thou Art*

SUNDAY # 2

Question 3: How do we know there is a God?

ANSWER: There are two ways God has revealed Himself to man: through general revelation and special revelation. *General* revelation is information about God available to all people at all times. It consists of man's conscience and the works of God as displayed in creation. Through one's conscience and creation, one should conclude that there is a God. *Special* revelation, the Scriptures, give us detailed information about God, most of which is not available through general revelation.

SCRIPTURE: **Ps. 19:1-2**; Matt. 11:27; Rom. 1:18-20; 1 Cor. 1:21-24, 2:9-10; 2 Tim. 3:15

“The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. 2 Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge.”

COMMENT: General or natural revelation alone does not provide enough information to save a soul. One must have special revelation, the Gospel, in order to be saved. Natural knowledge is possessed by all people and thus makes all people accountable to honor and thank God. Spiritual knowledge is possessed only by those whose natural blindness has been overcome by the Spirit of God (1 Cor. 2:14-16). People must come to see the difference between these lest they think they are saved by much natural knowledge about God—which the devils also have (James 2:19).

HYMN: *This Is My Father's World*

SUNDAY # 3

Question 4: What is the Word of God?

ANSWER: The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, being given by divine inspiration, are the Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice.

SCRIPTURE: Ps. 19:7-14; **Isa. 8:20**; Matt. 5:17-18; 1 Cor. 2:13; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; 2 Pet. 1:21

“To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.”

COMMENT: “Scriptures” is a special word for the “writings” of the OT and NT. The OT deals with God’s word that came before Jesus was born; and the NT is the word of God that came after Jesus was born. “Infallible” means it will never lead us astray in what it teaches. It is true and does not err (inerrant). It can be trusted. “Faith” refers to right thinking and feeling; and “practice” refers to right doing. We measure our thoughts, emotions and actions by the rule of the Bible. “Inspiration” means that it is God-breathed: by His Spirit He guided His spokesmen to speak His word in human languages.

HYMN: *Wonderful Words of Life*

SUNDAY # 4

Question 5: How do we know that the Bible is the Word of God?

ANSWER:

- 1) The Holy Spirit convinces believers that the Bible is true.
- 2) The experience of saved people shows that the Bible is true.
- 3) Examination of the facts surrounding the writing and preserving of the Bible give one confidence that the Bible is true.

SCRIPTURE: Ps. 19:7-9; 119:18, 129; John 16:13-14; Acts 10:43, 18:28, 26:22; 1 Cor. 2:6-7, 13-16; **Rom. 15:4**; Heb. 4:12; 1 John 2:20-27

“For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”

COMMENT: The Bible evidences itself to be God's Word. It is self-authenticating, needing no other witnesses than itself to prove its truthfulness. The heavenliness of its doctrine, the unity of its parts, and its power to convert sinners and to edify saints shows it to be true. But only the Spirit of God can make us willing to agree and submit to the Bible as the Word of God. The teachings of Scripture are of such a nature that they cannot be explained by mere human resources. They bear the marks of the supernatural. Further, there are many detailed and scholarly historical findings defending the reliability of the Bible.

HYMN: *For Your Holy Book We Thank You*

SUNDAY # 5

Question 6: Are the Scriptures trustworthy in all they affirm?

ANSWER: The entire Bible is trustworthy and reliable in all it affirms on any topic.

SCRIPTURE: John 10:35b; **17:17**; 1 Thess. 2:13; 2 Tim. 3:16

“Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”

COMMENT: The Bible is inerrant and infallible. It contains no genuine errors and does not affirm errors. Some parts are hard to understand and/or explain, but the Bible is true and trustworthy.

Question 7: What do the Scriptures mainly teach?

ANSWER:

- 1) What man is to believe about God;
- 2) What duty God requires of man.

SCRIPTURE: 2 Tim. 3:16-17; **John 20:31**; Acts 24:14; 1 Cor. 10:11; Eccl. 12:13

“but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”

HYMN: *How Sure the Scriptures Are*

SUNDAY # 6

Question 8: Who is God?

ANSWER: God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.

SCRIPTURE: Ex. 34:6-7; Num. 23:19; Ps. 89:14; 90:2; 147:5; **John 4:24**; 1 Tim. 1:17; James 1:17; Rev. 4:8

“God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

COMMENT: “Infinite” means that there is no limit to how great he is. “Eternal” means He never had a beginning and will never have an ending. God can respond to us and yet not be changeable. His character never changes; he acts consistently on the same principles always. Even his responses to us are known and planned long before so that his purposes are unchanging, although his dealings with man change occasionally.

