

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

Question and Answer 23

Q. 23: Did God leave all mankind to perish in the estate of sin and misery?

A. God having out of His mere good pleasure, from all eternity, elected some to everlasting life,¹ did enter into a covenant of grace, to deliver them out of the estate of sin and misery, and to bring them into an estate of salvation by a redeemer.²

¹ Ephesians 1:4,5

² Romans 3:20-22; Galatians 3:21,22

Question and Answer 23

1. The Decree of Election

a. The Doctrine of Election

- Some of the human race shall be recovered from the ruin of the fall (Rom. 9:27).
- The salvation of this remnant is sure (Rom. 9:11).
- All others are left to perish in their sins (Rom. 11:7).
- But God's decree is not the impulsive cause of their ruin (Jam. 1:15).
 - Cf. Rom. 9:14 ff.

Question and Answer 23

1. The Decree of Election

b. The Objects of Election

- All the saints are the objects of God's eternal choice (2 Thess. 2:13).
- And they are chosen to happiness as the end (1 Thess. 5:9).
- And to sanctification as the means (2 Thess. 2:13).
- They are chosen in Christ (Eph. 1:4).
- And it is a certain number that is thus chosen (2 Tim. 2:19).

Question and Answer 23

1. The Decree of Election

c. The Extent of Election

- The decree of election extends but to a few comparatively (Matt. 20:16).
- But it extends to some of all nations (Rev. 5:9).
- And to some of the chief of sinners (Acts 9:15 and 1 Tim. 1:15).
- And to all that are willing to come to Christ (John 6:37).
- This then is an encouragement to use the means (Luke 13:24).

Question and Answer 23

1. The Decree of Election

d. The Foundation of Election

- The decree of election is founded upon God's sovereign pleasure (Rom. 9:15).
- And upon nothing in the creature (John 15:16).
 - Spurgeon: "I believe the doctrine of election because I am quite sure that if God had not chosen me I would never have chosen him; and I am sure he chose me before I was born, or else he would never have chosen me afterward."
- It is secret (Eph. 1:9).
- And firm and irrevocable (2 Tim. 2:19).

Question and Answer 23

2. The Covenant of Grace

a. The Head of the Covenant

- God executes all special grace through Christ (Eph. 1:3).
- There were mutual engagements for this purpose between the Father and Son (Zech. 6:13).
- All the promises of the covenant were primarily made to Christ (Isa. 55:3).
- All the conditions of it were exacted from him (Isa. 53:6).

Question and Answer 23

2. The Covenant of Grace

a. The Head of the Covenant

- Christ freely undertook the work of our redemption (Heb. 10:7).
- And the Father engaged for the success of his undertaking (Isa. 53:11).

Question and Answer 23

2. The Covenant of Grace

b. The Blessings of the Covenant

- The saints are in covenant given to Christ (John 17:6).
- They are given to him to be redeemed (Gal. 4:5).
- And to be called (John 10:16).
- And to be preserved (John 17:12).
- And to be finally glorified (John 17:2).
- And all this shall be certainly accomplished (Isa. 53:10).

Question and Answer 23

2. The Covenant of Grace

c. The Glory of the Covenant

- We could not be saved by the first covenant (Gal. 5:21).
- The new covenant then is a great privilege (Luke 2:10).
- And we should embrace it as such (2 Sam. 23:5).