

CATECHISM
FOR
CHILDREN

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CATECHISM

FOR

CHILDREN

With an Appendix, containing the Beatitudes,
the Ten Commandments, the Apostles'
Creed, Consecration Card
and Prayers.

BY

REV. JACOB HARTZLER,

Former Editor of "The Evangelical Messenger,"
and Missionary in Japan.

What saith the Scripture?

—ROMANS 4 : 3.

Hold the pattern of sound words.

—2 TIMOTHY 1 : 13.

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PREFACE.

This Catechism of Christian Doctrine, designed for children, is the Catechism of the United Evangelical Church, in an abridged and simplified form. The manuscript was prepared by the Rev. Jacob Hartzler, in accordance with a resolution of the General Conference at its session in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in 1906, and was examined and approved by the Board of Publication in 1907, through a committee composed of the Publisher, Rev. S. L. Wiest; the Editors, Rev. R. Dubs, D.D., LL.D., Rev. W. M. Stanford, D.D., and Rev. W. H. Fouke, and Bishop H. B. Hartzler, D.D.

This Catechism is designed to lead the children to Jesus, who says: "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by Me," and "him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out." That all the children may come to "Christ Jesus" and obtain "the salvation which is in him with eternal glory" is the sincere desire and earnest prayer of the undersigned.

JACOB HARTZLER.

Alberton, Md., December, 1907.

HINTS FOR TEACHERS AND LEARNERS.

This Catechism, though an abridgment of a larger one, contains things new as well as old, both as to substance and form of statement. As in the larger book, so in this, the answers to the questions have in nearly all cases been so framed, that the learner will have a complete form of statement to lay up in the memory, which will be intelligible even apart from the questions which lead to them.

The questions have been numbered consecutively throughout the entire book, in order to facilitate ready reference on the part of both instructor and student in the assignment of lessons and in recitations.

Great and most blessed is the work of leading the children to a knowledge of the mind and will of God and to an acceptance thereof in the obedience of faith—a work that angels might well covet to do.

INTRODUCTORY.

THE HOLY BIBLE.

1. What is the Holy Bible?

The Holy Bible is the Word of God.

When ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.—1 Thess. 2:13.

2. Who wrote the Bible?

Holy men inspired of God wrote the Bible.

For the prophesy came not in old time by the will of man; but holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost.—2 Peter 1:21.

3. How many books does the Bible contain?

The Bible is composed of sixty-six books, divided into two great parts, called the Old Testament and the New Testament.

4. Tell how these two Testaments are related to each other.

The same plan of salvation is contained in both Testaments; but the old is the preparation for the New, and the New is the fulfillment of the Old.

5. What does the Bible reveal to us?

The Bible reveals God and his will to us.

6. What is the Bible able to do for us?

The Bible is able to make us wise unto salvation.

And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.—2 Tim. 3:15.

CHAPTER I.

GOD.

7. What are the first words in the Bible?

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.—Gen. 1:1.

8. Who made you?

God made me.

I have made the earth and created man upon it.—Isaiah 45:12.

The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.—Job 33:4.

9. Who is God?

God is the Creator of all things.

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.—Gen. 1:1.

10. Where is God?

God is everywhere.

Can any hide himself in secret places so that I shall not see him? saith the Lord. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the Lord.—Jer. 23:24.

11. What does God know?

God knows all things.

Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off.—Ps. 139:2.

I know the things that come into your mind, every one of them.—Ezek. 11:5.

The eyes of the Lord are in every place, Beholding the evil and the good.—Ps. 15:3.

12. What can God do?

God is Almighty. His power is only limited in action by His wisdom and will.—(Gen. 1:3; 17:1.)

13. Had God a beginning?

God had no beginning.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.—Ps. 90:2.

14. Is God holy?

God is holy. He loves that which is good, and hates that which is evil.

The Lord our God is holy.—Ps. 99:9.

Be ye holy; for I am holy.—1 Peter 1:16.

15. Is God just?

God is just, “a God of truth, and without iniquity, just and right is he.”—(Deut. 32:4.)

16. Is God merciful?

The Lord is very pitiful and of tender mercies.—James 5:11.

17. Is God righteous?

The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.—Ps. 145:17.

18. Is God wise?

God is all-wise. He makes no mistakes.

O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable *are*

his judgments, and his ways past finding out.—
Rom. 11:33.

19. Is God faithful?

God is faithful.

