

The Home Study Quarterly

FOR INTERMEDIATE SCHOLARS.

Vol. IV.

January, February, March.

No. 1.

SHORTER CATECHISM FOR THE QUARTER.

Text-Book. "An Exposition of the Shorter Catechism," by Professor Salmond, D.D., price 45 cents. The portion gone over in 1898 may be obtained separately for 20 cents.

Question 1. What is the chief end of man?

Answer. Man's chief end is to glorify God,^a and to enjoy him for ever.^b

^a 1 Cor. x. 31. Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

^b Ps. lxxiii. 25. Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire besides thee. V. 26. My flesh and my heart faileth; but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.

Q. 2. What rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?

A. The word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments,^c is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him.^d

^c Eph. ii. 20. And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone.

^d 2 Tim. iii. 16. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

^e 1 John i. 3. That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

Q. 3. What do the Scriptures principally teach?

A. The Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.^e

^e 2 Tim. i. 13. Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

Q. 4. What is God?

A. God is a Spirit,^f infinite,^g eternal,^h and unchangeable,ⁱ in his being,^k wisdom,^l power,^m holiness,ⁿ justice, goodness, and truth.^o

^f John iv. 24. God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

^g Job xi. 7. Canst thou by searching find out God? canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection?

^h Ps. xc. 2. From everlasting to everlasting thou art God.

ⁱ James i. 17. The Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

^k Exod. iii. 14. And God said unto Moses I AM THAT I AM; and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

^l Ps. cxlvii. 5. Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite.

^m Rev. iv. 8. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

ⁿ Rev. xv. 4. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy.

^o Exod. xxxiv. 6. The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, V. 7. Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty.

Q. 5. Are there more Gods than one?

A. There is but one only,^p the living and true God.^q

^p Deut. vi. 4. Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord.

^q Jer. x. 10. But the Lord is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting King?

Q. 6. How many persons are there in the Godhead?

A. There are three persons in the Godhead; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost;^r and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.^s

^r Mat. xxviii. 19. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

^s 1 John v. 7. For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

Q. 7. What are the decrees of God?

A. The decrees of God are his eternal purpose, according to the counsel of his will, whereby, for his own glory, he hath fore-ordained whatsoever comes to pass.^t

^t Eph. i. 11. Being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: V. 12. That we should be to the praise of his glory.

Q. 8. How doth God execute his decrees?

A. God executeth his decrees in the works of creation ^u and providence.^w

^u Rev. iv. 11. Thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

^w Dan. iv. 35. He doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth.

Q. 9. What is the work of creation?

A. The work of creation is, God's making all things of nothing,^x by the word of his power,^y in the space of six days, and all very good.^z

^x Gen. i. 1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

^y Heb. xi. 3. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God; so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

^z Gen. i. 31. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

Q. 10. How did God create man?

A. God created man male and female, after his own image,^a in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness,^b with dominion over the creatures.^c

^a Gen. i. 27. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him: male and female created he them.