HYMN: *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

SUNDAY # 7

Question 9: What is God like?

ANSWER: God is both very great and very good.

Scripture: **Ps. 147:5**; 150:2; Jer. 32:17; Rom. 11:33-36

“Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite.”

COMMENT: Scholars often categorize God’s qualities or attributes into those of greatness and those of goodness. His qualities of greatness, like being all-knowing and all-powerful, are his alone and cannot be shared with man. His qualities of goodness, like mercy and kindness, can be shared by mankind.

The primary attribute of God is holiness (Isa. 6:3; Rev. 4:8). Holiness is the governing attribute and crowning glory of God’s character. All God’s other attributes can be described as being holy.

HYMN: *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Sunday # 8

Question 10: Are there more Gods than one?

ANSWER: There is only one living and true God.

Scripture: **Deut. 6:4-6**; Ps. 96:4-5; 135:15-18; Jer. 10:10

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. ⁶ And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.”

COMMENT: There are “gods” which are idols, but they are not living or true. And there are “gods” which are angels or demons, but they are not “true” God, that is, they are not eternal, infinite and unchanging. Only one God is living and true, and this is the God revealed in the Christian Bible.

HYMN: *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

Sunday # 9

Question 11: Who is Jesus Christ?

ANSWER: Jesus Christ is God the Son, the Second Person of the Trinity, fully God and fully man. He is the Christ, the Messiah, the Savior, the only mediator between God and man.

SCRIPTURE: Matt. 16:15-17; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-14, 17:5; **Acts 4:12**; Gal. 4:4; 1 Tim. 2:5; Phil. 2:7; Heb. 1:6

“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

COMMENT: Jesus has always existed as the eternal Son of God. Jesus is God in the flesh (incarnate). Jesus is to be truly worshiped as God. Jesus is one person with two natures, human and divine.

HYMN: *O For A Thousand Tongues*

Question 12: Who is the Holy Spirit?

ANSWER: The Holy Spirit is God, the third person of the Trinity, “another Comforter.” He baptizes, fills and indwells believers.

SCRIPTURE: 2 Sam. 23:2–3; Matt. 12:31; John 14:16-17; Acts 5:3; 1 Cor. 12:13; 2 Cor. 13:14; **Eph. 5:18**

“And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,”

COMMENT: The Holy Spirit is a person, not just a force or power.

HYMN: *Spirit Of God, Descend Upon My Heart*

Sunday # 10

Question 13: How many persons are there in the Godhead?

ANSWER: There are three persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one God, the same in essence, equal in power and glory.

SCRIPTURE: Matt. 28:19; **John 1:1**; 10:30; 14:9; 20:28; Acts 5:3-4; 1 Cor. 2:11; 8:6; 2 Cor. 13:14; Col. 2:9; Heb. 1:3

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

COMMENT: There are not three persons in God, but three persons who are God. This is what the word “Godhead” means. There is one God. There are distinct persons with special roles in creation and redemption. But they are in perfect harmony and are (in ways beyond our comprehension) perfectly One God. The word “Trinity” is often used to describe this relationship, although the word Tri-unity might be more accurate.

HYMN: *All Glory Be to God on High*

Sunday # 11

Question 14: What are the decrees of God?

ANSWER: God's decrees are God's plans for history. Such plans always happen exactly as God planned.

SCRIPTURE: Ps. 115:3; Isa. 46:10; Dan. 4:35; Rom. 11:36; **Eph. 1:11**

"In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,"

COMMENT: A decree is a statement of what is positively going to happen no matter what. The decrees of God are His eternal purposes, according to the counsel of His will, whereby for His own glory, He has foreordained whatsoever comes to pass. His purpose for the world is eternal because there never was a time when He didn't know what He was going to do. His purpose accords with the counsel of His will—He did not consult anyone else. He thought it all up. All plans were made in order to maximize the display of His glory. Nothing falls outside the decrees of God. This means that all things—the good and the bad—are under the sovereign control of God.

HYMN: *O Worship the King*

Sunday # 12

Question 15: Where do we learn about God and everything related to God?