God is faithful, by whom ye are called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.—1 Cor. 1:9.

20. Is God good?

God is a good and loving Being, and the source of all good.—(James 1:17; Exod. 34:6; Ps. 145:9.)

21. Does God love us?

God so loved the world, that he gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.—John 3:16.

22. How ought we to feel towards God?

We ought to love God, because He is worthy, and because He has first loved us.—(1 John 4:10, 16, 19.)

23. By what name has Jesus taught us to call God?

Jesus has taught us to call God our Father.

After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven.—Matt. 6:9.

24. In how many persons has God revealed himself to us in the Bible?

The one living and true God has re-

vealed Himself to us in three persons, called Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.—Matt. 28:19.

25. Tell how we can know God.

We can know God by faith and obedience and through experience.

He that cometh to God must believe that he is and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.—Heb. 11:6.

And this is eternal life, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent.—John 17:3.

And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.—1 John 2:3.

Every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth him.—1 John 4:17.

CHAPTER II.

CREATION.

26. Who is the Creator?

God, the Father Almighty, is the Creator of the heaven and the earth, and of all that in them is, of things visible and invisible, of men and angels.

27. Through whom did God create all things?

God created all things through His Son, the Eternal Word.

All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.—John 1:3. (Heb. 1:3; Col. 1:15, 16.)

28. What did God make on the first day of creation week?

On the first day God made light.

29. What did God make on the second day?

On the second day God made the firmament.

30. What did God make on the third day?

On the third day God made the sea and the dry land, and caused the land to bring forth grass, herb, and trees.

31. What did God make on the fourth day?

On the fourth day God made the sun, moon and stars.

32. What did God make on the fifth day?

On the fifth day God made the fishes of the sea and the fowls of the air, and pronounced upon them the blessing of abundant increase.

33. What did God make on the sixth day?

On the sixth day God made land animals and man.

34. What did God do on the seventh day?

On the seventh day God rested and blessed and sanctified the day, "and the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them."—(Gen. 2:1-3.)

35. How did God regard what he had made?

God saw everything that he had made,

and, behold, it was very good.—Gen. i: 31.

36. Recite Psalm 104: 24.

O Lord, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches.

CHAPTER III.

MAN.

37. What was the crowning work of creation week?

The crowning work of creation week was the creation of man.

38. How was man created?

The Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.—Gen. 2:7.

39. How did God make woman?

God made woman from a rib of Adam.

And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, *This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.*—Gen. 2: 21-23.

40. In whose image was man created?

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

41. Were Adam and Eve our first parents?

Adam and Eve were our first parents; for God “hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth.”—(Acts 17: 26.)

42. Where did the first man live?

“The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden,” and into it he put “the man whom he had formed.”—(Gen. 2: 8.)

43. Was Adam to do any work in the garden?

Adam was to dress and keep the garden.—(Gen. 2: 15.)

44. What trees did God cause to grow in the garden?

Every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.—Gen. 2: 15.

45. Of how many trees in the garden were our first parents allowed to eat?

Of all but one, the tree of knowledge of good and evil.—(Gen. 2: 16, 17.)

46. What did God tell them would be the result of eating of the forbidden fruit?

God said to them, "in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."—
(Gen. 2:17.)

47. Why were our first parents forbidden to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?

For the purpose of exercising them in obedience to God, and to confirm them in the state of goodness in which they were created.

CHAPTER IV.

THE FALL OF MAN.

48. Did the first parents of our race remain good, as God had made them?

Our first parents disobeyed God, and thus fell from their original righteousness.

49. What is disobedience to God called?

Disobedience to God is called sin.

50. In what did the sin of Adam and Eve consist?

The sin of Adam and Eve consisted in their eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, of which they were forbidden to eat on pain of death.

51. What influenced them to eat the forbidden fruit?

The serpent, which is the devil, tempted them.

52. What was the first step towards this great transgression?

They doubted God and believed the tempter.

53. How did this act of disobedience to God affect our first parents?

By this act of disobedience our first parents lost the favor of God, were expelled from the Garden of Eden, died a spiritual death, came under the law of mortality, and became exposed to the dreadful penalty of eternal death.

54. In what evil consequences did the sin of Adam involve his posterity?

All the descendants of Adam are born without original righteousness and with a strong tendency towards sin.

55. Does this inherited depravity imply guilt?

Inherited depravity does not imply guilt; for guilt is not transferable.

56. How does man become guilty?

Man becomes guilty when he yields to the promptings of his depraved nature.

Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust

hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.—James 1: 13-15.

57. How does God regard us if we live in sin?

His Word teaches us that “the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness.”—(Rom. 1: 18.)

58. Have mankind ability to recover themselves from their fallen condition?

This corruption of nature so far removes them from the original righteousness of man that of themselves they have no ability to recover themselves from their fallen condition, but are continually inclined to that which is evil.”—*Articles of Faith in the Discipline of the United Evangelical Church.*

CHAPTER V.

THE REDEMPTION OF MAN.

59. What do we mean by the redemption of man?

By the redemption of man is meant the provision God has made for our salvation from our fallen condition.

60. How has God opened the way of salvation to us?

God has opened the way of salvation to us through Jesus Christ.

Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us.—Gal. 3:13.

God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself.—2 Cor. 5:19.

Ye are bought with a price.—1 Cor. 7:23.

61. How was God moved to redeem us?

God was self-moved, moved by pitying love, to redeem us.

62. Recite 1 John 4:10.

Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son, *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

63. When was the purpose of redemption revealed to man?

God revealed his purpose to redeem immediately after the first sin of the first man.—(Gen. 3:15.)

64. When did this gracious purpose go into effect?

God's gracious purpose to redeem went into effect at the very time of man's fall.—(1 Peter 1:18-20.)

65. Whereby was the love of God toward us specially manifested?

In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.—1 John 4:9.

66. Will any one be lost because of Adam's sin?

No one will be lost because of Adam's sin, for all the descendants of Adam and Eve have at birth, through Christ, freedom from guilt and condemnation, though not from inherited depravity.

67. Has God made salvation possible for all mankind?

God has made salvation possible for all, through the mediation of Christ, whereby every man is graciously provided with freedom of will to accept or reject the offer of salvation.

God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world: but that the world through him might be saved.—John 3: 17.

The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.—Luke 19: 10.

The grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men.—Titus 2: 11.

Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.—John 3: 37.

CHAPTER VI.

JESUS CHRIST.

68. Who is Jesus Christ?

Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

69. For what purpose did Christ come into the world?

Christ came into the world for the

great and gracious purpose of saving sinners.

This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ came into the world to save sinners.—1 Tim. 1:15.

I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.—John 12:47.

And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.—1 John 4:14.

70. How did Jesus Christ, the Son of God, come into the world?

Jesus Christ came into the world as a child.—(Gal. 4:4, 5.)

71. Where was Jesus born?

Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea.—(Matt. 2:4-6.)

72. Who was the mother of the child Jesus?

Mary, a virgin, was the mother of the child Jesus.—(Matt. 1:18-25; Isaiah 7:14.)

73. Where was Jesus laid when he was born?

Jesus was laid in a manger; in a stable, because there was no room for them in the inn.—(Luke 2:7.)

74. Who appeared to the shepherds who were keeping watch over their flock near Bethlehem by night?

The angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them.—(Luke 2:8-9.)

75. How did the shepherds feel?

The shepherds were sore afraid.—
Luke 2:9.

76. What great tidings did the angel bring to the shepherds?

The angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this *shall be* a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.—
Luke 2:10-12.

77. What happened next?

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.—Luke 2:13-14.

78. As the angels were gone away from them into heaven, what did the shepherds say to one another?

The shepherds said, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us."—Luke 2:15.

79. On coming to Bethlehem, what did the shepherds find there?

The shepherds found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.—Luke 2:16.

80. What did the shepherds then make known?

And when they had seen *it*, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things and pondered *them* in her heart.—Luke 2:17-19.

81. With what feelings did the shepherds return from Bethlehem?

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.—Luke 2:20.

82. Tell what wise men from the East did when they saw the young child in Bethlehem?

The wise men “fell down and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts: gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.”—(Matt. 2:1, 2, 11.)

83. What does the name Jesus mean?

Jesus means Saviour.

84. Why was this child called Jesus?

Because an angel of God had said to Joseph: “Thou shalt call his name Jesus,

for he shall save his people from their sins.”—(Matt. 1:21.)

85. By what other name was Jesus called?

He was called “Christ, the Lord.”—
(Luke 2:11.)

86. What does the name Christ mean?

The name Christ means “The Anointed One.”—(Luke 4:18; Acts 10:38.)

87. Why is Jesus Christ called Lord in the highest sense of the word?

Because he is God, “Lord of lords, and King of kings.”—(Rev. 17:14.)

