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SHORTER CATECHISM FOR THE QUARTER.

Text-Book. "An Exposition of the Shorter Catechism" by Professor Salmon^d, D. D., price 45 cents. The portion gone over in 1897 may be obtained separately for 20 cents.

Q. 82. Is any man able perfectly to keep the commandments of God?

A. No mere man since the fall is able, in this life, perfectly to keep the commandments of God,^a but doth daily break them in thought,^b word,^c and deed.^d

^a Eccl. vii, 20. For there is not a just man upon the earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.

^b Gen. viii, 21. The imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth.

^c James iii, 8. The tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

^d James iii, 2. In many things we offend all.

Q. 83. Are all transgressions of the law equally heinous?

A. Some sins in themselves, and by reason of several aggravations, are more heinous in the sight of God than others.^a

^a John xix, 11. He that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.

Q. 84. What doth every sin deserve?

A. Every sin deserveth God's wrath and curse, both in this life, and that which is to come.^b

^b Gal. iii, 10. Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

Matt. xxv, 41. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.

Q. 85. What doth God require of us, that we may escape his wrath and curse due to us for sin?

A. To escape the wrath and curse of God due to us for sin, God requireth of us faith in Jesus Christ, repentance unto life,^a with the diligent use of all the outward means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of redemption.^b

^a Acts xx, 21. Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

^b Prov. ii, 1. My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; V. 2. So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; V. 3. Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; V. 4. If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; V. 5. Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.

Q. 86. What is faith in Jesus Christ?

A. Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace,^b whereby we receive^c and rest upon him alone for salvation,^d as he is offered to us in the gospel.^e

^b Heb. x, 39. We are not of them who draw back unto perdition: but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

^c John i, 12. As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.

^d Phil. iii, 9. And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith.

^e Isa. xxxiii, 22. The Lord is our Judge, the Lord is our law-giver, the Lord is our King; he will save us.

Q. 87. What is repentance unto life?

A. Repentance unto life is a saving grace,^f whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin,^g and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ,^h doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God,ⁱ with full purpose of, and endeavour after, new obedience.^k

^f Acts xi, 18. Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.

^g Acts ii, 37. When they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter, and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

^h Joel ii, 18. Rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.

ⁱ Jer. xxxi, 18. Turn thou me, and I shall be turned: for thou art the Lord my God. V. 19. Surely after that I was turned, I repented: and after that I was instructed, I smote upon my thigh: I was ashamed, yea, even confounded, because I did bear the reproach of my youth.

^k Ps. cxix, 59. I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies.

Q. 88. What are the outward means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of redemption?

A. The outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of redemption, are his ordinances, especially the word, sacraments, and prayer;^b all which are made effectual to the elect for salvation.

^b Acts ii, 41. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized. V. 42. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Q. 89. How is the word made effectual to salvation?

A. The Spirit of God maketh the reading, but especially the preaching of the word an effectual means of convincing and converting sinners,^a and of building them up in holiness and comfort,^b through faith unto salvation.^c

^a Ps. xix, 7. The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure making wise the simple.