ANSWER: God has revealed himself generally in nature—by means of creation, providence, and conscience. God has revealed himself directly—by means of miracles, in the lives of believers, in Jesus Christ, and especially in the Bible, God’s Word.

SCRIPTURE: Matt. 5:45; Rom. 1:19-20; 2:14-15; Heb. 1:1-2; **2 Pet. 1:21**

“For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

COMMENT: General revelation extends to all people at all times. However, sinful men suppress and deny this knowledge (Rom. 1:18). Through special revelation, God has revealed Himself to specific people in a special way. The Bible is special revelation. Information from the Bible is necessary for one to be saved. We do not receive additional special revelation today. The Bible contains all we need for life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3).

HYMN: *Wonderful Words Of Life*

Question 16: What is the work of creation?

ANSWER: The work of creation is God’s making all things out of nothing, by the word of His power and all very good.

SCRIPTURE: **Gen. 1:1**, 31; Ex. 20:11; Rom. 4:17; Heb. 11:3

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

COMMENT: Before creation there was only God in the holy fellowship of the Trinity. Therefore, His creation is always different from ours: we start with something, but God created all things with no pre-existing material (*ex nihilo*).

HYMN: *I Sing The Mighty Power of God*

Sunday # 13

Question 17: How did God create man?

ANSWER: God created man male and female, after His own image, in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness, with dominion over the creatures.

SCRIPTURE: **Gen. 1:27-28; 2:7, 22**

“So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

COMMENT: God made man from the ground and breathed life into him. God made woman from man’s rib to be his helper. God made man and woman after His own likeness, morally good, with a mind and a will to choose. Man is capable of sharing in God’s knowledge, righteousness and holiness in a relationship of trust and love unlike any other creature under the angels. The image of God consists in a personal and spiritual likeness to God. Like God, we are persons, not inanimate objects. Like God, we have a capacity for spiritual life.

HYMN: *This Is My Father’s World*

Question 18: Why did God make man and all things?

ANSWER: God made all things for His own glory. God made man to glorify Him and enjoy Him forever, and to have authority over all the earth.

SCRIPTURE: Gen. 1:28; Ps. 19:1; 73:25-26; 1 Cor. 10:31; **Rev. 4:11**

“You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created.”

HYMN: *How Great Thou Art*

Sunday # 14

Question 19: What are God's works of providence?

ANSWER: God's works of providence are the holy, wise, and powerful acts by which He preserves and governs all His creatures, and all their actions.

SCRIPTURE: Neh. 9:6; **Ps. 103:19**; Matt. 10:29-30; Col. 1:17; Heb. 1:3

"The LORD has established His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over all."

COMMENT: Providence is the normal, regular way (in contrast to the miraculous) that God preserves and governs the universe. Most things we see around us are part of God's providential control of things.

There is no such thing as "luck" in a world ruled by the providence of God. "The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD" (Prov. 16:33). Many of God's acts of providence may not look "holy and wise" (like natural disasters that kill thousands of people). But God has His secret purposes (Deut. 29:29) that we are never great enough to see, and the Judge of all the earth always does right (Gen. 18:25).

HYMN: *All Creatures of Our God and King*

Question 20: Did our first parents continue in the glad obedience for which they were created?

ANSWER: No, but desiring to be like God, our first parents forsook the obedience of faith, ate of the forbidden tree, sinned against God, and fell from the innocence in which they were created.

SCRIPTURE: Gen. 3:1-7; Eccl. 7:29; **Rom. 5:12**

"Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—"

HYMN: *Grace Greater Than Our Sin*

Sunday # 15

Question 21: What is sin?

ANSWER: Sin is any attitude, desire or action that breaks a commandment of Scripture, comes from a heart of unbelief, or is not done for the glory of God.

SCRIPTURE: Ps. 19:13; **Rom.** 3:23; 5:13; **14:23b**; 1 John 3:4
“...for whatever is not from faith is sin.”

COMMENT: Sins of *commission*—doing what you should not. Sins of *omission*—not doing what you should. The most basic definitions for sin are to miss the mark and to break the law.

HYMN: *Now I Belong To Jesus*

Question 22: Did all mankind fall in Adam's first sin?

ANSWER: All mankind sinned in him, and fell with him in his first sin.

SCRIPTURE: Rom. 5:12, 18-19; **1 Cor.** 15:21-22
“For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead.”