88. Did Christ continue to be God when he became man?

Christ did not cease to be God when he became man, for in him dwelleth all the fulness of the God-head bodily.”—
(Col. 3:9.)

89. What did Jesus often call himself?

Jesus often called himself the Son of man.—(Matt. 26:64.)

90. Mention another name by which Jesus was called.

Jesus was called Emmanuel, which means “God with us.”—(Matt. 1:23; John 1:14.)

91. Where was Jesus taken from Bethlehem?

Jesus was taken to Egypt, because

Herod, the king of Judea, sought to kill him.—(Matt. 2: 13, 14.)

92. Where did Jesus live after the death of Herod?

Jesus lived in Nazareth, where he grew up to be a man.—(Matt. 2: 23; Luke 2: 39.)

93. What is said of Jesus as a child, in Luke 2: 40?

“And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon him.”

94. Where did the parents of Jesus go every year?

“His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover.”—Luke 2: 41.

95. How old was Jesus when his parents took him to Jerusalem to take part in the passover festival for the first time?

Jesus “was twelve years old,” when he was taken to Jerusalem to take part in the passover festival for the first time.

96. What happened when Joseph and Mary were returning from the passover?

Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem.—(Luke 2: 43.)

97. What did Joseph and Mary do when they missed Jesus?

Joseph and Mary returned to Jerusa-

lem, and found Jesus in the temple, "sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions."—(Luke 2: 44-46.)

98. What astonished those who heard Jesus?

"All that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers."—Luke 2: 47.

99. Recite the first recorded words of Jesus, found in Luke 2: 49.

"How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?"

100. Whom did Jesus call his Father?

Jesus called God his Father.

101. What does this show?

This shows a consciousness in the holy Child Jesus that he was the Son of God.—(Luke 1: 35.)

102. What did Jesus do after his parents found him?

Jesus returned with his parents to Nazareth, and was always obedient to them.—(Luke 2: 51.)

103. What is said of Jesus as he grew older?

We are told that Jesus gained both in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.—(Luke 2: 52.)

104. What did Jesus always do?

Jesus always did those things that were right and pleasing to God.—(John 8: 29.)

105. At what age did Jesus enter upon his public ministry?

Jesus entered upon his public ministry at the age of thirty years.—(Luke 3: 23.)

106. By whom was Jesus baptized just before entering upon his public ministry?

Jesus was baptized by his forerunner, John the Baptist.

107. What took place at the baptism of Jesus?

At the baptism of Jesus heaven opened unto him, and the Spirit of God descended like a dove upon him, and a voice from the invisible glory was heard saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."—(Matt. 3: 16, 17.)

108. How long did Jesus' public ministry last?

The public ministry of Jesus lasted about three years.

109. What did Jesus do during those years?

Jesus "went about doing good" to the bodies and souls of men, preaching the glad tidings of the kingdom of God, and working miracles, and wonders and signs.

110. What is written in Matthew 11: 5 of the doings of Jesus?

The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

111. In John 20:31, what is said of recorded signs which Jesus did in the presence of his disciples?

“These are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing ye might have life through his name.”

112. What great sacrifice did Christ make for us, in order to do away with sin?

“He gave his life a ransom for all, and by his death on the cross made a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world.”

113. How did Jesus die?

Jesus was crucified on Calvary, between two thieves.

114. Where was Jesus buried?

Jesus was buried in a new tomb of Joseph of Arimathea, which was in a garden nearby.

115. What occurred after the burial of Jesus?

On the third day Jesus arose from the dead and appeared to his disciples.—

(Matt. 12:40; 1 Cor. 15:4-9; Acts 1:2, 3.)

116. What occurred forty days after Christ's resurrection from the dead?

Forty days after his resurrection from the dead Jesus brought a company of his disciples from Jerusalem to Mount Olivet, to within view of Bethany, and lifted up his hands and blessed them, and while he was blessing them, he was parted from them and was taken up into heaven.—(Luke 24:50, 51.)

117. Can we go to heaven, and be where Jesus is?

If we obey Jesus, we can go to heaven, for he is "the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him:"—(Heb. 5:9; John 17:24.)

CHAPTER VII.

THE HOLY SPIRIT.

118. What great promise did Jesus give to his disciples before he was taken up into heaven?

Jesus promised his disciples the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father would send in his name.—(Acts 1:4, 5; John 15:26.)

119. Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is the third person

in the trinity, the divine Comforter, one with the Father and the Son.

