

A. It darkened our understanding; weakened our will; and left in us a strong inclination to evil.

Q. What is the reason that darkness in our understanding, weakness in our will, and a propensity to evil, still remain, with many other temporal punishments, after original sin is forgiven?

A. To serve as an occasion of merit to us; by resisting our corrupt inclinations, and by bearing patiently the suffering of this life.

LESSON VII.

On Jesus Christ, &c.

Q. Did Christ become man immediately after the transgression of our first parents?

A. No; though he was immediately promised to them as a redeemer. *Gen. iii. 15.*

Q. How many years after the fall of our first parents did Christ become man?

A. About four thousand years.

Q. How could they be saved, who lived before Christ became man?

A. By the belief of a redeemer to come; and by keeping the commandments of God. *1 Cor. x. 4.*

Q. On what day did Christ become man?

A. On the twenty-fifth of March, the day of the annunciation, he was conceived by the Holy Ghost. *Ap. Cr.*

Q. Why is it called the day of the annunciation?

A. Because on that day the angel Gabriel was announced to the Virgin Mary: *Behold thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and shalt bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus. Luke, i. 31.*

Q. On what day was Christ born of the Virgin Mary?

A. On Christmas-day, in a stable at Bethlehem.