COMMENT: God considered all mankind as being in Adam so that when Adam went bad we all went bad in him. The nature that we have by virtue of belonging to Adam's race is morally corrupt. We are under the wrath of God “by nature” (Eph. 2:3) from the time we were conceived in the womb. We sin because we are sinful. This is why conversion and salvation must be much more than a “decision” for Christ. It must be a new creation, a rebirth, an exchange of hearts.

HYMN: *Hallelujah, What a Savior!*

Sunday # 16

Question 23: Into what condition did the fall bring mankind?

ANSWER: The fall brought mankind into a condition of sin, misery and spiritual death.

SCRIPTURE: Ps. 51:5; Isa. 53:6; **64:6**; Rom. 5:18-19; 1 Cor. 2:14; Eph. 2:1-3
But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away.

COMMENT: Lost people are spiritually dead, enemies of God, under his wrath and curse. Thus, they will experience all the miseries of this life, are subject to death itself, and will suffer the pains of hell forever.

Question 24: Did God leave all mankind to perish in sin and misery?

ANSWER: No, God provided a means of salvation to prevent man from perishing in his sin.

SCRIPTURE: **John 3:16-18**; Rom. 5:21, 8:29-30; Eph. 1:3-4; 2 Thess. 2:13
For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

COMMENT: God's plan of salvation is wholly initiated and carried through by God. It cannot fail. It is valid for all who believe.

HYMN: *Jesus Saves*

Sunday # 17

Question 25: Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?

ANSWER: The Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, is the only Redeemer of God's elect.

SCRIPTURE: **John** 1:14; 10:7-9; **14:6**; Acts 4:12; Gal. 3:13; 1 Tim. 2:5

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

COMMENTARY: There is one and only one way to come to God—through faith in the person and work of Christ. Christianity is an exclusive faith. Any religion that contradicts it is wrong.

Question 26: How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?

ANSWER: The Virgin Birth/Conception is the means whereby the Son of God took human flesh upon himself.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:35; John 1:14; **1st Tim. 3:16**; Heb. 2:14

And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.

COMMENT: We need not explain the exact mechanics of the virgin birth/conception. That it happened is sure; how it happened is unclear. We believe it because the Scriptures teach it and because it was necessary for God's whole redemptive plan.

HYMN: *Redeemed*

Sunday # 18

Question 27: What offices does Christ perform as our Redeemer?

ANSWER: Christ performs the offices of prophet, priest and king.

SCRIPTURE: Ps. 2:6; Acts 3:22; Heb. 5:5-7

Question 28: How does Christ perform the office of a prophet?

ANSWER: Christ performs the office of a prophet, in revealing to us, by his Word and Spirit, the will of God for our salvation.

SCRIPTURE: **John** 1:18; **14:26**; 15:15; Heb. 1:1-3

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”

COMMENT: A prophet's primary task was to speak to man for God. As such, Christ is the ultimate revelation of God to man. Compare Deut. 18:18-19.

HYMN: *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

Sunday # 19

Question 29: How does Christ perform the office of a priest?

ANSWER: 1) Through the sacrifice of himself on the cross; 2) through his intercession on our behalf before God.

SCRIPTURE: Rom. 8:34; Eph. 5:2; **Heb. 7:25**; 1 Pet. 2:24

Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

COMMENT: A priest's primary task is to represent man to God and God to man. He is an intercessor or mediator, a go-between. Christ alone brings man and God together.

HYMN: *My Hope is in the Lord*

Question 30: How does Christ perform the office of a king?

ANSWER: Christ performs the office of a king by ruling and defending his people.

SCRIPTURE: Ps. 110:1-2; Mic. 5:2; Luke 1:32-33; **1 Cor. 15:25**

For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.

COMMENT: The primary task of a king is to rule. Jesus is the King of the Jews. Christ rules over believers today in a *spiritual* sense—they recognize him as their Lord and King. One day Christ will rule over the earth *physically* on the throne of David (during the Millennium).

HYMN: *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

Sunday # 20

Question 31: What do we mean by Christ's *humiliation*?

ANSWER: By Christ's humiliation we mean that he was born into a humble human family; that he was made under the law, and underwent the miseries of this life, the wrath of God, and the cursed death of the cross; that he was buried, and continued under the power of death for a time.