120. When was the promise of the gift of the Holy Spirit fulfilled?

The promises of the gift of the Holy Spirit was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost, ten days after Jesus was taken up into heaven.—(Acts 2: 1-4.)

121. Where were the disciples when the Holy Spirit was given?

When the Holy Spirit was given the disciples were "all with one accord in one place, in an upper room in Jerusalem," engaged in "prayer and supplication," expecting the fulfillment of the promises.—(Acts 1: 12-14.)

122. Did all the disciples present receive the Holy Spirit?

The disciples "were all filled with the Holy Ghost."—(Acts 2: 4.)

123. For what purpose is the Holy Spirit now present with all men?

The Holy Spirit is now present with all men for the gracious purpose of making the blessings of redeeming love the actual experience of believers.

124. What does the Holy Spirit do for all men?

The Holy Spirit "convinces the world

of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment.

125. What does the Holy Spirit offer to sinners?

The Holy Spirit offers help to all sinners to repent and believe.

126. Does the Holy Spirit dwell in the hearts of all men?

The Holy Spirit does not dwell in the hearts of all men, but he dwells in the heart of every child of God.—(Rom. 5: 8, 9.)

127. What witness from the indwelling of the Holy Spirit have believers?

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.—Rom. 8: 16.

128. What is the fruit of the Spirit?

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.—Gal. 5: 22.

129. Does the Holy Spirit help believers in prayer?

The Holy Spirit helps believers in prayer, sustains them in trials, animates them in duty, and leads them to persevere in doing the will of their heavenly Father.

CHAPTER VIII.

CONDITIONS OF SALVATION.

130. What is salvation?

Salvation is deliverance from sin and death, and the enjoyment of the favor and fellowship of God, with eternal life and blessedness.

And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.—Matt. 1:21.

131. To whom is this salvation offered in the Gospel?

This salvation is freely offered to all men.—Mark 16:15, 16.

132. What are the conditions of salvation?

The conditions of salvation are “repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ.”—(Acts 20:21.)

133. What is repentance?

Repentance is godly sorrow for and renunciation of sin.

Godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of.—2 Cor. 7:10.

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.—Isaiah 55:7.

134. What is repentance, in its grace and power?

In its grace and power, repentance is a gift of God.—(Acts 5:31; 11:18; 1 Tim 2:25.)

135. What is repentance as a personal exercise?

Repentance, as a personal exercise, is the act of man, who is accordingly commanded to repent.

And they went out and preached that men should repent.—Mark 6:12.

136. What is saving faith?

Saving faith is personal trust in Christ.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.—John 3:16.

And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ.—1 John 3:23.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth hath eternal life.—John 6:47.

137. Can there be saving faith without repentance?

There can be no saving faith without repentance, because true repentance implies faith, and saving faith includes repentance.

138. Have you saving faith?

CHAPTER IX.

SALVATION EXPERIENCED.

139. What do we mean by salvation experienced?

By salvation experienced we mean the actual possession of salvation.

140. How is salvation received and experienced?

Salvation is received and experienced by grace through faith in Christ.

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh; nor of the will of man, but of God.—Eph. 2:8.

He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself.—1 John 5:10.

141. What, then, does a believer's experience of salvation include?

A believer's experience of salvation includes justification, regeneration, the witness of the Spirit, and sanctification, with the fruits of the Spirit.

And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.—1 Cor. 6:11.

If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.—2 Cor. 5:17.

In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation;

in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise. Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.—Eph. 1 : 13, 14.

(See also Rom. 5 : 1-5.)

142. What is justification?

Justification is that act of God, by which, when we yield ourselves in full confidence to our Saviour, Jesus Christ, we are freely acquitted from the guilt of sin, and accounted righteous in his sight. We are accordingly justified, not by works which we perform, but by faith in him who died for us.—*Articles of Faith in Discipline of the United Evangelical Church.*

Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.—Rom 3 : 24-26.

(See also Rom. 4 : 5 ; Acts 13 : 38, 39 ; Eph. 1 : 6, 7.)

143. What is regeneration?

Regeneration is that work of the Holy Spirit wrought in us whereby we are made partakers of the Divine nature, and experience newness of life in Christ

Jesus. By this new birth the believer becomes a child of God, receives the spirit of adoption, and is made an heir of the kingdom of heaven.—*Articles of Faith.*

Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.—John 3:7. (See also John 3:5; 1:12, 13; Ezek. 36:26; Eph. 4:24.)

