

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: BAPTIST CATECHISM 42

- Who is our catechism talking about when it speaks of “the wicked”? Though it is true that those who have faith in Christ were born in sin and still struggle with sin, why must they not be called “the wicked”? What are believers called instead? Why is this so?
- What is meant by “at death”? What moment does this refer to?
- What is hell?
- To review: where will the souls of believers go at death? Where will their bodies go? And now I ask, where will the souls of the wicked go at death? Where will their bodies go? Is this the final state for believers? Do you think it is the final state for the wicked? Question 43 will answer this question. But is there anything in answer 42 that gives us a hint?
- Question 42 seems like bad news (and it is for the wicked). How is it good news for the believer? Stated differently, how does question 42 help us to better understand and appreciate the good news of Jesus Christ?
- What should this teaching motivate us to do?

SUGGESTED SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 16:19-31; Psalm 49

CATECHISM MEMORIZATION

Q 42. But what shall be done to the wicked at their death?

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

2 Thessalonians 1:9

TIPS FOR MEMORIZATION

- Write the question and answer by hand multiple times (on a separate paper).
- Divide the answer into smaller sections. Master one small section at a time.
- Reflect on the meaning of the question and answer.
- Once you are close to having the answer memorized, have someone quiz you.
- Lastly, once you are confident you have memorized the text, write it out on this sheet as a keepsake and reminder of what you have learned.

EMMAUS

REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

AFTERNOON CATECHISM AND PRAYER SERVICE

DECEMBER 11TH, 2022

SCRIPTURE READING

“Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.” (Psalm 95:1-2)

OPENING PRAYER

SONG

God Moves In A Mysterious Way

Verses: William Cowper (1773) Music and Refrain: K. Jason French (2014)

God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea and rides upon the storm.
Deep in unfathomable mines of never failing skill
He treasures up His bright designs and works His sovereign will.

God of mercy, God of grace, Give us eyes to see;
Eyes to see Your smiling face, Within the mystery, within the mystery

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take; The clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy and shall break in blessings on your head.
Judge not the Lord by feeble sense, but trust Him for His grace;
Behind a frowning providence, He hides a smiling face.

His purposes will ripen fast, unfolding every hour;
The bud may have a bitter taste, but sweet will be the flower.
Blind unbelief is sure to err and scan His work in vain;
God is His own interpreter, and He will make it plain.

CATECHISM LESSON

Baptist Aatechism 42

Q. But what shall be done to the wicked at their death?

A. The souls of the wicked shall, at death, be cast into the torments of hell, and their bodies lie in their graves, till the resurrection and judgment of the great day. (Luke 16:22-24; Ps. 49:14)

Scripture Reading: Luke Luke 16:19-31

The Catechism Explained

“But what shall be done to the wicked at their death?”

- Some might be thinking, *but aren't we all wicked?* Well, by nature, yes. But when our catechism speaks of “the wicked” here it is referring to those who remain in their unbelief and die in the guilt of their sins.

- Though it is true that we are all born in sin, when a person is drawn to faith in Christ it is because they have been born again. No longer are they “wicked”, for when they turn from their sins and trust in Christ they are, at that moment, washed and forgiven.
- Though it is true that we all continue to struggle with sin, those who have faith in Christ have been justified (declared not guilty), adopted (as children of God), and are being sanctified further with each passing day. For these reasons, those in Christ cannot be called “wicked”. They are instead called “saints”. And this is by the grace of God alone.

“The souls of the wicked”

- Notice that a distinction is being made between the body and the soul.
- This should sound familiar to you. In an earlier catechism question, we learned that believers have a body and soul. And here we are taught that non-believers have a body and soul too.
- In other words, all humans have a body and soul. A soul is not unique to those who have faith but is an essential part of human nature.

“Shall, at death”

- Here we are talking about the moment of physical death.
- Question: what happens to the souls of those who have faith in Christ when they die? We have learned that at the moment of death “the souls of believers are... made perfect in holiness, and do immediately pass into glory...” (BC 40), that is to say, into the blessed presence of God.

“Be cast into the torments of hell”

- But this is to be contrasted with the destination of the souls of the wicked. What will happen to the souls of those who do not have Christ as Lord and Savior when they die? “The souls of the wicked shall, at death, be cast into the torments of hell...”
- What is hell? I suppose we might say that it is the opposite of heaven. While heaven is a place of eternal blessedness in God’s glorious and gracious presence, hell is a place of eternal torment wherein God’s perfectly just wrath is poured out on the unrighteous.
- See Luke 16:19-31

“And their bodies lie in their graves till the resurrection and judgment of the great day.”

- What happens to the bodies of those who do not believe in Christ when they die? The same thing that happens to the bodies of believers.
- This mention of the “resurrection” day, which is the “day of judgment”, anticipates the next question, which is this: “What shall be done to the wicked, at the Day of Judgment?” The answer to this question will have to wait until next Lord’s Day.

Three suggestions for application:

- One, this teaching should move you to ask the question, where will I go when I die? Will I go to experience the glories of heaven, or will I go to experience the torments of hell? What makes the difference? Answer: faith in Christ! See John 3:16-18.
- Two, this teaching should move us to pray for those who do not believe in Christ and also to tell them about Jesus. These are the means that God uses to bring his elect to salvation: the proclamation of the gospel and prayer.

- Three, this teaching should increase our gratitude for the mercy and grace that God has shown to us in Christ Jesus. See Ephesians 1:3–14. May our gratitude towards God increase. May our love for him grow and grow. May we, like the Apostle, be moved to praise.

CORPORATE PRAYER

Members of Emmaus are invited to pray aloud in this time of corporate prayer. The prayer time will be conducted according to the petitions of the Lord’s Prayer (see Baptist Catechism questions 105-114 for instructions on prayer). The children of members may pray if they have the permission of their parents and are prepared. Please raise your hand to request the microphone if you wish to pray.

“Pray then like this:

‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”
For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever, Amen.
(Matthew 6:9–13, with traditional conclusion added)

CLOSING SONG

Psalm 23 - The LORD’s My Shepherd

The LORD’s my Shepherd; I will lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in pastures green.
He leads by calm streams, and he revives me;
He guides in right ways for His name’s sake.

Although I travel through death’s dark valley,
No threat or danger there will I fear,
Since you will always stay close beside me;
Your rod and staff give comfort to me.

You’ve set my table where foes are watching;
My head anointed, my cup you’ve filled.
Such love and goodness through life pursue me;
I’ll live forever in the LORD’s house.

BENEDICTION

*“Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”
(2 Corinthians 13:11, 14, ESV)*