SCRIPTURE: **Isa. 53:3**; Luke 2:7; 2 Cor. 8:9; Gal. 4:4; Phil. 2:5-8

He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

COMMENT: Paul states that Christ "emptied himself" when he came to earth (Phil. 2:8). This does not mean that he ceased to be God or that he gave up the use of his powers as God. It means that he left the riches of heaven to become a poor, despised human being.

HYMN: *Away in a Manger*

Question 32: What do we mean by Christ's *exaltation*?

ANSWER: By Christ's exaltation we mean his rising again from the dead on the third day, ascending up into heaven, sitting at the right hand of God the Father, and coming to judge the world at the last day.

SCRIPTURE: Mark 16:19; **Acts 1:11b**, 17:31; 1 Cor. 15:4

"This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

HYMN: *All Glory, Laud and Honor*

Sunday # 21

Question 33: What do we mean by redemption?

ANSWER: Christ redeemed believers by his sacrificial death on the cross.

SCRIPTURE: Rom. 3:24; 8:23; Gal. 3:13; 4:4-5; **Eph. 1:7**; Col. 1:14

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

COMMENT: “To redeem” literally means “to buy back.” Christ paid the price for our sins by dying on the cross. The Holy Spirit applies this redemption to us at conversion.

Question 34: How does the Spirit apply to us the redemption purchased by Christ?

ANSWER: Through effectual calling, the Holy Spirit convinces us of our need to repent of sin and turn to Christ in faith.

SCRIPTURE: John 1:13; 3:8; 6:65; Acts 16:14; Rom. 8:29-30; **Eph. 2:8**; Phil. 1:29; 1 John 5:1

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

COMMENT: There are two aspects of the call to salvation: general and effectual. The general call can be turned down; the effectual (i.e., efficient) call cannot—it always results in the salvation of the one so called. Those who respond positively to the gospel do so because God effectually calls them.

HYMN: *Come Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy*

Sunday # 22

Question 35: What is effectual calling?

ANSWER: Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit, to convince us of our sin and misery, to enlighten our minds in the knowledge of Christ, to renew our wills, and thus persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ.

SCRIPTURE: John 6:44-45; Acts 26:18; Rom. 8:30; 1 Cor. 1:24; 12:3; **2 Tim. 1:9**
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 given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,

COMMENT: Note that effectual calling includes with it the enablement to respond. Without such enablement, no person would ever respond positively to the Gospel. Man is dead in sin and hostile to God. The only means of salvation is if God take the initiative by effectually calling some. The effectual call creates what it commands—faith in Christ.

Question 36: What is election?

ANSWER: Election is God's free and gracious choice in eternity past of all believers to salvation.

SCRIPTURE: John 15:16a; **Rom. 8:29**; 11:5; Eph. 1:4-5; 2:8-9; 2 Thess. 2:13; 2 Tim. 1:9
For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren

COMMENT: Election is God's choice of some to be saved. God's choice is not based on some activity by the believer but is wholly based on God's own purpose and will. Election is by God's grace not our good works. Election is for the purpose of believers becoming like Christ.

Election is a biblical, orthodox and fundamental doctrine that Baptists have historically held and defended. The fact that we cannot fully grasp how sovereign election and human responsibility fit together should not cause us to ignore or reject this critical doctrine.

HYMN: *Amazing Grace*

Sunday # 23

Question 37: What benefits do those who are saved receive in this life?

ANSWER: Those who are saved receive in this life justification, adoption, sanctification, and the various benefits which in this life accompany or flow from them.

SCRIPTURE: **Rom. 8:30-32**; 1 Cor. 1:30; Gal. 3:26; Eph. 1:5

Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

Question 38: What is justification?

ANSWER: Justification is God's declaration that the believer is forgiven and righteous.

SCRIPTURE: **Rom. 3:24**; **5:1**, 19; 2 Cor. 5:21; Eph. 1:7; Gal. 2:16; Phil. 3:9

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

COMMENT: At the point of salvation, God imputes (credits to one's account) the righteousness of Christ. This is a legal act that changes one's status or position before God. Like a judge declaring someone to be innocent, so God declares the believer to be forgiven and righteous.

HYMN: *My Faith has Found a Resting Place*

Sunday # 24

Question 39: What is adoption?

ANSWER: Adoption is God's act of receiving the believer into his household. Adoption grants the believer all the rights and privileges of God's children.

SCRIPTURE: John 1:12; Rom. 8:16-17; **1 John 3:1**

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

Question 40: What is sanctification?