144. What is the witness of the Spirit?

The witness of the Spirit is an inward impression on the soul, whereby the Spirit of God, the heavenly Comforter, immediately convinces the regenerate believer that he has passed from death unto life, that his sins are all forgiven, and that he is a child of God.—*Articles of Faith.*

And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.—Gal. 4:6.

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.—Rom. 8:16.

(See also 1 John 3:24; 4:13; 5:12; 2 Cor. 1:29; Rom. 8:9, 14, 15.)

145. What is sanctification?

Sanctification is the removal of the depravity of the human heart, and the infusion of love to God and man.

146. When does sanctification begin?

Sanctification is begun in regeneration, but not completed.

147. What is entire sanctification?

Entire sanctification, or Christian perfection, is a state of righteousness and true holiness, which every regenerate believer may attain. It consists in being cleansed from all sin, loving God with all the heart, soul, mind and strength, and loving our neighbors as ourselves.—*Articles of Faith.*

148. Is it the privilege of believers to be wholly sanctified in the present life?

This gracious state of perfect love is attainable in this life by faith, both gradually and instantaneously, and should be earnestly sought by every child of God. But it does not deliver us from the infirmities, ignorance and mistakes which are common to man.—*Articles of Faith.*

And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly: and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.—1 Thess. 5: 23.

(See also 1 John 1: 7; 3: 2-3.)

CHAPTER X.

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.

149. What is the Christian life?

A Christian life is a life of loving obedience to God.

150. What is the Christian's supreme desire?

A Christian's supreme desire is to serve and please God.

151. What is the Christian's rule of life?

The Christian's rule of life is the will of God.

152. Where do we find the Christian's rule of life?

We find this rule of life in the Bible.

153. In what part of the Bible are the Ten Commandments recorded?

The ten commandments are found in the book of Exodus, the 20th chapter, verses 1-17, inclusive.

154. What is the first commandment?

Thou shalt have no other gods before me.—Exod. 20:3.

155. What is the second commandment?

Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third

and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.—Exod. 20:4-6.

156. What is the third commandment?

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.—Exod.20:7.

157. What is the fourth commandment?

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.—Exod. 20:8-11.

158. What is the fifth commandment?

Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.—Exod. 20:12.

159. What is the sixth commandment?

Thou shalt not kill.—Exod. 20: 13.

160. What is the seventh commandment?

Thou shalt not commit adultery.—
Exod. 20: 14.

161. What is the eighth commandment?

Thou shalt not steal.—Exod. 20: 15.

162. What is the ninth commandment?

Thou shalt not bear false witness
against thy neighbour.—Exod. 20: 16.

163. What is the tenth commandment?

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's
house, thou shalt not covet thy neigh-
bour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his
maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor
any thing that is thy neighbour's.—
Exod. 20: 17.

164. Are the Ten Commandments binding on us?

The Ten Commandments as explained
by Christ, are binding on all men.

165. What two commandments given by Jesus Christ include all the rest?

The two commandments recorded in
Matthew 22: 37-40, include all the rest:
Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with
all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and
with all thy mind. This is the first and
great commandment. And the second is
like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neigh-

bour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all ~~the~~ law and the prophets.

166. What words of Jesus may be called the Golden Rule?

“All things whatever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them.”—Matt. 7: 12.

167. In what is Jesus an example for us?

Jesus is an example for us in faith, love and obedience.

He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.—1 John 2: 6.

CHAPTER XI.

THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

168. What is the Christian Church?

The general Christian Church consists of all true believers who confess the Lord Jesus Christ and have life in him.

And he gave him to be head over all things to the church, which is his body.—Eph. 1: 22.

169. Who founded the Church?

The church was founded by our Lord Jesus Christ, who is himself the true foundation and chief cornerstone.

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.—Matt. 16:18.

For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.—1 Cor. 3:11.

170. What is the mission of the church?

The mission of the church is to represent Christ on earth and to minister to all the moral needs of the human race.

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.—1 Tim. 1:15.

As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.—John 17:18.

171. Do we become Christians by uniting with the visible church?

We become Christians not by uniting with the visible church, but by entering into living union with Christ by repentance and faith.

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.—John 1:12, 13.

172. Why should every Christian be a member of the visible church?

Every Christian should be a member of some branch of the visible church for the purposes of fellowship, mutual edification, and co-operative service in the promotion of the cause of Christ on earth.

