

and fully, yet briefly, the main truths and teachings of the Bible. Carefully arranged and closely packed in the Shorter Catechism, the doctrines of God's word are handy to carry in the mind.

When we have taken a good look at the whole, the next thing is to examine the parts. We have seen the map of a country made up of differently shaped and sized blocks—a dissected map. How interesting to build up the map, block by block, and see it growing under our hands! We can do something of the same sort with the Catechism. It has three great parts: I. A SUMMARY OF DOCTRINE (Ques. 1-38). II. THE LAW (Ques. 39 to 81). III. THE WAY OF LIFE (Ques. 82 to 107). Each of these main divisions is made up of questions, every one of which fits, with perfect accuracy, into its own place. It will be an ever-increasing delight to study out how question after question comes just in the right place.

We shall miss a great deal that is well worth while, unless we get the words of every question and answer fixed in our minds, to stay. The words were very carefully chosen by the learned and good men who met in the Jerusalem Chamber of Westminster Abbey, more than two hundred and sixty years ago, and, amongst other important labors, framed the Catechism. They had hard questions to answer, for example, "What is God?" The answer to this question fell from the lips of the youngest of them all, who was asked to lead in prayer for direction. It seemed to come straight from God Himself. With like pains and prayerfulness all the Questions were framed.

Two things more will help us to get the most out of the Catechism. One is, after we have learned a Question by heart, to think out its meaning carefully and put it down in our own words. And the other is, to look up proofs in Scripture for each Question. The Catechism is a great mine. If we work it diligently and wisely, we shall obtain a very rich reward.

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"I like a boy with something of the man in him, and a man with something of the boy in him. The former makes an ideal pupil, the latter an ideal teacher."

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