

felt like you were in downward spiral with no way out? The only way out is through repentance and putting your faith in Christ. If you are a believer, know that your sin is a grief to God, and as a loving father, He will bring discipline so that you may experience the refreshment of repentance. His wrath against your sin has wholly fallen on Christ. You may experience temporal chastisement but fear not that God will leave you!

#### Discussion Questions

- Can knowing that God's wrath is poured out in this time and space help you live a holy life? How could this help you?
- Though you may not experience the wrath of God on you as a believer, does the reality of God's wrath here and now change how you feel about your sin?

#### **Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse**

So, what can be said in the final analysis? Sin will be judged – the just deserts of sin is the wrath and curse of God against sin forever. Many unbelievers, and even some believers find fault with this truth. Those who struggle with the reality of eternal punishment for sin often belittle the holiness of God, or the vileness of sin, or both. When we embrace the biblical account of the unapproachable holiness of God and the inability of man to keep God's law, we see that the judgement of God against sin is just. Heaven will be free from all that has so sullied this world that God has created and cares for. He will recreate the heavens and earth, and he will finally glorify His children. As the old hymn says, "Dear dying lamb, Thy precious blood shall never lose it's power Till all the ransomed ones of God Be saved, to sin no more!" The power of sin that separates us from God will be broken when we are raised to new life. And all those who persist in their rebellion against God, *he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulphur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment goes up for ever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night...* Rev 14:10-11a

#### Discussion Questions

- Is there anyone that you can think of that you can pray for, that they may not meet the fate described in Revelation chapter 14?
- Take time to pray and ask God for an opportunity to share the gospel with a friend or family member this week.

# Baptist Catechism

## Family Worship Guide



## West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025)

### Baptist Catechism Question #89

**Q:** What doth every sin deserve?

**A:** *Every sin deserveth God's wrath and curse, both in this life and that which is to come.*

#### Suggested Memory Verse

***Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

### Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

This week we will look at punishment for sin. We've spent many weeks looking at the 10 Commandments, which sum up the moral law of God. We've seen that the 10 Commandments aren't just a list with a few things we simply need to avoid, but a representation of God's perfect holiness that has implications for every part of our lives. One of the purposes of God's law is that it acts like a mirror. It shows us what we look like in light of the moral perfection of God. The law shows us our sin and, as God grants us faith, the desire to turn to Christ for forgiveness. Why, you may ask, is forgiveness necessary? As we will discover this week, sin deserves both God's wrath and curse, in this life and in that which is to come. The only way to receive forgiveness for the just wrath of God for our sin is to flee to Christ, who God has put forth as a substitute for sinners. *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord*, Romans 6:23. The bible speaks of our "wages" for sin. Wages are what we earn for the work that we do. The work that we do, apart from Christ, deserves death. By contrast, those who put their faith in Christ haven't earned their forgiveness. The forgiveness that God offers is the very gift of eternal life.

#### Discussion Questions

- How does reflecting on God's law help us? Are there any specific ways that you may need to repent in light of God's holy law?
- Why is the imagery of "wages" and "gift" a helpful way to understand what our works deserve contrasted with gift of God's grace?

### Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Every sin deserves God's wrath. This is a simple concept, but for sinners like you and me, it's hard sometimes to see the severity of our sin and how truly offensive it is to God. The bible uses illustrations that are helpful to us in learning how to better understand our relationship to God in light of our sin. The bible speaks of God as King. As king of this realm, God has the right to demand loyalty from his subjects. The punishment for rebellion against the king is death. The bible speaks of God as Judge. God is impartial and holy. He sees perfectly and judges with righteousness. God is right to condemn us for sinful behavior. When Jesus wanted to expose the sinfulness of the pharisees and teachers, he used a damning parable. He told a story of a property owner who set up a vineyard and leased it to tenants. When it came time to receive a portion of the harvest as payment, the wicked tenants refused to share what they received from the land. The landowner was patient, sending his men to the tenants to reason with them. The tenants in turn treated them shamefully and beat them. Then the landowner sent his son. The wicked tenants completed their treachery by killing the landowner's son. What will the landowner do with such wicked men? He will utterly destroy them and give the vineyard to men who will share with him the fruit of the harvest.

#### Discussion Questions

- Can you think of an illustration that could help others understand the weighty matter of their sin before God?
- When you are sharing the gospel with others, do you use the illustrations of scripture and the parables of Christ to help you convey your message? If not, consider reading one of the gospels and ask God's help in using what you read to witness to others.

### Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The first curse that appears in the scriptures is the curse that God pronounces on the serpent. Next, the ground is cursed because of Adam's transgression. Later, in a dramatic visual representation, God has 6 of the tribes of Israel stand on Mt. Gerizim to represent the blessing of God and 6 tribes stand on Mt. Ebal to represent the curse of God. While blessings of God are notable, the curses he pronounces for disobedience are truly devastating. This is representative to us of how God deals with those who refuse to obey him- their end is to be cursed. In Moses's account of the event in Deuteronomy, he records 14 verses of blessing but elaborates God's curses for 54 verses! The message is clear- violation of God's law, what we call "sin", results in God's curse. So, for all of those who have broken God's law, is there no hope? Certainly, we've all read Galatians 3:10 *For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them."* This sounds like we'll all be swept away by the curse! But the apostle Paul doesn't leave us without hope. He goes on *Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us— for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree."* Galatians 3:14.

#### Discussion Questions

- What does it mean that Christ "became a curse for us"?
- Do you believe that sin can bring a curse of God upon you? Why or why not? What hope do we have, if we desire to avoid the curse that our sin brings upon us?

### Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Often, we think of God's wrath and his curse against sin in terms of eternal punishment. The scriptures do in fact witness that God brings judgement at last. *I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; I will put an end to the pomp of the arrogant and lay low the pompous pride of the ruthless.* Isaiah 13:1. But God also pours out wrath against sin here and now. *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.* Romans 1:18. Paul speaks here in present tense- God presently pours out his wrath against sin. Paul describes God's wrath as a "turning over to sin." God uses the evil desires of the sinner against him by giving him that which he covets. It's a downward spiral towards the hell, with all of wreckage and ruin of a life lived apart from God towards the way there. Have you ever