

A Puritan Catechism

CHARLES SPURGEON

**Hope
Restored
Mission**

Gospel Churches
for New Brunswick



Edited & Updated in Modern English by Jeff Jones

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2023

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by Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-1892)

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Editor's Preface

THE VALUE OF CATECHISMS

God's people have always had a need for systematic instruction in God's truth. When God revealed his Law to his Old Covenant people Israel, he commanded them to deliberately and comprehensively pass on the faith to the next generation:

And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. (Deut. 6:6-9)

When we turn the page to the New Covenant era, we find Christ's apostles similarly passing along the faith in a concise and organized manner designed for easy memorization. Paul summarized the Good News in his first letter to the Corinthians with these words, which many scholars believe is an early creed or confession that Paul might simply be quoting:

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on

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the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. (1 Cor. 15:3-7)

Later, in his first letter to his protegee Timothy, Paul quotes what may be a very early Christian hymn:

Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness:

He was manifested in the flesh,
vindicated by the Spirit,
seen by angels,
proclaimed among the nations,
believed on in the world,
taken up in glory. (1 Tim. 3:16)

The pointed, repetitive, almost poetic style of these statements is almost certainly by design—it aids memorization and encourages recitation. No doubt the young apostolic church used these passages in orienting new believers to the truths of the Christian faith.

This process of working through the foundational tenets of the biblical message in a careful, organized, and systematic way is called *catechesis*. This word comes from the Greek term *katecheo*, which literally means to “sound down” or “ring in one's ears” and is used to refer to oral instruction and indoctrination. The word itself is found in the New Testament several times;

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for example, Luke uses it when addressing Theophilus in Luke 1:4, referring to what he had been “taught,” and Paul explains to the Corinthians that he would rather “speak five words with [his] mind in order to instruct (*katecheso*) others” than speak thousands in a tongue (1 Cor. 14:19). When, later in history, the Christian church developed standard written forms for Christian training, using a question-and-answer format that the learner would memorize as he worked through it with a teacher, these documents became known as catechisms.

So, for almost two thousand years, Christian churches and families have used catechisms to pass along their beliefs to new learners. When the Protestant Reformation, the greatest revival in history, swept across Europe and Protestant believers sought to reinforce their fresh understanding of God's grace in the face of withering Roman opposition, they produced new catechisms that became ingrained not only in the life of the newly reformed churches but in the wider culture they served: the Heidelberg Catechism beloved of the German, Swiss, and Dutch Reformed Churches, the Westminster Larger and Shorter Catechisms produced by an assembly of British theologians and which powerfully shaped the Presbyterian churches, and the Orthodox and Baptist (or Keach's) Catechisms which the Baptist churches adapted for their own

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use.

Sadly, the use of catechisms has fallen on hard times among evangelical Christians in much of the West. This may be due, in part, to a grave misunderstanding stemming from a noble desire to uphold the Bible as the highest authority in the Christian life. Many well-meaning Christians in modern times are suspicious of creeds, confessions, and, yes, catechisms, seeing them as competing with or undermining biblical authority, or worried that using them might result in a dry and dead formalism.

And yet, in a post-Christendom society where a basic level of biblical knowledge can no longer be taken for granted, there remains a pressing and growing need in our churches and families today for catechesis. A catechism isn't just something for little children, after all. Simply because it is nothing more than a systematic way of learning the foundational beliefs of the Christian faith, it can benefit everyone no matter their age.

That's the reason for this new edition of Charles Spurgeon's "A Puritan Catechism." Spurgeon recognized, in his own day, the need for his church to shore up "the fundamentals," and went to the effort to adapt the Westminster Shorter and Baptist Catechisms to meet that need. Surely the need in twenty-first-century North America is no less urgent

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than it was in nineteenth-century London!

HOW TO USE A CATECHISM

How do you use a catechism? Here are some practical suggestions.

First, *make catechesis a habit*. Catechisms tend to be long lists of questions, and without discipline and a plan it will be all too easy to start strong only to peter out. Simply take a few minutes every day—your devotional or quiet time is great for this!—and devote them to the catechism and Bible memory. Try first thing in the morning and just before bed!

Second, *take your time*. Don't simply read a catechism through in one sitting! Some catechisms, like the Gospel Coalition's New City Catechism, are designed to be studied one question-and-answer per week; the Heidelberg Catechism and An Orthodox Catechism are divided into "Lord's Day" lessons where a few questions are read and discussed each Sunday. Alternatively, and again, you could add a catechism to your regular devotions, reading a question and answer daily. Don't rush!

Third, *meditate on the meaning*. Catechisms are, by their nature, summaries of the truths of Scripture—and, being God's Word, the truths of Scripture are bottomless! Take the time to

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prayerfully “chew” on the concept or idea that the catechism presents to you, asking the Holy Spirit for illumination and discernment, noting the grammar and vocabulary, asking yourself why the writer might have chosen to put it that way.

Fourth, *explore the proof texts*. A good catechism will provide what are called “proof texts” for the ideas and doctrines being discussed—each key concept will have a footnote or parenthetical reference listing one or more Bible passages that connect to the subject under discussion. So make sure you have an open Bible handy when reading a catechism, and look up the references. And not just the verse mentioned—look at the context of that verse in its passage or biblical book. Proof texts in catechisms can sometimes be the “tip of the iceberg” of a much deeper, richer biblical argument.

Fifth, *memorize the questions and answers*. Catechisms provide the most benefit when they are committed to memory; they give a logical structure to a theological journey that makes it far easier later in life to connect one’s own, or others,’ questions about the faith to the truth of the Bible. Start by saying the catechism question and answer out loud, several times. Then, try saying the question and repeating it without looking at the page, a few times, and then repeat for the answer. Try walking around while repeating it, or writing it on a piece

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of paper without looking; combining physical activity and speech helps retention.