We are labourers together with God.—1 Cor. 3:9.

173. What do we mean by the invisible church?

By the invisible church we mean all the children of God wherever found.

CHAPTER XII.

THE CHRISTIAN SACRAMENTS.

174. How many sacraments has Christ instituted in his church?

Christ has instituted two sacraments in his church: Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

175. What is the sacrament of baptism?

The sacrament of baptism is the formal application c. water to an infant, or to a believer, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.—*Articles of Faith.*

176. Of what is baptism a visible sign and seal?

Baptism is a visible sign and seal that the person so consecrated stands in a holy covenant relation with God and his people.—*Articles of Faith.*

177. When was Christian baptism instituted?

Christian baptism was instituted by Christ, after his resurrection, and shortly before his ascension.—(Matt. 28: 19.)

178. Who are the proper subjects of baptism?

All infants, and all who repent of their sins and give evidence of faith in Christ are proper subjects of baptism.—(Acts 2: 28, 39.)

179. Why should infants be baptized?

Infants should be baptized because they are members of the kingdom of God.

180. Quote from Mark 10: 14 what Jesus says about little children.

Jesus says: "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God."

(See also Luke 18: 15-17; Rom. 5: 15, 18.)

181. What is the sacrament of the Lord's Supper?

The Lord's Supper is a sacrament instituted in memory of the sufferings and death of Christ.

182. What are the emblems used in the Lord's Supper?

The emblems used in the Lord's Supper are bread and wine, used to represent the body and blood of Christ.

183. What do those receive who rightly and worthily partake of the Lord's Supper?

Those who rightly and worthily receive the Lord's Supper thereby partake of the body and blood of Christ by faith, not in a bodily, but in a spiritual manner.

184. How long is the Lord's Supper to be observed?

The Lord's Supper is to be observed until our blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ comes again.

For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.—1 Cor. 11:26.

CHAPTER XIII.

THE HOLY ANGELS.

185. Where can we get information concerning the angels?

The Bible reveals to us the fact of the existence of both good and bad angels.

186. What are good angels?

Good angels are attendants upon God, heavenly guardians, and ministering spirits.

187. Where do the good angels live?

The good angels live in heaven.

188. What are the good angels doing?

The good angels worship and serve God and minister unto the people of God.

Bless the Lord, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.—Ps. 103: 20.

Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?—Heb. 1: 14.

189. Recite Matt. 18: 10.

Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.

190. What do these words of Jesus show us?

These words of Jesus show us that believers in Christ are so dear to God that his very angels have a peculiar charge over even the very weakest of them.

CHAPTER XIV.

SATAN AND HIS ANGELS.

191. Who is Satan?

Satan is the chief of the fallen angels, who is spoken of in the Bible as “the

devil, that old serpent, and the dragon, the prince of this world, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.”

192. What was the original state of the fallen angels?

The fallen angels were originally holy, but fell from that state of blessedness by disobedience to God.

The angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.—Jude 6.

God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment.—2 Peter 2:6.

193. What are the fallen angels now doing?

The devil, with his angels, tempts men to sin, and seeks to hinder saints in the service of God, and to lead them astray.

194. Can the devil compel us to sin?

The devil has power to tempt us, but not to compel us to commit sin.

195. Was Jesus tempted of the devil?

Jesus was “tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin.”—(Heb. 4:15; Matt. 4:1-11.)

196. Does God permit believers to be tempted beyond what they are able to bear?

God does not permit believers to be

tempted beyond what they are able to bear.

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.—1 Cor. 10:13.

197. What should we do when tempted to commit sin?

We should resist the devil.

Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.—James 4:7.

CHAPTER XV.

PRAYER.

198. What is prayer?

Prayer is communion of the heart with God, consisting of adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and asking.

Let us lift up our heart with our hands unto God in the heavens.—Lam. 3:41.

I poured out my soul before the Lord.—1 Sam. 1:15.

Trust in him at all times, ye people: Pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.—Ps. 62:8.

Be careful for nothing: but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.—Phil. 4:6.

199. How should we pray?

We should pray in faith, in the spirit of obedience, in submission, in humility, with perseverance, in a forgiving spirit, in the name of Christ.

200. For what should we pray?

And all things whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer believing, ye shall receive.—Matt. 21:22.

And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.—1 John 5:14, 15.

201. For whom should we pray?

We should pray for all men.

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks, be made for all men.—1 Tim. 2:1.