ANSWER: Sanctification is the process whereby God enables the believer to rid himself of sin and live a more Christlike, holy life.

SCRIPTURE: Rom. 6:11; Eph. 4:23-24; 2 Thess. 2:13; **2 Pet. 3:18**

but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

COMMENT: There is a sense in which the believer is fully sanctified (i.e., set apart) unto God at the point of salvation. However, from the human point of view, sanctification is a life-long process of putting off the old man (the pre-conversion way of life), renewing one's mind (through Bible study), and putting on the new man (adopting godly behavior patterns). This process begins immediately upon salvation.

HYMN: *Take My Life and Let it Be*

Sunday # 25

Question 41: What are eternal security and perseverance?

ANSWER: Eternal security is God's keeping the believer saved and safe. Perseverance means that believers will never fall from grace but will endure until the final day of redemption.

SCRIPTURE: **John 10:27-28**; 15:1-8; Eph. 2:10; 4:30; Col. 1:23; Heb. 10:22-23; 1 Pet. 1:5

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand."

COMMENT: Eternal security is the teaching that once a person is saved, he can never be lost. The Holy Spirit keeps the believer saved. Perseverance is continuing in personal faith, sound doctrine, and good works. Those who fail to persevere were never saved in the first place (1 John 2:19). Those who continue in serious sin should enjoy no assurance of salvation.

Question 42: What benefits do believers receive from Christ at death?

ANSWER: At death the souls of believers immediately pass into heaven. Their bodies rest in their graves until the resurrection.

SCRIPTURE: Job 19:26; Luke 23:43; 2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23; **1 Thess. 4:14**; Heb. 12:23
For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

HYMN: *When We All Get to Heaven*

Sunday # 26

Question 43: What shall be done to the wicked at death?

ANSWER: The souls of the wicked shall at death be cast into the torments of hell, and their bodies lie in their graves until the resurrection and judgment.

SCRIPTURE: **Dan. 12:2**; Luke 16:22-24; John 5:29; Rev. 20:11-15
And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt.

Question 44: What is the duty which God requires of man?

ANSWER: The duty which God requires of man is the obedience that comes from faith.

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 6:46**; Acts 5:32; Rom. 1:5, 16:26; 1 John 2:3-6
“But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do the things which I say?”

COMMENT: Those who trust in Christ for salvation are also bound to follow Christ in obedience.

HYMN: *Trust and Obey*

Sunday # 27

Question 45: Where is the moral law given in summary form?

ANSWER: A summary form of the obedience of faith is given in the Ten Commandments.

SCRIPTURE: Ex. 20:1-17; **Ps. 19:7-14**

The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;

Question 46: What is the sum of the Ten Commandments?

ANSWER: The sum of the ten commandments is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind; and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

SCRIPTURE: Matt. 22:36-40; **Mark 12:28-33 (12:30)**

'And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment.

HYMN: *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart*

Sunday # 28

Question 47: Is any man able perfectly to keep the commandments of God?

ANSWER: No mere man is able perfectly to keep the commandments of God, but daily falls short.

SCRIPTURE: Gen. 6:5; Eccl. 7:20; James 3:2; Rom. 3:23, 7:15; Phil. 3:12; **1 John 1:8**
If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

Question 48: What then is the purpose of the law since the fall?

ANSWER: The purpose of the law since the fall is to reveal the perfect righteousness of God and the utter sinfulness of man.

SCRIPTURE: **Rom. 3:20**, 7:7; Gal. 3:22-24; 1 Tim. 1:8-10
Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

COMMENT: Other purposes of the law: that people may know the path of faith that leads to life, and that the ungodly may be convicted of their sin, restrained from evil, and brought to Christ for salvation.

Christians are not directly under the Old Testament law (Rom. 6:14-15). We recognize a clear distinction between the nation of Israel, which was under the law, and the church, which is not. We live in the church age and are thus not bound by the Jewish law code. We are under the law of Christ (Gal. 6:2), but not the Mosaic law.

HYMN: *Once for All*

Sunday # 29

Question 49: What does every sin deserve?

ANSWER: Every sin deserves God's wrath and curse, both in this life and in that which is to come.

SCRIPTURE: Ps. 11:6; Prov. 3:33; **Rom. 6:23**; Eph. 5:6; Rev. 21:8

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

COMMENT: Sin stirs up God's wrath. Since every sin is an offense against God, every sin deserves judgment.