And finally, *do it with others*. Work through the questions and answers with a conversation partner; after all, being arranged in question-and-answer format, catechisms really are theological conversations to begin with! Parents, maybe do a catechism with your kids. Adults and kids alike, consider studying with a peer. Pastors would do well to lead their congregations to learn and review a catechism together. Many churches integrate catechism into their worship liturgy or Sunday School lessons, or one could make a useful addition to small-group Bible studies and youth group teaching times. Treat a catechism as a tool or an opportunity to “stir up one another to love and good works” (Heb. 10:24)!

THIS EDITION OF “A PURITAN CATECHISM”

In order to facilitate the use of Spurgeon’s catechism and remove, as far as is reasonably possible, any obstacles modern readers might face in it, I’ve taken the liberty of making a number of (I hope) minor changes in the version that follows. The catechism has been formatted in a less-dense, more reader-friendly layout. Scripture references, which in the original edition were contained in parentheses in the main text, have

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been moved into footnotes underneath each question, and rather than simply providing the reference I have provided a full quotation for each. While Spurgeon used the Authorized or King James Version in his ministry and in this catechism, I have opted to use the English Standard Version instead, as it preserves some of the classic style of the KJV while being far more readable. There are a couple of places where Spurgeon provided, as prooftexts, verses that are not found in the oldest and most reliable original language manuscripts and which modern translations, therefore, move to footnotes or mark off separately for the reader. In these cases, I have opted to quote them as Spurgeon originally intended, but I mark them in square brackets [like this!] for the reader's information. Finally and most importantly, I have modernized the vocabulary of Spurgeon's original catechism slightly in the questions and answers, hopefully without changing any of the essential meaning. Any errors in this regard are fully my own.

May God bless the use of this catechism for your good, for the building up of his church, and for his glory.

Jeff Jones

New Brunswick, Canada

February 2023

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PREFACE

I am persuaded that the use of a good Catechism in all our families will be a great safeguard against the increasing errors of the times, and therefore I have compiled this little manual from the Westminster Assembly's and Baptist Catechisms, for the use of my own church and congregation. Those who use it in their families or classes must labour to explain the sense; but the words should be carefully learned by heart, for they will be understood better as years pass.

May the Lord bless my dear friends and their families evermore, is the prayer of their loving Pastor.

C. H. Spurgeon

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth (2 Tim. 2:15)

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QUESTION 1

Q. What is the chief end of man?

A. Man's chief end is to glorify God,¹ and to enjoy him forever.²

1. So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. (1 Cor. 10:31)

2. Whom have I in heaven but you?

And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.

My flesh and my heart may fail,

but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. (Ps. 73:25-26)

QUESTION 2

Q. What rule has God given to direct us as to how we may glorify him?

A. The Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments,³ is the only rule to direct us as to how we may glorify God and enjoy him.⁴

3. ... built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone. (Eph. 2:20)

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness. (2 Tim. 3:16)

4. ...that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. (1 John 1:3)

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QUESTION 3

Q. What do the Scriptures primarily teach?

A. The Scriptures primarily teach what man must believe about God, and what duty God requires of man.⁵

5. Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. (2 Tim. 1:13)

The end of the matter; all has been heard. Far God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. (Eccles. 12:13)

QUESTION 4

Q. What is God?

A. God is Spirit,⁶ infinite,⁷ eternal,⁸ and unchangeable⁹ in his being,¹⁰ wisdom, power,¹¹ holiness,¹² justice, goodness and truth.¹³

6. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth. (John 4:24)

7. Can you find out the deep things of God?
Can you find out the limit of the Almighty? (Job 11:7)

8. Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God. (Ps. 90:2)

To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. (1 Tim. 1:17)

9. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. (Jas. 1:17)

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10. God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" (Exod. 3:14)

11. Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
his understanding is beyond measure. (Ps. 147:5)

12. And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say,

"Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come!" (Rev. 4:8)

13. The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation." (Exod. 34:6-7)

QUESTION 5

Q. Is there more than one God?

A. There is only the one¹⁴ living and true God.¹⁵

14. Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. (Deut. 6:4)

15. But the LORD is the true God;
he is the living God and the everlasting King.
At his wrath the earth quakes,
and the nations cannot endure his indignation. (Jer. 10:10)

QUESTION 6

Q. How many persons are there in God?

A. There are three persons in God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and these three are one God, the same in essence,

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equal in power and glory.¹⁶

16. For there are three that testify...(1 John 5:7)

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...(Matt. 28:19)

QUESTION 7

Q. What are God's decrees?

A. God's decrees are his eternal purpose according to the counsel of his will, by which for, his own glory, he has foreordained everything that comes to pass.¹⁷

17. In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. (Eph. 1:11-12)

QUESTION 8

Q. How does God carry out his decrees?

A. God carries out his decrees in his works of creation¹⁸ and providence.¹⁹

18. Worthy are you, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they existed and were created. (Rev. 4:11)

19. ...all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing,

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and he does according to his will among the host of heaven
and among the inhabitants of the earth;
and none can stay his hand
or say to him, “What have you done?” (Dan. 4:35)

QUESTION 9

Q. What is God’s work of creation?

A. God’s work of creation is his making all things²⁰ from nothing, by the word of his power,²¹ in six normal consecutive days,²² and all very good.²³

20. In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. (Gen. 1:1)

21. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. (Heb. 11:3)

22. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. (Exod. 20:11)

23. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. (Gen. 1:31)

QUESTION 10

Q. How did God create man?

A. God created man, male and female, in his own image,²⁴ in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness,²⁵ with dominion over the creatures.²⁶

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24. So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them. (Gen. 1:27)

25. ...and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge
after the image of its creator. (Col 3:10)

...and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true
righteousness and holiness. (Eph. 4:24)

26. And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and
multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish
of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that
moves on the earth.” (Gen. 1:28)

QUESTION 11

Q. What are God’s works of providence?

A. God's works of providence are his most holy,²⁷ wise,²⁸ and
powerful²⁹ preserving and governing all his creatures and all
their actions.³⁰

27. The LORD is righteous in all his ways
and kind in all his works. (Ps. 145:17)

28. This also comes from the LORD of hosts;
he is wonderful in counsel
and excellent in wisdom. (Isa. 28:29)

29. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his
nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. (Heb. 1:3)

30. The LORD has established his throne in the heavens,
and his kingdom rules over all. (Ps. 103:19)

Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to
the ground apart from your Father. (Matt. 10:29).