202. Who helps us to pray as we ought?

The Holy Spirit helps us to pray, making intercession in our hearts, even as Christ does in heaven.

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.—Rom. 8:26.

203. What is God able to do for us, if we pray aright?

God is able to bless us above all that we ask or think.”—(Eph. 3: 20.)

204. What model prayer have we?

The model prayer is that which Jesus taught his disciples when he said: “After this manner therefore pray ye:”

Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

205. Is this the only form of prayer that we should use?

It is not meant that we should use this form only; but this form is designed to be a general guide and directory covering all our real wants, and expressing all our lawful desires.

CHAPTER XVI.

PERSEVERANCE IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.

206. Is it possible for a believer to fall from grace and be lost?

It is possible for a believer to fall from grace and be lost, but it is not unavoidable.

Wherefore let him that standeth take heed lest he fall.—1 Cor. 10:12.

207. What does Jesus say in John 15:6?

Jesus says: "If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned."

208. What does he say in John 15:9, 10?

In John 15:9, 10, Jesus says to his followers: "As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love."

209. What, then, is necessary on the part of the believers, in order to perseverance in the Christian life?

Constant watchfulness, prayer and holy living are necessary on the part of man, lest he fall away from the

grace of God, grieve and quench the Spirit, and lose his soul at last.—*Articles of Faith.*

Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; for he is faithful that promised.—Heb. 10:23.

Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.—Rev. 2:10.

CHAPTER XVII.

THE FUTURE STATE.

210. Where do we go when we cease to live in the body?

When we cease to live in the body, “the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns unto God who gave it.”—(Eccles. 12:7.)

211. Into what state do we enter at death?

The righteous enter into a state of unending happiness, and the unrighteous into a state of unending misery.

212. Will our bodies remain always in the earth?

Our bodies will not always remain in the earth, for there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and of the unjust.—(Acts 24:15.)

213. When will the resurrection take place?

The resurrection will take place “at the last day,” at the time of “the appear-

ing of Christ.”—(2 Tim. 4:1; John 6:39, 40; 1 Cor. 15:22, 23; 1 Thess. 4:16.)

214. Whose voice will then be heard by the dead?

“All that are in the graves” shall then hear the voice of the Son of God, “and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.”—(John 5:27-29.)

215. In whose likeness will the bodies of the righteous be raised?

The bodies of the righteous will be raised in the likeness of the glorious body of Christ.—(Phil. 3:21.)

216. What will happen to the righteous who shall be living on earth at the coming of Christ?

The righteous who are alive at the coming of Christ “shall be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye.”—(1 Cor. 15:51, 52.)

217. What comes after the resurrection?

After the resurrection comes the final judgment.

God has appointed a day in which he will judge all men by Jesus Christ, to whom is committed the judgment of this world. We must all, accordingly, appear before the judgment seat of Christ, and have our eternal destiny determ-

ined according to our works.—*Articles of Faith.*

For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.—Matt. 16:27. (2 Tim. 4:1.)

218. What will the Lord Jesus Christ say to the righteous at the judgment?

“Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”—Matt. 25:34.

219. What will Christ say to the wicked at the judgment?

Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.—Matt. 25:41.

APPENDIX.

THE BEATITUDES.

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for their's is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers: for thy shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for their's is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.—Matt. 5 : 3-12.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS.

Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:

Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work:

But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:

For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

Thou shalt not kill.

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Thou shalt not steal.

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

—Exod. 20: 3-17.

THE APOSTLES' CREED.

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose again from the dead, he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the Church of God; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

CONSECRATION CARD.*

My son, } "Give me thine heart."
My daughter, } —Proverbs 23:26.

LORD JESUS, I have always been Thine by redemption rights, by purchase of Thy blood; henceforth I will be Thine by my hearts glad choice, surrender and trust. I here and now give myself unreservedly to Thee, to be Thine for ever, and I now take and trust Thee as my own personal Saviour.

Name,

Address,

Date,

*Ideal Consecration Card from "Experience," published in London, England.

THE LORD'S PRAYER.

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.—Matt. 6:9-13.

EVENING PRAYERS.

“Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray the Lord my soul to keep,
If I should die before I wake
I pray the Lord my soul to take.”

And now I lay me down to sleep;
Thou Lord wilt me in safety keep,
Forever let my heart rely
In humble trust in God Most High.

—From *The Bible Record*.

THE APOSTOLIC BLESSING.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.—2 Cor. 13:14.