

The Christian life is impossible without the means of grace, and that's why they are included in the answer to this week's catechism question.

#### Discussion Questions

- The means of grace are tightly bound up with the Great Commission (“baptizing them ... teaching them”; Matt 28:19-20). They may not seem like much on the outside, but the Kingdom of God spreads as far as the means of grace do. In light of this connection, what kinds of things ought we to pray for if we want to see the Kingdom come?

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

The last concept referenced in this week's answer is “the benefits of redemption.” These benefits were addressed in questions 38-42 when discussing the effectual call. They are justification, adoption, and sanctification. Since these have already been covered in depth as part of those questions, today we'll see some closing thoughts about this week's catechism question. First, note the exclusivity of the answer. This is not a way to escape God's wrath; it is the way. People who think that they will get into heaven because they are “good” people or because they go to church are tragically mistaken. This leads to a second point: people need to hear the Gospel. As we saw in the passage from Romans yesterday, no one can believe in him of whom they have not heard. Every Christian has a role to play in the Great Commission. Finally, note that this message of salvation is meant to be a relief, not a burden. Many people throughout church history have worked themselves into a frenzy wondering if they had true faith or if their faith was strong enough. Often these people end up turning faith into a work whereby one's assurance of salvation comes from the strength of one's faith instead of the strength of one's Savior. If you struggle with doubts about your salvation relating to whether or not your faith and repentance are genuine, remember two things. First, as we saw yesterday, God uses the means of grace to produce and grow faith, so keep applying them. It is ok to pray something like “God, I want to believe the Gospel, but I'm not sure that I do. Help my unbelief.” Second, consider the many promises in Scripture that hold out salvation as a free gift (ex: Is 55, John 6:35-40, Rom 6:23, Rev 22:17); if you are willing to accept it, it is there for the taking.

#### Discussion Questions

- Review the catechism questions about justification, sanctification, and adoption.
- Have you ever had doubts about whether or not your faith was genuine? How were those doubts resolved?

# Baptist Catechism

## Family Worship Guide



### West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025)

#### Baptist Catechism Question #90

**Q:** What doth God require of us that we may escape his wrath and curse, due to us for sin?

**A:** *To escape the wrath and curse of God due to us for sin, God requireth of us faith in Jesus Christ, repentance unto life, <sup>1</sup> with the diligent use of all the outward means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of redemption.*

#### Suggested Memory Verse

*Acts 20:20–21 I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, [21] testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. (ESV)*

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

The last several weeks, we have focused on God's holy law, sin, and the punishment that sin deserves. We saw from the Ten Commandments that we don't live up to the standard of God's perfect holiness. Last week we learned that every sin, even the smallest one, deserves the wrath and curse of God both in this life and the next. This week, our attention turns to the only hope that we have for escaping the curse that our sins deserve: the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The coming weeks will break down each component of this week's answer in more detail (faith, repentance, and the means of grace), but this week we want to get a high-level overview of what can be done to escape God's wrath. The first thing we'll note in the answer is that God is the one who requires these things of us. Because we have broken His law, He is the one we must answer to, but He is also the one who provided for our salvation. Paul says that God is both just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Christ (Romans 3:26). Those who repent of their sins and put their faith in Christ will relate to God as their loving Savior, but those who continue in their sin and rebellion will meet him as a wrathful Judge. That's why this week's question is so important; how we spend eternity and how we will relate to the supremely good and awesome God are all bound up in what we do when we are confronted with our sin.

#### Discussion Questions

- By way of review, are you able to list the ten commandments in order?
- What are other ways the Bible describes the relationship between God and Christians? What do they tell us about the nature of that relationship?

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

The answer to this week's question starts with faith in Jesus Christ. The eternal Son of God and second person of the Trinity assumed human nature and was born of the virgin Mary, and he was named Jesus. He lived a perfect life of obedience to God's law - loving God and loving neighbor the way we are all supposed to. However, despite his innocence, he was crucified. In Christ's death, he bore the wrath and curse that we deserved for our sins (Gal 3:13). After Christ's death, he rose again from the dead, showing that death itself (the punishment introduced for Adam's sin; Gen 2:17) had been defeated. Then, he ascended into heaven, showing his authority as a conquering King. Scripture tells us He will return to judge the living and the dead (Acts 10:42). To have faith in Jesus is to trust that His saving work, not any of your own works, is sufficient for your salvation. The evangelist Ray Comfort once compared this to the way someone who is jumping out of a plane trusts a parachute. When you know you are jumping out of a plane, your only hope is that parachute. It would be ludicrous to try and flap your arms to help contribute to the parachute's stopping effect. In the same way, it would be ludicrous to think that our imperfect works could earn us more righteousness before God when we already have the perfect works of Christ credited to us (2 Cor 5:21).

#### Discussion Questions

- Every other religion in the world teaches that we have to do good works to earn God's favor, and we sometimes slip into that way of thinking. Why do you think people have such a hard time accepting that salvation is a free gift?

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

The next thing mentioned in this week's catechism answer is "repentance unto life." Repentance means to change one's mind or to turn. In the context of the gospel, repentance is when a person turns from their sinful ways and instead seeks to live a life of obedience to Christ. After all, someone who has been transformed by the grace of God will not be able to stomach living in sin (Romans 6:2). Scripture compares this spiritual transformation to being brought back to life from the dead (Eph 2:4-5). This is not to say that our repentance will be perfect in this life, but one author compared it to the difference between a pig and a lamb when they fall in the mud. The pig is happy to slosh around and be covered in mud and filth, while the lamb seeks to be free of it. In the same way, though Christians still sin, their attitude towards their sin is radically different than it was before. Christians hate their sin. They desire to please God and to be conformed to the image of Christ, not to continue in the sins that caused Christ so much suffering. By the grace of God, Christians grow in holiness, and we'll see tomorrow some of the means by which God accomplishes that.

#### Discussion Questions

- Read Luke 8:9-14. According to Jesus' conclusion, what is the key ingredient in true repentance?
- Beyond what was given above, what other reasons can you think of to hate sin and love holiness? (Hint: Psalm 119 and Proverbs give many reasons).

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

After talking about repentance, the answer to this week's catechism mentions "diligent use of all the outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicates to us the benefits of redemption." As it goes on to explain in later questions, these means are the word of God, prayer, baptism, and the Lord's Supper - often collectively called "the means of grace." It is important to note that these things are not requirements in the same way that faith and repentance are. For example, the thief on the cross was neither baptized, nor did he partake of the Lord's Supper, yet Jesus told him that he would be with Him in paradise (Luke 23:43). Rather, the means of grace are mentioned alongside faith and repentance because they are the means that God uses to produce and grow the faith of believers. Paul makes this clear in Romans 10. In verse 10, he says "with the heart one believes and is justified", while in verse 14 he says "how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard?" In other words, it is impossible for faith to exist where there has not first been the word of God. Similarly, no one will grow in faith without praying.