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QUESTION 12

Q. What special act of providence did God exercise toward man when he was first created?

A. When God first created man, he made a covenant with him promising life on the condition of man's perfect obedience;³¹ forbidding him to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil on penalty of death.³²

31. But the law is not of faith, rather "The one who does them shall live by them." (Gal. 3:12)

32. ...but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die. (Gen. 2:17)

QUESTION 13

Q. Did our first parents remain as they were first created?

A. Our first parents, having been left to the freedom of their own will, fell from the perfection in which they were first created, by sinning against God³³ in eating the forbidden fruit.³⁴

33. See, this alone I found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes. (Eccles. 7:29)

34. So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. And they heard the sound of the LORD God

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walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. (Gen. 3:6-8).

QUESTION 14

Q. What is sin?

A. Sin is any lack of conformity to or transgression of the law of God.³⁵

35. Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (1 John 3:4)

QUESTION 15

Q. Did all mankind fall in Adam's first transgression?

A. Since the covenant made with Adam was not only for himself but for his descendants, all those descended in the ordinary way from him sinned in him and fell with him in his first transgression.³⁶

36. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. (1 Cor. 15:22)

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned... (Rom. 5:12)

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QUESTION 16

Q. Into what state did the fall bring mankind?

A. The fall brought mankind into a state of sin and misery.³⁷

37. Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. (Rom. 5:18)

QUESTION 17

Q. What does the sinfulness of mankind's fallen state consist of?

A. The sinfulness of mankind's fallen state consists of the guilt of Adam's first sin,³⁸ the lack of the righteousness he had at first,³⁹ and the corruption of mankind's whole nature, which is commonly called original sin,⁴⁰ together with all actual transgressions which come from it.⁴¹

38. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. (Rom. 5:19)

39. ...as it is written:

"None is righteous, no, not one" (Rom. 3:10)

40. And you were dead in the trespasses and sins... (Eph. 2:1)

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
and in sin did my mother conceive me. (Ps. 51:5)

41. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. (Matt. 15:19).

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QUESTION 18

Q. What is the misery of man's fallen state?

A. All mankind, by their fall, lost fellowship with God,⁴² are under his wrath and curse,⁴³ and so rightly deserve not only all the miseries of this life but death itself and the suffering of hell for ever.⁴⁴

42. And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.... He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life. (Gen. 3:8, 24)

43. ...among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind (Eph. 2:3).

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." (Gal. 3:10),

44. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 6:23)

Then he will say to those on his left, "Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels." (Matt. 25:41)

QUESTION 19

Q. Did God leave all mankind to die in this state of sin and misery?

A. God, simply because it pleased him, from all eternity elected

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some to everlasting life,⁴⁵ entered into a covenant of grace to deliver them out of the state of sin and misery, and to bring them into a state of salvation by a Redeemer.⁴⁶

45. But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. (2 Thess. 2:13)

46. ...so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Rom. 5:21)

QUESTION 20

Q. Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?

A. The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ,⁴⁷ who, being the eternal Son of God, became man,⁴⁸ and so was, and continues to be, God and man, in two distinct natures and one person forever.⁴⁹

47. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus. (1 Tim. 2:5)

48. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

49. Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness:

He was manifested in the flesh,
vindicated by the Spirit,
seen by angels,
proclaimed among the nations,
believed on in the world,
taken up in glory. (1 Tim. 3:16)

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For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily... (Col. 2:9)

QUESTION 21

Q. How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?

A. Christ, the son of God, became man by taking to himself a real body⁵⁰ and a rational soul like ours,⁵¹ being conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit in the Virgin Mary, and born from her,⁵² yet without sin.⁵³

50. Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil... (Heb. 2:14)

51. Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me." (Matt. 26:38)

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. (Heb. 4:15)

52. "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus..." And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God." (Luke 1:31, 35)

53. For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. (Heb. 7:26).

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QUESTION 22

Q. What offices does Christ fulfill as our Redeemer?

A. Christ as our Redeemer fulfills the offices of a prophet,⁵⁴ of a priest,⁵⁵ and of a king,⁵⁶ both in his state of humiliation and of exaltation.

54. Moses said, “The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you.” (Acts 3:22)

55. ...as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,
after the order of Melchizedek.” (Heb. 5:6)

56. “As for me, I have set my King
on Zion, my holy hill.” (Ps. 2:6)

QUESTION 23

Q. How does Christ fulfill the office of a prophet?

A. Christ fulfills the office of a prophet, in revealing to us,⁵⁷ by his Word,⁵⁸ and Spirit,⁵⁹ the will of God for our salvation.

57. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known. (John 1:18)

58. ...but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (John 20:31)

59. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. (John 14:26)

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QUESTION 24

Q. How does Christ fulfill the office of a priest?

A. Christ fulfills the office of a priest, in offering himself up, once and for all, as a sacrifice to satisfy God's justice⁶⁰ and to reconcile us to God,⁶¹ and in continually interceding for us.⁶²

60. ...so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. (Heb. 9:28)

61. Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. (Heb. 2:17)

62. Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. (Heb. 7:25).

QUESTION 25

Q. How does Christ fulfill the office of a king?

A. Christ fulfills the office of a king in making us freely submit to him,⁶³ in ruling and defending us,⁶⁴ and in restraining and conquering all his, and our, enemies.

