

The Principles of Christian Religion

**A Study through the Baptist
Catechism using Benjamin
Beddome's *Scriptural Exposition***

Outline of the BC

- I. Introductory Questions: 1-6
- II. What We are to Believe: 7-43
- III. What Duty God Requires: 44-114
 - A. The Law and our Inability: 44-89
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Question. 1. *Who is the First and Chiefest being?*

Answer. God is the First and Chiefest being *a*.

(a) Isa. 44. 6. & 48.12.

Q. 2. *Ought every One to believe there is a God?*^{xviii}

A. Every One ought to believe there is a God *b*; and it is their great Sin and Folly who do not *c*.

(b) Heb. 11. 6.

(c) Psal. 14. 1.

Q. 3. *How may we know there is a God?*

A. The Light of Nature in

Question 1. *What is the chief end of man?*

A. Man's chief end is to glorify God, *a* and to enjoy Him forever *b*.

(a) 1 Cor. 10. 31.

Rom. 11. 36.

(b) Psa. 73. 24, to the end.

Question 1. *What is the chief and highest end of man?*

Answer 1. Man's chief and highest end is to glorify God, *a* and fully to enjoy him forever *b*.

(a) Rom. 11. 36.

1 Cor. 10. 31.

(b) Psa. 73. 24-28

Q. 2. *How doth it appear that there is a God?*

A. The very light of nature in

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man, and the Works of God plainly declare that there is a God *d*; but his Word and Spirit only, do **it fully and effectually**, for **the Salvation of Sinners** *e*.

(d) Rom. 1. 19, 20.

Psal. 19. 1, 2, 3. Acts 17. 24.

(e) 1 Cor. 2. 10.

2 Tim. 3. 15, 16.

Q. 4. *What is the Word of God?*

A. The Holy Scriptures of the Old and New **Testament**, are the Word of God, **and** the only certain Rule of Faith and Obedience *c*.

(c)^{xix} 2 Tim. 3. 16.

Ephes. 2. 20.

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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) 2 Tim. 3. 16. Eph. 2. 20.

(d) 1 Joh. 1. 3, 4.

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man, and the works of God, declare plainly that there is a God; *c* but his word and Spirit only do sufficiently and effectually reveal him unto men for their salvation *d*.

(c) Rom. 1. 19-20.

Psa. 19.1-3. Acts 17. 28.

(d) 1 Cor. 2. 9-10.

2 Tim. 3. 15-17. Isa. 59. 21.

Q. 3. *What is the word of God?*

A. The holy scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the word of God, *e* the only rule of faith and obedience. *f*

(e) 2 Tim. 3. 16.

2 Peter 1.19-21.

(f) Eph. 2. 20. Rev. 22. 18-19.

Isa. 8. 20. Luke 16. 29, 31.

Gal. 1. 8-9. 2 Tim. 3. 15-16.

Q. 5. *May all Men make use of the Scriptures?*

A. All Men are not only permitted, but commanded and exhorted, to read, hear, and understand the Holy Scriptures *d.*

(d) John 5. 39. Deut. 6. 8. Rev. 1. 3. Acts 8. 30.

Q. 6. *What things are chiefly contained in the Holy Scripture?*

A. The Holy Scriptures chiefly contain what Man ought to believe concerning God, and what Duty God requireth of Man *e.*

(e) 2 Tim. 1. 13. & 3. 15, 16.

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. 1. 13. and 3. 16.

Question and Answer 5

Q. 5: May all men make use of the Holy Scriptures?

A. All men are not only permitted, but commanded and exhorted to read, hear, and understand the Holy Scriptures.¹

¹ John 5:38; Revelation 17:18,19; 1:3; Acts 8:30

Question and Answer 5

- This is something we take for granted today, so why emphasize this? Why give it its own question?
- We live in a day of unprecedented blessing in this respect:
 - Inexpensive, available copies of the Bible
 - Good translations in our native language
 - High literacy rates
- We ought to be very grateful and take advantage of these blessings.

Question and Answer 5

1. Reading the Scriptures

- Should we read the Scriptures? (Isa. 34:16)
 - Privately (Acts 8:28)
 - Corporately (Deut. 31:11; Col. 4:16)
- How should we read the Scriptures?
 - Attentively (Luke 10:26)
 - Diligently (John 5:39)
 - With Perseverance (Deut. 17:19)
 - Particularly on the Sabbath (Acts 13:27)
 - With Preference (Jer. 23:28)

Question and Answer 5

1. Reading the Scriptures

- Why should we read the Scriptures?
 - It is an ancient custom (Acts 15:21).
 - It was the practice of Christ (Luke 4:16).
 - Their content is worthy of our attention (John 5:39).
 - Neglect of it leads to ignorance and error (Matt. 22:29).
 - A blessing is promised to it (Rev. 1:3).

Question and Answer 5

- Excursus: Restoring the Scriptural Balance
 - There has been an undue (because unscriptural) emphasis in Evangelicalism on personal Bible reading as the heart and soul of the Christian life.
 - This is the result of an underlying view of the Christian life as radically individualistic.
 - In Scripture, there is a much greater emphasis on the public hearing of God's Word (e.g. Rom. 10:14-17)

Question and Answer 5

- Excursus: Restoring the Scriptural Balance
 - Personal Bible reading is good and beneficial and is encouraged.
 - But it must not take place apart from regular hearing of the public, corporate, authorized ministry of the Word.
 - If individualistic Bible study were all-sufficient, why did God give pastors and teachers to the church?
 - Eph. 4:11-14

Question and Answer 5

- Excursus: Restoring the Scriptural Balance
 - The corporate worship and public ministry of the Word are the primary means by which God saves sinners and grows saints.
 - These should therefore receive the primary emphasis in our Christian lives, without neglecting private and family worship.
 - I say all this not to lower your opinion of the importance of private reading of the Word but to heighten your opinion of the importance of public preaching of the Word.

Question and Answer 5

2. Hearing the Scriptures (John 8:47)

– How should we hear the Scriptures?

- In its Fullness (Acts 10:33)
- With Holy Reverence (Isa. 66:2)
- With Delight (Mark 12:37)
- In Faith (2 Chron. 20:20)
- With Meekness (Jam. 1:21)
- With Settled Resolutions of Obedience (Deut. 32:46)
- With Eagerness and Regularity (Acts 13:42)

Question and Answer 5

2. Hearing the Scriptures

- Why should we hear the Scriptures?
 - Refusal to do so is folly (Jer. 8:9).
 - Refusal to do so brings judgment (Prov. 13:13).

Question and Answer 5

3. Understanding the Scriptures

- We are commanded to understand them (Matt. 24:15).
- Some things in them are difficult to understand (2 Pet. 3:16).
- This calls for diligence (Prov. 2:4,5).
- This calls for prayer (Psalm 119:18).

Question and Answer 5

3. Understanding the Scriptures

- Failure to understand the Scriptures (Rom. 1:31) . . .
 - Is sometimes due to willful negligence (Psa. 82:5).
 - Is sometimes due to judicial blindness (Isa. 6:10).
 - Leads to the misuse of Scripture (2 Pet. 3:16).
 - Makes one deplorable (2 Cor. 4:3).

Question and Answer 5

- Scriptural Commands on the Use of Scripture (Rev. 2:29)
 - The Duty of All (Deut. 2:29)
 - The Duty of Ministers as well as People (1 Tim. 4:13)
 - The Duty of Young as well as Old (2 Tim. 3:15)