Question 50: What does God require of us, that we may escape his wrath and curse due to us for sin?

ANSWER: To escape the wrath and curse of God due to us for sin, God requires of us repentance of sin and faith in Jesus Christ.

SCRIPTURE: Mark 1:15; **Acts 16:30-31; 17:30; 20:21**

testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

HYMN: *My Faith Has Found a Resting Place*

Sunday # 30

Question 51: What is repentance unto life?

ANSWER: Repentance is turning from sin, i.e., a virtuous change of mind which regrets and forsakes sin and turns to God.

SCRIPTURE: Joel 2:13; **Luke 5:32**; Acts 2:37-38, 11:18; Rom. 6:18; 2 Cor. 7:10-11
I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.

COMMENT: Repentance includes three parts: 1) knowledge of sin—understanding what sin is and what it means; 2) a genuine regret or sorrow for sin; 3) a desire to turn from sin and seek pardon. Some weaken this definition by suggesting that repentance is simply changing your mind about Jesus. But this definition is inaccurate because it says nothing about sorrow for sin and turning from it.

Question 52: What is faith in Jesus Christ?

ANSWER: Faith in Jesus Christ is receiving and resting upon him alone for salvation. Saving faith is the knowledge of, agreement with, and complete trust in the person and work of Christ.

SCRIPTURE: **John 1:12**, 6:35; Gal. 2:16, 20; Phil. 3:9; Heb. 10:39
But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

COMMENT: Saving faith has three parts: 1) knowledge of the facts; 2) assent or agreement that these facts are true and applicable to oneself; 3) unreserved trust and confidence in the person and work of Christ alone for salvation. Further, this trust must extend to the point of commitment or loyalty to him. Saving faith acknowledges Christ's authority over the believer. Also, saving faith is a gift from God but is also the responsibility of man.

HYMN: *My Faith Looks Up To Thee*

Sunday # 31

Question 53: What is the invisible church?

ANSWER. The invisible church is composed of all Christians of all times.

SCRIPTURE: John 10:16; 1st Cor. 12:13; Eph. 1:22-23; **Col. 1:18**

And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

COMMENT: The invisible (or universal) church is composed of all church-age saints. It is also called the Body of Christ. Old Testament believers are not considered to be part of the universal church.

Question 54: What is a visible church?

ANSWER: A visible church is an organized group of baptized believers among whom the gospel is truly preached and the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper administered in true faith.

SCRIPTURE: **Acts 2:41-47**; 7:38; 20:7; Eph. 4:11-12; Phil. 1:1

Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

COMMENT: The word "church" implies a called-out assembly. The basic responsibilities of a church include worship, instruction in the Scriptures, fellowship among believers, and evangelism. The "visible" church could also be called the "local" church. Most occurrences in the Bible of the word "church" refer to the local church. The local church ought to be central in the life of a believer.

HYMN: *The Church's One Foundation*

Sunday # 32

Question 55: What are the requirements for membership in a local church?

ANSWER: One must profess to be saved, submit to water baptism, and live an orderly Christian life.

SCRIPTURE: Acts 2:41-47; 1 Cor. 5:11-12; Titus 3:10

COMMENT: Those who refuse to meet these requirements must be put out of the church (excommunicated).

Question 56: How is the local church to be governed?

ANSWER: Jesus Christ is Lord and Head of the church. Under his authority, the local church appoints or ordains pastors/elders to supervise and minister to the church.

SCRIPTURE: Acts 6:1-6; 1st Cor. 5:12; Eph. 5:23; Phil. 1:1; **1 Tim. 3:15**, 5:17; Heb. 13:17

but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

COMMENT: The local church has the duty to administer its own affairs—we call this congregational church government. Under Christ, the primary governing authority is the pastor(s). Deacons assist in the orderly service to the church.

HYMN: *Bind Us Together*

Sunday # 33

Question 57: What is Baptism?

ANSWER: Baptism is a church ordinance in which a believer is dipped under water in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 28:19**; Romans 6:3-5; Galatians 3:27; Colossians 2:12

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

COMMENT: An ordinance is a meaningful rite or ritual that the church conducts. We do not call baptism a sacrament because that word implies an activity that somehow aids or preserves salvation, which baptism does not do.

Baptism signifies the believer's being joined to Christ and sharing the benefits of salvation. It is an outward, public expression of an inner, personal reality. It is an important step of obedience all believers ought to take. Refusal to be baptized brings one's profession of faith into question.