63. Your people will offer themselves freely
on the day of your power,
in holy garments;
from the womb of the morning,
the dew of your youth will be yours. (Ps. 110:3)

64. "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,

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are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.” (Matt. 2:6)

For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. (1 Cor. 15:25)

QUESTION 26

Q. What is Christ’s humiliation?

A. Christ’s humiliation consisted in his being born, and that in a lowly position;⁶⁵ in his being made subject to the law⁶⁶ and experiencing the miseries of this life,⁶⁷ the wrath of God,⁶⁸ and the curse of death on the cross;⁶⁹ and in his being buried, and remaining for a time under the power of death.⁷⁰

65. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. (Luke 2:7)

66. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law... (Gal. 4:4)

67. He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not. (Isa. 53:3)

68. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matt. 27:46)

69. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (Phil. 2:8)

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70. For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. (Matt. 12:40)

QUESTION 27

Q. What is Christ's exaltation?

A. Christ's exaltation consists in his rising again from the dead on the third day,⁷¹ in ascending to heaven and sitting at the right hand of God the Father,⁷² and in coming to judge the world on the last day.⁷³

71. ...that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.... (1 Cor. 15:4)

72. [So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.] (Mark 16:19)

73. ...because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead. (Acts 17:31)

QUESTION 28

Q. How are we made to share in the redemption purchased by Christ?

A. We are made to share in the redemption purchased by Christ by his Holy Spirit,⁷⁴ who effectually applies it to us.⁷⁵

74. ...he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of

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the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.... (Tit. 3:5-6)

75. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God... (John 1:12)

QUESTION 29

Q. How does the Spirit apply to us the redemption purchased by Christ?

A. The Spirit applies to us the redemption purchased by Christ, by producing faith in us,⁷⁶ and by that faith joining us to Christ in our effectual calling.⁷⁷

76. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.... (Eph. 2:8)

77. ...so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love.... (Eph. 3:17)

QUESTION 30

Q. What is effectual calling?

A. Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit⁷⁸ in which, by convincing us of our sin and misery,⁷⁹ enlightening our minds with the knowledge of Christ,⁸⁰ and renewing our wills,⁸¹ he persuades and enables us to embrace Jesus Christ as he is freely offered to us in the Gospel.⁸²

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78. ...who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began.... (2 Tim. 1:9)

79. Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37)

80. ...to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me. (Acts 26:18)

81. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. (Ezek. 36:26)

82. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. It is written in the Prophets, "And they will all be taught by God." Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me.... (John 6:44-45).

QUESTION 31

Q. What benefits do those who are effectually called receive in this life?

A. Those who are effectually called receive, in this life, justification,⁸³ adoption,⁸⁴ sanctification, and those further benefits which, in this life, either accompany or flow from them.⁸⁵

83. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. (Rom. 8:30)

84. ...he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will.... (Eph. 1:5)

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85. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption.... (1 Cor. 1:30)

QUESTION 32

Q. What is justification?

A. Justification is an act of God's free grace in which he pardons all our sins⁸⁶ and accepts us as righteous in his sight,⁸⁷ due solely to the righteousness of Christ imputed to us⁸⁸ and received by faith alone.⁸⁹

86. ...and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.... (Rom. 3:24)

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.... (Eph. 1:7)

87. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Cor. 5:21)

88. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. (Rom. 5:19)

89. ... yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified. (Gal. 2:16)

... and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith.... (Phil. 3:9).

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QUESTION 33

Q. What is adoption?

A. Adoption is an act of God's free grace⁹⁰ in which we are received into, and are granted the right to all the privileges of, the sons of God.⁹¹

90. See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. (1 John 3:1)

91. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.... (John 1:12)

....and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. (Rom. 8:17)

QUESTION 34

Q. What is sanctification?

A. Sanctification is the work of God's Spirit⁹² in which our whole nature is renewed in God's image⁹³ and we are enabled, more and more, to die to sin and live to righteousness.⁹⁴

92. But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. (2 Thess. 2:13)

93. ...and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. (Eph. 4:24)

94. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. (Rom. 6:11)

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QUESTION 35

Q. What are the further benefits which, in this life, either accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification?

A. The further benefits which, in this life, accompany or flow from justification⁹⁵ are the assurance of God's love, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Spirit,⁹⁶ and growth and perseverance in grace to the end.⁹⁷

95. Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God...and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. (Rom. 5:1-2, 5)

96. For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. (Rom. 14:17)

97. But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day. (Prov. 4:18)

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. (1 John 5:13)

...who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (1 Pet. 1:5).

QUESTION 36

Q. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at their death?

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A. The souls of believers are, at death, made perfect in holiness⁹⁸ and immediately pass into glory,⁹⁹ and their bodies, being still united to Christ,¹⁰⁰ rest in their graves¹⁰¹ until the resurrection.¹⁰²

98. ...and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect.... (Heb. 12:23)

99. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. (Phil. 1:23)

Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. (2 Cor. 5:8)

And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise." (Luke 23:43)

100. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. (1 Thess. 4:14)

101. ...he enters into peace;
they rest in their beds
who walk in their uprightness. (Isa. 57:2)

102. And after my skin has been thus destroyed,
yet in my flesh I shall see God.... (Job 19:26).

QUESTION 37

Q. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection?

