

Missionary Highlight:



MERF- Victor Atallah



Perry and Betty

Westminster

Presbyterian Church, PCA

August 2025

Newsletter

Why the Westminster Shorter Catechism?

by Landon Jostes

Thomas Boston (1676 - 1732) once remarked, "Knowledge is a necessary foundation of faith and holiness; and where ignorance reigns in the mind, there is confusion in the heart and life." Over the next few years, we'll be working our way through the Westminster Shorter Catechism (WSC) as a tool to plumb the depths of that necessary foundation of faith and holiness that God has revealed to us in his Holy Scriptures. God gave us his Word so that we might know him. Think about that for a moment. The almighty, all-sufficient, all-knowing, eternal, unchangeable, and incomprehensible God has willingly and freely revealed himself to us so that we might know him. This undeserved grace should cause us to stop and wonder at the glorious goodness of our triune God.

Jesus says in John 8:31-32, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." For this reason, the study of the doctrines contained in Scripture is the most practical exercise that can ever be done in this life. God's truth sets us free from our slavery to sin and empowers us to live worthily before God in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit.

This is why theology matters. Theology is the practical application of the Scriptures that causes our minds, hearts, and wills to worship the one true and living God, and the WSC is a faithful exposition of the doctrines of the Christian faith. Yes, studying this catechism will increase our knowledge of theology, but additionally, when done rightly, will also stoke our love for God and inflame our faith into action, for all theology is practical and doxological.

So, what is the WSC? It is a systematic theology of the doctrines of Scripture that is composed into a question-and-answer format. This method of learning has an ancient history that finds its roots in the Old Testament. Psalm 119:9 says, "How can a man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word." The WSC follows this ancient practice of teaching the doctrines of the faith that have been entrusted to us, so that we may teach our children, and our children's children to a thousand generations (2 Tim 1:13-14).

Though each question stands on its own, there is a logical progression of thought where one idea builds off the previous questions. Beginning with the meaning of life in Q. 1, the rest of the catechism unfolds how we glorify and enjoy God in this life and in the life to come. To learn "man's chief end," the catechism immediately turns its attention to God's Word, to God himself, and then to God's plan and actions in creation, fall, redemption, and restoration. This catechism is decisively God-oriented from beginning to end. For it begins with the glory of God and ends with the doxological 'Amen' of the Lord's Prayer. "The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen." (Rev 22:21).

Middle East Reformed Fellowship (MERF) Evangelism/ Pastor Victor Atallah, Lanarca, Cyprus

We are thankful for the recent visit we enjoyed at Westminster with Pastor Victor Atallah of Middle East Reformed Fellowship (MERF). Praise God that there are many Reformed believers throughout the Middle Eastern countries, and for this ministry which faithfully declares the gospel and trains men for their own local ministry. Pray that their current staffing needs would be met. Pray that many would be drawn to Christ in faith through this ministry.

Perry and Betty, MTW: Church Plant / Collegiate/Middle School Educator - *SENSITIVE*

Pray for Perry and Betty and their family and the work they are doing in Europe. Pray that their church plant would grow. Please also pray for fruit in the lives of friends that Perry has been witnessing to. Pray for their boys and their studies. Praise the Lord that He has provided for them financially as a number of their supporters were able to help them with some immediate financial needs..

How can I support Missions?

PRAY for our Missionaries | **GIVE** to Missions | **GO** on a Missions Trip | **JOIN** the Missions Team

Local:

- Good News Jail & Prison Ministry, Chaplain Shane Hardesty

National:

- Presbyterian and Reformed Chaplain Corp (PRCC)
- Reformed University Ministry (RUF), Pastor Steve Lammers
- Reformed University Ministry (RUF), Pastor Kelly Jackson

International:

- Middle East Reformed Fellowship, Pastor Victor Atallah
- Brenda Carter, MTW Taiwan
- Chris and Savanna, MTW (sensitive)
- Franklin and Beth Beaver, MTW Worldwide
- David and Jill Martin, MTW Odessa, Ukraine/Romania
- The Lighthouse Children's Home, MTW Philippines (Cheryl Crocker)
- Evangelical Reformed Seminary of Kyiv, Ukraine
- Perry and Betty, MTW (Sensitive)
- Robert and Lisa Stewart, MTW Nagoya, Japan
- Verne and Alina Marshall, MTW Chile

August 2025

Sundays Weekly:

Prayer Meeting- 8:00
Sunday School- 9:00
AM Worship- 10:15
PM Worship- 5:30

Highlights for
September:

- NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED!- 9/1
- Family Game Night 9/12
- Missions Lunch (Dave and Jill Martin)- 9/28

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Food Ministry- 9AM	2
					NextGen Movie Night 7-9:30PM	
3 Missions Lunch	4	5	6	7 Carpenter's Apprentices- 6-7AM	8 Food Ministry- 9AM	9
10 Lord's Supper- AM	11	12 Joint Meeting- 5:30PM Women's PM Bible Study- 6-7:30PM	13	14 Carpenter's Apprentices- 6-7AM	15 Food Ministry- 9AM	16 Prayer Meeting- 9AM
17 Vision Lunch	18	19	20 FIRST NextGen Meeting- 5:30-7PM	21 Carpenter's Apprentices- 6-7AM	22 Food Ministry- 9AM	23 Prayer Meeting- 9AM
24 Lord's Supper- PM Officer Nominations Open	25 Missions Meeting- 5:30-7:00 PM	26 Women's PM Bible Study- 6-7:30PM	27 NextGen Meeting- 5:30-7PM	28 Carpenter's Apprentices- 6-7AM	29 Food Ministry- 9AM	30 Prayer Meeting- 9AM
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Key: BLUE- Church Wide Events | PURPLE- Bible Studies | ORANGE- NextGen | GREEN- Children's Events | BROWN- Food Ministry | RED- Meetings | BLACK- Holidays

Quarterly Communion Offering: Harvest House- a non-profit food pantry serving families in Destin, FL