Question 58: To whom is Baptism to be administered?

ANSWER: Baptism is to be administered to all those who actually profess repentance towards God, faith in, and obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 3:5-6; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 8:12, 36, 10:47-48

COMMENT: Baptism is only for those who make a credible profession of faith in Christ. There is neither command nor example in the Scriptures, nor necessary implication from them, to baptize infants. Infants can neither understand, repent nor believe, and are thus not candidates for baptism.

Question 59: How is Baptism rightly administered?

ANSWER: Baptism is rightly administered by immersion or dipping the whole body of the believer in water, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 8:35-39

COMMENT: The biblical pattern is for baptism to shortly follow conversion. All believers ought to be baptized.

HYMN: *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee*

Sunday # 34

Question 60: What is the Lord's Supper?

ANSWER: The Lord's Supper is a local church ordinance in which a believer eats bread and drinks of the cup, thus remembering the Lord's death and anticipating the Lord's return.

SCRIPTURE: Matt. 26:26-30; 1 Cor. 10:16, 11:23-34

COMMENT: Those who eat and drink in a worthy manner partake of Christ's body and blood, not physically, but spiritually in that by faith they are nourished with the benefits he purchased and grow in grace.

Question 61: What is required to the worthy receiving of the Lord's Supper?

ANSWER: It is required that one be saved and baptized before one participates in the Lord's Supper. One should also examine himself and repent of sin before partaking.

SCRIPTURE: Matt. 28:18-20; 1 Cor. 11:27-31; **2 Cor. 13:5**

Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.

COMMENT: Members of the church and those visiting from a church of like faith and practice may participate in the Lord's Supper. Note the order in the Great Commission: make disciples, baptize them, teach them to obey what Jesus commanded. Those who are not baptized should not participate in the Lord's Supper.

HYMN: *When I Survey The Wondrous Cross*

Sunday # 35

Question 62: What is prayer?

ANSWER: Prayer is an offering up of our desires to God, for things agreeable to his will, in the name of Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, with confession of our sins and thankful acknowledgment of his mercies.

SCRIPTURE: Ps. 10:17; 145:19; **John 15:7**; Phil. 4:6; 1 John 1:9, 5:14

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and It shall be done for you.

COMMENT: Every believer ought to spend some time in prayer every day.

HYMN: *Sweet Hour of Prayer*

Question 63: Who is the Devil?

ANSWER: The Devil, also known as Satan, is the enemy of God and the people of God.

SCRIPTURE: Gen. 3:4-5; Matt. 25:41; John 12:31; 1 Cor. 7:5; 2 Cor. 12:7; Eph. 2:2; **1 Pet. 5:8**; Rev. 12:9-10, 20:10

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

COMMENT: The Devil is a personal being, not just an evil force in the world. He is the evil prince of the world. He tempts and accuses Christians and counterfeits God and his work. The Devil and his angels (demons) will be judged by God and cast into hell.

HYMN: *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

Sunday # 36

Question 64: What responsibility do we have to those who are in authority over us?

ANSWER: We are to submit to all authorities God has placed over us unless they tell us to disobey God.

SCRIPTURE: Acts 4:19-20; 5:29; **Rom. 13:1-6**; 1 Cor. 11:3; Eph. 5:22, 6:1-6; Heb. 13:17
Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

COMMENT: Husbands and fathers must submit to Christ. Wives and mothers must submit to their husbands. Children must submit to their parents. Workers must submit to their employers. Christians must submit to government. Church members should submit to their pastor. It is allowable to disobey when the authorities contradict the commands of God.

HYMN: *Have Thine Own Way, Lord*

Question 65: What are my most important duties in life?

ANSWER: My greatest duty is to glorify God in all that I do. My next duty is to fear God and keep his commandments. My next duty is to behave justly, love kindness, and be humble before God. My duty to my fellow man is to love him and give him the gospel. My duty to the Word of God is to hide it in my heart so that it would keep me from sinning. My duty to the Christian Faith is to defend it at all costs. My duty to my church is to support it and participate in its ministries.

SCRIPTURE: Ps. 119:9-11; Eccl. 12:13; Mic. 6:8; Acts 2:41-47; **1 Cor. 10:31**, 13:13; Acts 1:8; Jude 1:3

Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

HYMN: *Am I a Soldier Of The Cross?*