A. At the resurrection Christ will raise up believers in glory,¹⁰³ openly acknowledge and acquit them on the day of judgment,¹⁰⁴

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and make them perfectly happy, body and soul, in fully enjoying God¹⁰⁵ for all eternity.¹⁰⁶

103. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. (1 Cor. 15:43)

104. So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven.... (Matt. 10:32)

105. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. (1 John 3:2)

106. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. (1 Thess. 4:17)

QUESTION 38

Q. What will be done to the wicked at their death?

A. The souls of the wicked will, at their death, be cast into the torments of Hades,¹⁰⁷ and their bodies will lie in their graves until the resurrection and great day of judgment.¹⁰⁸

107. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he called out, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame." (Luke 16:22-24)

108. Like sheep they are appointed for Sheol;
death shall be their shepherd,
and the upright shall rule over them in the morning.
Their form shall be consumed in Sheol, with no place to dwell. (Ps. 49:14)

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QUESTION 39

Q. What will be done to the wicked on the day of judgment?

A. On the day of judgment, the bodies of the wicked, being raised from their graves, shall together with their souls be sentenced to Hell's unspeakable torments with the devil and his angels forever.¹⁰⁹

109. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. (Dan. 12:2)

Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment. (John 5:28-29)

They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might.... (2 Thess. 1:9)

Then he will say to those on his left, "Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels." (Matt. 25:41).

QUESTION 40

Q. What did God reveal to man as the rule of his obedience?

A. The rule which God first revealed to man for his obedience is the moral law,¹¹⁰ which is summarized in the Ten Commandments.

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110. And he wrote on the tablets, in the same writing as before, the Ten Commandments that the LORD had spoken to you on the mountain out of the midst of the fire on the day of the assembly. And the LORD gave them to me. (Deut. 10:4)

And he said to him, “Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments.” (Matt. 19:17)

QUESTION 41

Q. What is the summary of the Ten Commandments?

A. The summary of the Ten Commandments is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind, and to love our neighbour as ourselves.¹¹¹

111. And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.” (Matt. 22:37-40)

QUESTION 42

Q. Which is the first commandment?

A. The first commandment is, “You shall have no other gods before me.”

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QUESTION 43

Q. What is required in the first commandment?

A. The first commandment requires us to know¹¹² and acknowledge God to be the only true God, and our God,¹¹³ and to worship and glorify him accordingly.¹¹⁴

112. And you, Solomon my son, know the God of your father and serve him with a whole heart and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches all hearts and understands every plan and thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will cast you off forever. (1 Chron. 28:9)

113. You have declared today that the LORD is your God, and that you will walk in his ways, and keep his statutes and his commandments and his rules, and will obey his voice. (Deut. 26:17)

114. Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, “You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.” (Matt. 4:10)

QUESTION 44

Q. Which is the second commandment?

A. The second commandment is, “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth

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generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.”

QUESTION 45

Q. What is required in the second commandment?

A. The second commandment requires that we receive, observe,¹¹⁵ and keep, pure and whole, all religious worship and ordinances which God has commanded in his Word.¹¹⁶

115. ...he said to them, “Take to heart all the words by which I am warning you today, that you may command them to your children, that they may be careful to do all the words of this law.” (Deut. 32:46)

... teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. (Matt. 28:20)

116. Everything that I command you, you shall be careful to do. You shall not add to it or take from it. (Deut. 12:32).

QUESTION 46

Q. What is forbidden in the second commandment?

A. The second commandment forbids worshipping God using images,¹¹⁷ or in any other way not commanded in his Word.¹¹⁸

117. Therefore watch yourselves very carefully. Since you saw no form on the day that the LORD spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire,

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beware lest you act corruptly by making a carved image for yourselves, in the form of any figure, the likeness of male or female.... (Deut. 4:15-16)

118. Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind.... (Col. 2:18)

QUESTION 47

Q. Which is the third commandment?

A. The third commandment is, “You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.”

QUESTION 48

Q. What is required in the third commandment?

A. The third commandment requires the holy and reverent use of God’s names,¹¹⁹ titles, attributes,¹²⁰ ordinances,¹²¹ Word,¹²² and works.¹²³

119. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness. (Ps. 29:2)

120. And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying,

“Great and amazing are your deeds,
O Lord God the Almighty!
Just and true are your ways,
O King of the nations!
Who will not fear, O Lord,
and glorify your name?”

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For you alone are holy.

All nations will come

and worship you,

for your righteous acts have been revealed.” (Rev. 15:3-4)

121. Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. To draw near to listen is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they are doing evil. (Eccles. 5:1)

122. I bow down toward your holy temple

and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness,

for you have exalted above all things

your name and your word. (Ps. 138:2)

123. Remember to extol his work,

of which men have sung. (Job 36:24)

If you are not careful to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and awesome name, the LORD your God, then the LORD will bring on you and your offspring extraordinary afflictions, afflictions severe and lasting, and sicknesses grievous and lasting. (Deut. 28:58-59).

QUESTION 49

Q. Which is the fourth commandment?

A. The fourth commandment is, “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them,

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and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.”

QUESTION 50

Q. What is required in the fourth commandment?

A. The fourth commandment requires keeping holy to God those set times he has commanded in his Word, specifically, one whole day in seven as a holy Sabbath to himself.¹²⁴

124. You shall keep my Sabbaths and reverence my sanctuary: I am the LORD. (Lev. 19:30)

Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. (Deut. 5:12).

QUESTION 51

Q. How is the Sabbath to be sanctified?

A. The Sabbath is to be sanctified by a holy rest all that day, even from worldly activities and recreation permitted on other days,¹²⁵ and spending the whole time in public and private worship of God,¹²⁶ except for time taken doing works of necessity and mercy.¹²⁷

125. Six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work. It is a Sabbath to the LORD in all your dwelling places. (Lev. 23:3)

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126. It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithfulness by night.... (Ps. 92:1-2)

If you turn back your foot from the Sabbath,
from doing your pleasure on my holy day,
and call the Sabbath a delight
and the holy day of the LORD honorable;
if you honor it, not going your own ways,
or seeking your own pleasure, or talking idly;
then you shall take delight in the LORD,
and I will make you ride on the heights of the earth;
I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. (Isa. 58:13-14)

127. He said to them, “Which one of you who has a sheep, if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not take hold of it and lift it out? Of how much more value is a man than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.” (Matt. 12:11-12)

