

SHORTER CATECHISM FOR MAY.

We have given the five lessons for May in this number for the convenience of teachers. To make room for them, without shortening the helps, we have omitted the Shorter Catechism questions and the Golden Texts of April and June. The full list will be restored in the June number.

Q. 100. What doth the preface of the Lord's prayer teach us?

A. The preface of the Lord's prayer, (which is, *Our Father which art in heaven,*) teacheth us to draw near to God with all holy reverence and confidence,^z as children to a father,^a able and ready to help us;^b and that we should pray with and for others.^c

^z Isa. lix. 9. Be not wroth very sore, O Lord, neither remember iniquity for ever: behold, see, we beseech thee, we are all thy people.

^a Luke xi. 13. If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children; how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him.

^b Rom. viii. 15. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear: but ye have received the spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

^c Eph. vi. 18. Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.

Q. 101. What do we pray for in the first petition?

A. In the first petition, (which is, *Hallowed be thy name,*) we pray, That God would enable us and others to glorify him in all that whereby he maketh himself known;^d and that he would dispose all things to his own glory.^e

^d Ps. lxxvii. 1. God be merciful unto us, and bless us, and cause his face to shine upon us; V. 2. That thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations. V. 3. Let the people praise thee, O God: Let all the people praise thee.

^e Rom. xi. 36. For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things; To whom be glory forever. Amen.

Q. 102. What do we pray for in the second petition?

A. In the second petition, (which is, *Thy Kingdom come,*) we pray that Satan's kingdom may be destroyed;^f and that the kingdom of grace may be advanced,^g ourselves and others brought into it, and kept in it;^h and that the kingdom of glory may be hastened.ⁱ

^f Ps. lxxviii. 1. Let God arise, let his enemies be scattered; let them also that hate him, flee before him.

^g Ps. 118. Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion; build thou the walls of Jerusalem.

^h 2 Thess. iii. 1. Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you.

ⁱ Rom. x. 1. Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved.

^j Rev. xxii. 20. He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so come, Lord Jesus.

Q. 103. What do we pray for in the third petition?

A. In the third petition, (which is, *Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven,*) we pray, That God, by his grace, would make us able and willing to know, obey,^k and submit to his will in all things,^l as the angels do in heaven.^m

^k Ps. cxxxix. 34. Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart. V. 35. Make me to go in the path of thy commandments, for therein do I delight. V. 36. Incline my heart unto thy testimonies.

^l Acts xxi. 14. And when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, The will of the Lord be done.

^m Ps. ciii. 20. Bless the Lord, ye his angels that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearingkening unto the voice of his word. V. 22. Bless the Lord, all his works, in all places of his dominion: bless the Lord, O my soul.

Q. 104. What do we pray for in the fourth petition?

A. In the fourth petition, (which is, *Give us this day our daily bread,*) we pray, That of God's free gift we may receive a competent portion of the good gifts of this life,ⁿ and enjoy his blessing with them.^o

ⁿ Prov. xxx. 8. Remove far from me vanity and lies; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me.

^o Ps. xc. 17. And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us; and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it.

LESSONS AND GOLDEN TEXTS.

5. May 2.—PAUL BEGINS HIS FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY. Acts 13: 1-13. Commit vs. 2-4. *Golden Text*—Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. Mark 16: 15.

6. May 9.—PAUL PREACHING TO THE JEWS. ACTS 13: 26-39. Commit vs. 38-39. (Read chap. 13: 14-43.) *Golden Text*—Through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins. Acts 13: 38.

7. May 16.—PAUL PREACHING TO THE GENTILES. ACTS 14: 11-22. Commit vs. 21, 22. (Read chap. 13: 44 to 14: 28.)

Golden Text—I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles. Acts 13: 47.

8. May 23.—THE CONFERENCE AT JERUSALEM. Acts 15: 1-6, 22-29. Commit vs. 3, 4. (Read chap. 15: 1-35 and Gal. 2: 1-10.) *Golden Text*—Through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they. Acts 15: 11.

9. May 30.—CHRISTIAN FAITH LEADS TO GOOD WORKS. James 2: 14-23. Commit vs. 14-17. *Golden Text*—I will show thee my faith by my works. James 2: 18.