

Heidelberg Catechism

Lord's Day 32

Overview/Purpose

“Having now considered the misery of man, and his deliverance through Christ, the doctrine of gratitude or thankfulness is necessary, 1. On account of the glory of God, inasmuch as the chief end of our redemption is thankfulness, which comprehends acknowledgement and praise for the benefits of Christ. 2. On account of our consolation, which consists in our deliverance by the free grace of God. None now obtain this deliverance, but those who desire to show their gratitude to God. 3. That we may render unto God such worship as is lawful, and acceptable. God disapproves of all worship which grounds itself in self-will. We must therefore, show from the word of God, what is the nature of true thankfulness, which is the worship due to God. 4. That we may know that all our good works are expressions of thankfulness and have no merit in the sight of God.

True Christian thankfulness, therefore, which is here taught, is an acknowledgement and profession of our gracious deliverance, through Christ from sin and death, and a sincere desire to avoid sin, and every thing that might offend God, and to conform the life according to his will; to desire, expect, and receive all good things from God alone, by a true faith, and to render thanks for the benefits received.”

“The Commentary of Dr. Zacharias Ursinus on the Heidelberg Catechism”, pg 464.

Method

Following the Trivium, the grammar stage calls for rote memorization. Constant drilling and recitation is absolutely necessary and will require direct parental participation.

Suggested Materials For Parents

See “The Commentary of Dr. Zacharias Ursinus on the Heidelberg Catechism”, pgs 464-467.

Word Definitions

• Adulterer	• Assured	• Blessings
• Blood	• Christ	• Continuing
• Converted	• Covetous man	• Declares
• Delivered	• Drunkard	• Faith
• Fruits	• Gained	• God
• Godly conversion	• Good works	• Grace
• Gratitude	• Holy Scriptures	• Holy Spirit
• Idolater	• Image	• Inherit
• Kingdom of God	• Lives	• Merely
• Merit	• Misery	• Praised
• Redeemed	• Renews	• Robber
• Saved	• Slanderer	• Testify
• Thief	• Unchaste person	• Ungrateful
• Whole of our conduct	• Wicked	

Suggested Activities

- Review word definitions
- Memory game to review word definitions and catechism questions
- Spelling test using the words in this catechism lesson
- Memorize key bible verses
- Service projects to reinforce the lessons found in the catechism questions

- Many opportunities for creativity!

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LORD'S DAY 32

Question 86. Since then we are delivered from our misery, merely of grace, through Christ, without any merit of ours, why must we still do good works?

Answer. Because Christ, having redeemed and delivered us by his blood, also renews us by his Holy Spirit, after his own image; that so we may testify, by the whole of our conduct, our gratitude [a] to God for his blessings, and that he may be [b] praised by us; also, that every one may be [c] assured in himself of his faith, by the fruits thereof; and that, by our godly conversation, others may be [d] gained to Christ.

Question 87. Cannot they then be saved, who, continuing in their wicked and ungrateful lives, are not converted to God?

Answer. By no means; for the holy scripture declares [e] that no unchaste person, idolater, adulterer, thief, covetous man, drunkard, slanderer, robber, or any such like, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

[a]: 1Cor. 6:19,20; Rom. 6:13; Rom. 12:1,2; 1Pet. 2:5,9,10

[b]: Mat. 5:16; 1Pet. 2:12

[c]: 2Pet. 1:10; Gal. 5:6,24

[d]: 1Pet. 3:1,2; Mat. 5:16; Rom. 14:19

[e]: 1Cor. 6:9,10; Eph. 5:5,6; 1John 3:14,15; Gal. 5:21