QUESTION 52

Q. Which is the fifth commandment?

A. The fifth commandment is, “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.”

QUESTION 53

Q. What is required in the fifth commandment?

A. The fifth commandment requires that we preserve the honor and fulfill the duties appropriate to everyone in their various

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positions and relationships as superiors,¹²⁸ subordinates,¹²⁹ or equals.¹³⁰

128. ...submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. (Eph. 5:21-22)

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right....Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ.... (Eph. 6:1, 5)

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. (Rom. 13:1)

129. Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him. (Eph. 6:9)

130. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. (Rom. 12:10)

QUESTION 54

Q. What is the reason added to the fifth commandment?

A. The reason added to the fifth commandment is a promise of long life and prosperity — as far as it serves God’s glory and their own good — to all who keep this commandment.¹³¹

131. “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” (Eph. 6:2-3)

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QUESTION 55

Q. Which is the sixth commandment?

A. The sixth commandment is, “You shall not murder.”

QUESTION 56

Q. What is forbidden in the sixth commandment?

A. The sixth commandment forbids taking our own lives,¹³² or the life of our neighbour without just cause,¹³³ or whatever leads to such things.¹³⁴

132. But Paul cried with a loud voice, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.” (Acts 16:28)

133. Whoever sheds the blood of man,
by man shall his blood be shed,
for God made man in his own image. (Gen. 9:6)

134. Rescue those who are being taken away to death;
hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter.
If you say, “Behold, we did not know this,”
does not he who weighs the heart perceive it?
Does not he who keeps watch over your soul know it,
and will he not repay man according to his work? (Prov. 24:11-12)

QUESTION 57

Q. Which is the seventh commandment?

A. The seventh commandment is, “You shall not commit adultery.”

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QUESTION 58

Q. What is forbidden in the seventh commandment?

A. The seventh commandment forbids all sexually impure thoughts,¹³⁵ words,¹³⁶ and actions.¹³⁷

135. But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. (Matt. 5:28)

Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person. (Col. 4:6)

136. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. (Eph. 5:4)

So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. (2 Tim. 2:22)

137. But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. (Eph. 5:3)

QUESTION 59

Q. Which is the eighth commandment?

A. The eighth commandment is, “You shall not steal.”

QUESTION 60

Q. What is forbidden in the eighth commandment?

A. The eighth commandment forbids whatever might unjustly take away from our own¹³⁸ or our neighbour’s wealth or material well-being.¹³⁹

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138. But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. (1 Tim. 5:8)

Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread,
but he who follows worthless pursuits will have plenty of poverty. (Prov. 28:19)

The getting of treasures by a lying tongue
is a fleeting vapor and a snare of death. (Prov. 21:6)

139. Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. (Eph. 4:28).

QUESTION 61

Q. Which is the ninth commandment?

A. The ninth commandment is, “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”

QUESTION 62

Q. What is required in the ninth commandment?

A. The ninth commandment requires maintaining and promoting truth between men,¹⁴⁰ and safeguarding our own¹⁴¹ and our neighbour’s reputation,¹⁴² especially when called to give testimony.¹⁴³

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140. These are the things that you shall do: Speak the truth to one another; render in your gates judgments that are true and make for peace....(Zech. 8:16)

141. ...having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. (1 Pet. 3:16)

But Paul said, "I am standing before Caesar's tribunal, where I ought to be tried. To the Jews I have done no wrong, as you yourself know very well. (Acts 25:10)

142. Demetrius has received a good testimony from everyone, and from the truth itself. We also add our testimony, and you know that our testimony is true. (3 John 12)

143. A faithful witness does not lie,
but a false witness breathes out lies....
A truthful witness saves lives,
but one who breathes out lies is deceitful. (Prov. 14:5, 25).

QUESTION 63

Q. What is the tenth commandment?

A. The tenth commandment is, "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

QUESTION 64

Q. What is forbidden in the tenth commandment?

A. The tenth commandment forbids all discontentment with our own situation,¹⁴⁴ all envy or grief at the good of our

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neighbour,¹⁴⁵ and all improper emotions and desires about anything that is his.¹⁴⁶

144. ...nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. (1 Cor. 10:10)

145. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another. (Gal. 5:26)

146. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. (Col. 3:5)

QUESTION 65

Q. Is any man able perfectly to keep the commandments of God?

A. Since the fall, no mere man is able to keep the commandments of God perfectly¹⁴⁷ in this life, but instead we all break them daily in thought,¹⁴⁸ word,¹⁴⁹ and deed.¹⁵⁰

147. Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins. (Eccl. 7:20)

148. And when the LORD smelled the pleasing aroma, the LORD said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done." (Gen. 8:21)

149. ...but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. (Jas. 3:8)

150. For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. (Jas. 3:2)

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QUESTION 66

Q. Are all transgressions of the law equally serious?

A. Some sins, in themselves and because of their circumstances, are more evil in God's sight than others.¹⁵¹

151. Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin." (John 19:11)

If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life—to those who commit sins that do not lead to death. There is sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should pray for that. (1 John 5:16)

QUESTION 67

Q. What does every sin deserve?

A. Every sin deserves God's wrath and curse, both in this life and in the life to come.¹⁵²

152. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. (Eph. 5:6)

Let him rain coals on the wicked;
fire and sulfur and a scorching wind shall be the portion of their cup. (Ps. 11:6)

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QUESTION 68

Q. How can we escape God's wrath and curse, which we deserve for sin?

A. To escape the God's wrath and curse which we deserve for sin, we must believe in the Lord Jesus Christ,¹⁵³ trusting in his blood and righteousness alone. This faith is accompanied by repentance for the past¹⁵⁴ and leads to holiness in the future.

153. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

154. ...testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 20:21)

QUESTION 69

Q. What is faith in Jesus Christ?

A. Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace,¹⁵⁵ by which we receive¹⁵⁶ and rest upon him alone for salvation,¹⁵⁷ as he is freely offered to us in the Gospel.¹⁵⁸

155. But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls. (Heb. 10:39)

156. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.... (John 1:12)

157. ...and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith.... (Phil. 3:9)

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158. For the LORD is our judge; the LORD is our lawgiver;
the LORD is our king; he will save us. (Isa. 33:22)

QUESTION 70

Q. What is repentance that leads to life?

A. Repentance that leads to life is a saving grace,¹⁵⁹ by which a sinner, out of a true awareness of his sins¹⁶⁰ and grasp of the mercy of God in Christ,¹⁶¹ turns, with grief and hatred of his sin, from that sin to God,¹⁶² with full resolve to strive for new obedience.¹⁶³

159. When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, “Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.” (Acts 11:18)

160. Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” (Acts 2:37)

161. ...and rend your hearts and not your garments.”
Return to the LORD your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;
and he relents over disaster. (Joel 2:13)

162. I have heard Ephraim grieving,
“You have disciplined me, and I was disciplined,
like an untrained calf;
bring me back that I may be restored,
for you are the LORD my God.
For after I had turned away, I relented,
and after I was instructed, I struck my thigh;
I was ashamed, and I was confounded,
because I bore the disgrace of my youth.” (Jer. 31:18-19)

163. When I think on my ways,

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I turn my feet to your testimonies.... (Ps. 119:59)

QUESTION 71

Q. What are the outward and ordinary means by which the Holy Spirit brings the benefits of redemption to us?

A. The outward and ordinary means by which the Holy Spirit brings the benefits of Christ's redemption to us are the Word, by which souls are born to spiritual life, and Baptism, the Lord's Supper, Prayer, and Meditation, by all of which believers are further built up in their most holy faith.¹⁶⁴

164. So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. (Acts 2:41-42)

Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. (Jas. 1:18).

QUESTION 72

Q. How is the Word made effectual for salvation?

A. The Spirit of God makes the reading, and especially the preaching, of the Word an effectual means of convicting and converting sinners,¹⁶⁵ and of building them up in holiness and comfort¹⁶⁶ through faith to salvation.¹⁶⁷

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165. The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure,
making wise the simple.... (Ps. 19:7)

166. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit.... (1 Thess. 1:6)

167. For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. (Rom. 1:16)

QUESTION 73

Q. How is the Word to be read and heard so that it might become effectual to salvation?

A. So that the Word might become effectual to salvation, we must pay attention to it with diligence,¹⁶⁸ preparation,¹⁶⁹ and prayer,¹⁷⁰ receive it with faith,¹⁷¹ and love,¹⁷² store it up in our hearts,¹⁷³ and practice it in our lives.¹⁷⁴

168. Blessed is the one who listens to me,
watching daily at my gates,
waiting beside my doors. (Prov. 8:34)

169. So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation.... (1 Pet. 2:1-2)

170. Open my eyes, that I may behold
wondrous things out of your law. (Ps. 119:18)

171. For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened. (Heb. 4:2)

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172. ...and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. (2 Thess. 2:10)

173. I have stored up your word in my heart,
that I might not sin against you. (Ps. 119:11)

174. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. (Jas. 1:25)

QUESTION 74

Q. How do Baptism and the Lord's Supper become spiritually helpful?

A. Baptism and the Lord's Supper become spiritually helpful not from any power in themselves, or in those who administer them,¹⁷⁵ but only by the blessing of Christ¹⁷⁶ and the working of the Spirit in those who, by faith, receive them.¹⁷⁷

175. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. (1 Cor. 3:7)

Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ... (1 Pet. 3:21)

176. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. (1 Cor. 3:6)

177. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. (1 Cor. 12:13)

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QUESTION 75

Q. What is Baptism?

A. Baptism is an ordinance of the New Testament, instituted by Jesus Christ¹⁷⁸ to be, to the person baptized, a sign of his fellowship with him in his death, burial, and resurrection,¹⁷⁹ of his being joined to him,¹⁸⁰ of forgiveness of sins,¹⁸¹ and of his giving himself up to God through Jesus Christ to live and walk in newness of life.¹⁸²

178. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.... (Matt. 28:19)

179. Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? (Rom. 6:3)

...having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. (Col. 2:12)

180. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. (Gal. 3:27)

181. John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. (Mark 1:4)

And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name. (Acts 22:16)

182. We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. (Rom. 6:4-5)

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QUESTION 76

Q. To whom should Baptism be given?

A. Baptism is to be given to all those who actually profess repentance towards God¹⁸³ and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and not given to anyone else.

183. And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38)

...and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. (Matt. 3:6)

[Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.] (Mark 16:16)

But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women....And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" [And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he replied, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."'] (Acts 8:12, 36-37)

"Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days. (Acts 10:47-48)

QUESTION 77

Q. Are the infants of professing believers to be baptized?

A. The infants of professing believers are not to be baptized, because no command or example is given in the Holy Scriptures

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for their baptism.¹⁸⁴

184. Pay attention to all that I have said to you, and make no mention of the names of other gods, nor let it be heard on your lips. (Exod. 23:13)

Do not add to his words, lest he rebuke you and you be found a liar. (Prov. 30:6)

QUESTION 78

Q. How is baptism rightly performed?

A. Baptism is rightly performed by immersion—that is, dipping the whole body of the person in water¹⁸⁵—in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, according to Christ’s institution and the practice of the apostles,¹⁸⁶ and not by sprinkling or pouring water or dipping some part of the body following men’s traditions.¹⁸⁷

185. And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him.... (Matt. 3:16)

And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him.... (John 3:23)

186. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. (Matt. 28:19-20)

187. Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John (although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples).... (John 4:1-2)

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And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. (Acts 8:38-39)

