

That is exactly what Jesus did for us. Titus 2:14 says Jesus *gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.* (For a good summary, see Eph. 1:7, 1 John 1:9.)

Discussion Questions

- What was the price Jesus paid in order to redeem sinners? Why?
- If you are a Christian, how is your estate different now that you have been redeemed?

Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Did your mom ever say, “Look at the state of this room”? Was it’s condition good or bad? To review our question for the week, we are all born into a state of sin and misery. But God, for his own good pleasure, did not leave us all in that state but instead decided before the foundation of the world to elect some people to everlasting life. He covenanted together (Father, Son, and Spirit) to deliver those people out of sin by the work of Jesus Christ our redeemer and grant them salvation. That means even though we still deal with sin in this life, Christians no longer live in a state of constant sin and misery. They have been transferred into a new state, a state of salvation. Even though we haven’t been perfected yet and we are still waiting for heaven, there is a sense in which we are already saved. We can walk around with our head up, knowing we are citizens of heaven and that eternity is waiting for us. Philippians 3:20 says, *“our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.”* Christians have been redeemed into a state of salvation, and that’s a beautiful state to be in.

Discussion Questions

- Have you ever been out of the country? What was it like to be a foreigner and know you belonged somewhere else?
- What does it mean to be a citizen of heaven? How does that affect how you look at your life here on earth?

Baptist Catechism

Family Worship Guide



West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, February 11th, 2024)

Baptist Catechism Question #23

Q: 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, 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.*

Suggested Memory Verse

Ephesians 1:4–5 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love [5] he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will... (ESV)

Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

After focusing on the nature of sin and the misery of sin, this week's question will consider: Did God *leave* men in that state of sin? The phrase "did God leave" indicates that we could have remained in our state of sin because we deserve the punishment, the death and judgment of God. However, God did not leave all men in that state. For His own good pleasure, He chose to save some out of their sin. Romans 9:27 says, "*Though the number of the sons of Israel be as the sand of the sea, only a remnant of them will be saved...*" There are people who believe all men will be saved, but scripture does not teach this. Some people remain in their sin. They do not turn to God in faith because Romans 1 says they suppress the truth, they are without excuse, and *therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts*. God's good pleasure, or will, is not evil or capricious but always perfectly good, and it is a gracious thing indeed that He has chosen to save any of us from the sinful consequences we deserve. Ephesians 1:4–5 says, "*He chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will.*" His will is good, perfect, loving, holy, and purposeful.

Discussion Question

- Have you ever done something for someone else, not because you had to or because they deserved it, but simply because you wanted to?
- Why is it important to understand that God is not obligated to save anyone but does it for His own pleasure?

Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Of His own good pleasure, God elected some to everlasting life. Each of us has a beginning, a time when we were conceived God breathed life into us. But, have you ever stopped to consider that spiritually you have no end? On judgment day, the sheep and the goats (meaning believers and unbelievers) will be separated and sent to either heaven or hell for eternity. Matthew 25:46 says of the unrighteous, *these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life*. The Bible also says that God chose people for eternal life before they were born or had done anything good or bad. The apostle Paul was chosen even though he claimed to be the biggest sinner of all (Acts 9:15). In fact, God chose His children before the world was even created! He chose a variety of people from all nations and peoples and languages (Rev. 5:9), and 2 Timothy 2:19 says, "*The Lord knows those who are his...*" Before we even began to love God, He first loved us and elected us out of His own goodness. It is because of His love that believers then respond in faith. John 6:37 says, "*All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.*" What a blessed hope it is to know God chooses us and can never lose us because His choices are perfect.

Discussion Questions

- Did God choose to save you? How can you know?
- A Christian is someone who responds to God's love with faith (Romans 10:9). Does this describe you?

Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

God, out of his mere good pleasure, from all eternity, elected some to everlasting life, and entered into a covenant of grace. Why? To deliver them out of their estate of sin and misery. This is the first time in the catechism we see this term "covenant of grace," so let's break it apart. A covenant is an agreement between two or more persons. Have you ever made official agreements with others? Buying a house or car could be considered a covenant or agreement. Even a trade with your sibling or friend could be considered a covenant. I (Shawn) once traded a handful of star wars figures for a landspeeder craft because my Luke Skywalker figure was getting tired of walking. It was a good agreement. The word *grace* means favor from God. We don't earn it, we are unworthy of it. So, when we put the two together, the "covenant of grace" means an eternal agreement within the Trinity (God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit) to save certain persons called the elect, and to provide all the means for their salvation. God not only chose to save some, He also provided everything needed for their salvation. This includes sending Jesus Christ to die on the cross to pay the penalty of their sin, and sending the Holy Spirit to bring that salvation to the hearts of His people (Jer. 31:31).

Discussion Questions

- Does God keep His promises?
- If the triune God (Father, Son, and Spirit) covenanted together to save an elect people for eternity... how confident can we be that it will happen?

Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The last phrase in this week's answer is that God would bring sinners into a state of salvation by and through a Redeemer. A redeemer is someone who secures people's release from oppression, harm, evil, enslavement, or some other binding obligation. We might think of redeeming a coupon at a store. About once a year, someone in our family gets a coupon book full of free Frosties from Wendy's. My girls line up and redeem their coupon for their icy treat. Biblically speaking, we have a redeemer and his name is Jesus Christ. Colossians 1:13–14 says *He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins*. Did you hear that word redemption? Jesus Christ redeemed us, moved us from slavery to sin, and placed us in a state of salvation. Or as Galatians 4:5 says, *to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons*. The Old Testament defines the word *redeem* as "to buy back" or "pay the price."