

The Principles of Christian Religion

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

Introduction

- “What is the Bible about?”
- Many see the Bible primarily as a . . .
 - Rulebook
 - Systematic Theology
 - History Book
 - Self-Help/Self-Improvement Guide
- Q&A 6 gives us a better answer

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
 - B. The Gospel and the Means of Grace: 90-114

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 6

Q. 6: What things are chiefly contained in the Holy Scriptures?

A. The Holy Scriptures chiefly contain what man ought to believe concerning God, and what duty God requireth of man.¹

¹ 2 Timothy 1:13; 3:15,16

Question and Answer 6

- Is this an accurate summary of the primary (“chief”) contents of Scripture?
 - Is there anything else?
 - Matters of Faith and Obedience (Deut. 6)
- Is this answer compatible with the claim of Biblical Theology that Jesus is the primary content of Scripture?
 - I think so. Jesus is Himself the apex of God’s revelation both of what we ought

Question and Answer 6

1. The Necessity of the Instruction of Scripture

- The Natural Ignorance of Man
 - Ignorant of God (Jer. 9:3)
 - Ignorant of their Duty (Amos 3:10)
- The Resulting Sin of Man
 - Ignorance leads to sin (1 Tim. 1:13)
 - But is no excuse for sin (Jer. 10:25)
- The Appointed Means of Instruction
 - The Scriptures (Psa. 119:130)

Question and Answer 6

- Excursus

- Is it just for God to hold accountable people who have no access to the Bible?

- If so, why?

- Every human being who has ever lived knows something about what God requires him to believe and do (Rom. 1:19-20; 2:12-16).

- Every human being who has ever lived rejects what he knows about what God requires him to believe and do (Rom. 1:21-32).

- No human being has ever died apart from Christ and gone to Hell who would have believed in Christ had he been given the chance to hear the gospel.

Question and Answer 6

2. The Character of the Instruction of Scripture

- Its Sufficiency (2 Tim. 3:15)
- Its Perspicuity (2 Cor. 3:12)
- Its Potency (Heb. 4:12)
- Its Addressees
 - Sinners (Prov. 8:5)
 - Saints (1 Cor. 10:15)

Question and Answer 6

3. The Content of the Instruction of Scripture

a) Matters of Faith

- The Necessity of Knowledge of God (Job 22:21)
- The Benefits of Knowledge of God (2 Pet. 1:2)
- The Reproach of Ignorance of God (Isa. 1:3)
- The Source of Knowledge of God
 - Men cannot know God aright without His Word (Eph. 2:12).
 - All that may be known of God without the Word can be better known in and by the Word (Heb. 11:3).
 - We should therefore have recourse to the Scriptures for the knowledge of God (Prov. 2:1,5).

Question and Answer 6

3. The Content of the Instruction of Scripture

b) Matters of Obedience

- The Necessity of Obedience to God (Rom. 8:12)
 - Due from All (Rom. 16:26)
 - But Especially from the Saints (Tit. 3:8)
- The Duties of Obedience to God
 - Best Learned from the Divine Word (2 Tim. 3:16)
 - Only Learned from the Divine Word (Luke 16:31)
 - » Last Paragraph: What “other methods” might some try?

Question and Answer 6

3. The Content of the Instruction of Scripture

b) Matters of Obedience

- The Scriptural Practice of Obedience to God
 - Without Hesitating (Gal. 1:16)
 - Without Reserve or Exception (Deut. 5:32)
 - Without Reluctance (Psa. 40:8)
 - Without Assuming (Luke 17:10)
 - Without Fainting (Gal. 6:9)

Conclusion

- Where would we be without the Scriptures?
 - We would not know what to believe about God (Acts 17:27).
 - We would not know what duty we owe to God (Acts 17:30-31).
 - We would be utterly and hopelessly lost.
- We should be eternally grateful to God for the gracious gift of the Scriptures and give earnest heed to them.
 - I Pet. 1:19; 2LCF 1.1