QUESTION 79

Q. What is the duty of those who are rightly baptized?

A. It is the duty of those who are rightly baptized to devote themselves to a particular, well-ordered local Church of Jesus Christ,¹⁸⁸ that they may walk blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord.¹⁸⁹

188. ...praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. (Acts 2:47)

And when he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. (Acts 9:26)

...you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (1 Pet. 2:5)

189. And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. (Luke 1:6)

QUESTION 80

Q. What is the Lord's Supper?

A. The Lord's Supper is an ordinance of the New Testament, instituted by Jesus Christ, in which, by giving and receiving

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bread and wine, according to his command, his death is proclaimed¹⁹⁰ and those who receive it in a worthy manner are by faith, and not in a physical or bodily way, made to share in his body and blood with all his benefits, for their spiritual nourishment and growth in grace.¹⁹¹

190. For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. (1 Cor. 11:23-26)

191. The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? (1 Cor. 10:16)

QUESTION 81

Q. What is required to receive the Lord's Supper in a worthy manner?

A. Those who would receive the Lord's Supper in a worthy manner must examine themselves, specifically, their knowledge to discern the Lord's body,¹⁹² their faith to feed upon him,¹⁹³ their repentance,¹⁹⁴ love,¹⁹⁵ and new obedience,¹⁹⁶ lest they, by receiving in an unworthy manner, eat and drink judgment on themselves.¹⁹⁷

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192. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. (1 Cor. 11:28-29)

193. Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test! (2 Cor. 13:5)

194. But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. (1 Cor. 11:31)

195. For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you. And I believe it in part, for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized. When you come together, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat. (1 Cor. 11:18-20)

196. Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. (1 Cor. 5:8)

197. Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. (1 Cor. 11:27-29)

QUESTION 82

Q. What is meant by the words, “until he comes,” which are used by the apostle Paul in speaking of the Lord's Supper?

A. They plainly teach us that our Lord Jesus Christ will come a second time, which is the joy and hope of all believers.¹⁹⁸

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198. ...and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.” (Acts 1:11)

For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. (1 Thess. 4:16)

About the Author

Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-1892) was an influential British Particular (that is, Calvinistic) Baptist minister. Born into a Christian family, with his father and grandfather both being pastors, young Charles nevertheless did not take matters of faith seriously until he was a teenager. At age 15, Spurgeon attended a Primitive Methodist chapel in Newtown, Colchester, where the preacher's message (from Isaiah 45:22 – "*Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth, for I am God, and there is none else*" [KJV]) deeply convicted the young man. He later joined that church and was baptized in the River Lark in Isleham. That winter, only 16 years old, Spurgeon preached his first sermon, filling in for a friend in Teversham. In 1851, still only 17 years old, he was nevertheless called as the pastor of the Baptist church in Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire, and he quickly gained a reputation as a powerful preacher.

In 1854, 19-year-old Spurgeon was called as the pastor of the influential Particular Baptist church, New Park Street Chapel in Southwark—which had been pastored previously by Baptist giants Benjamin Keach and John Gill. In that first year, Spurgeon compiled, from the Westminster Shorter Catechism

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and the Baptist Catechism, what he titled “A Puritan Catechism” with the aim of fostering the spiritual growth of the church. Spurgeon’s fame as a preacher continued to grow at New Park Street and his sermons began to be published in 1855, the year after he arrived. The church soon outgrew its building and moved, first to Exeter Hall, and then to the Surrey Music Hall, before building London’s famous Metropolitan Tabernacle, all in an effort to accommodate the crowds. Sadly, it was at Surrey that a panicked stampede killed several attendees one Sunday, a tragedy that haunted Spurgeon for the rest of his life.

Controversy soon found Spurgeon and never left him throughout his ministry. The first media criticism of his preaching was an article in the *Earthen Vessel* in 1855, the year following his arrival at New Park Street. Spurgeon later would publicly and harshly criticize the institution of slavery in America, a position that led to his sermons being burned in public squares in the American South and threats to beat or even kill him should he travel across the Atlantic. He would battle the rise of theological liberalism in Great Britain’s Baptist Union in what became known as the “Down Grade Controversy” and which eventually led to Spurgeon leading his church out of the denomination.

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Despite the controversies, and even though Spurgeon struggled with depression and debilitating health problems for much of his life, his ministry would have a deep and wide impact on the evangelical world. New Park Street Chapel, renamed the Metropolitan Tabernacle, became a megachurch that saw 6,000 people each Sunday. He founded a magazine, a pastor's college and orphanages, and advanced the cause of Christian missions. He continued to serve his church despite great pain in his later years and passed away in 1892. His sermons continued to be published weekly for decades after his death, and he may be the most widely read preacher in church history; his printed works, which weigh in at more than 20 million words, are more than any other Christian author.

About the Editor

Jeff Jones was born in British Columbia to a Christian family. He joined the Canadian Army at 17 and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration, with a minor in Military Psychology and Leadership, from the Royal Military College of Canada in Kingston, Ontario. In 2003, God used a training injury to awaken Jeff to living faith in Christ. Leaving the Army in 2005 he took a Master of Divinity from Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary in Cochrane, Alberta. Jeff pastored at a Southern Baptist church in Calgary from 2006 to 2008, and then at Calvary Grace Church of Calgary from 2009 to 2019, when he led a church planting team from Calvary Grace to plant Grace Church in the nearby town of Cochrane, Alberta. Jeff pastored Grace until 2023 when he and his family moved to New Brunswick with the goal of planting and strengthening churches. Jeff has also been a hotel manager, a Salvation Army program coordinator, and a corporate chaplain in the hotel industry. He and his wife Erin now live in Woodstock, New Brunswick, with their six children.

About Hope Restored Mission

Hope Restored Mission is an evangelical mission with a vision to see healthy, reproducing Gospel churches started, strengthened, and sustained across New Brunswick, with the result that every man, woman, and child in the province would have multiple opportunities to hear and respond to the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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