

# THE LARGER AND SHORTER CATECHISMS.

## WHAT MAN OUGHT TO BELIEVE CONCERNING GOD

### QUESTIONS # 58 & 29.

*(Larger Catechism)*

Q #58. *How do we come to be made partakers of the benefits which Christ hath procured?*

A. We are made partakers of the benefits which Christ hath procured, by the application of them unto us,<sup>1</sup> which is the work especially of God the Holy Ghost.<sup>2</sup>

*(Shorter Catechism)*

Q #29. *How are we made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ?*

A. We are made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ, by the effectual application of it to us,<sup>3</sup> by his Holy Spirit.<sup>4</sup>

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Question 1—*What is the redemption purchased by Christ?*

*Answer*—The purchase of redemption involves several things to be considered:

*First*, the redemption itself which is a deliverance by the payment of a price, 1 Pet. 1:18, 19; whereby sinners, which were the lawful captives of justice, were delivered by his shed blood, Isa. 49:24. Without the shedding of blood there is no remission, Heb. 9:22. This redemption itself consists of two things: 1.) Deliverance from the evil of sin, which is the chief evil, Matt. 1:21. Christ came to deliver them and set them free from this slavery, Rom. 6:6, 7. 2.) Deliverance from the wrath to come, 1 Thess. 1:10; for the wages of sin has made men liable to the eternal destruction of hell, Rom. 6:23.

*Second*, this redemption also includes with it a restoration to the good that was lost, Col. 3:10; or a possession of all that happiness and all those blessings which men forfeited by the primitive transgression, Isa. 59:2; Eph. 2:12.

*Third*, the one who purchased this redemption is Jesus Christ, the Son of God, in our nature, 1 Thess. 1:10. He took on him our nature, and became our near kinsman, that he might redeem those who were slaves and captive to sin, Ps. 89:19, 20.

*Fourth*, the ransom that was paid included all that Christ did and suffered for sinners, 1 Tim. 2:6. He did not give gold, money or lands, for us, body for body, soul for soul, baring our sins in his body, and making his soul an offering for sin, Gal. 2:20. As our ransom, he performed two necessary things: 1.) He obeyed, giving perfect obedience unto all the commands of the law, and so fulfilled all righteousness, Matt. 3:15. He lived sinless, keeping all the commands of God so that the law had all its demands of obedience from him, Isa. 42:21. 2.) He suffered and bare what the law threatened, satisfying justice in the room of sinners, Gal. 4:4, 5. Thus, although the Scriptures attribute our redemption to his blood, Eph. 1:7; it is not to be understood exclusively of his obedience and other sufferings, but of his bloody death, which was completing of the ransom, John 19:30.

*Fifth*, there are those for whom this redemption was purchased, which are those for whom this redemption was actually designed, John 10:5; 17:9.

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<sup>1</sup> John 1:11, 12.

<sup>2</sup> Tit. 3:5, 6.

<sup>3</sup> John 1:11, 12.

<sup>4</sup> Titus 3:5, 6.

Question 2—*What is this application of this redemption?*

*Answer*—*First*, this application is the actual interesting us in it, investing us in the possession of it, and making it effectual to us for the ends for which it was purchased, John 1:11, 12. The immediate consequence of this application is twofold: 1.) Deliverance from sin, Rom. 6:18; and from the wrath of God, Rom. 8:1. The chains of guilt binding over the sinner to the wrath of God are broken and the cords of slavery and the reigning power of sin is destroyed, Rom. 6:10, 11. 2.) The restoration to peace with, and the favor of God, Rom. 5:1; and to a right and title to heaven, John 14:2; being entitled to all the benefits of Christ's purchase, Col. 1:12, 13.

*Second*, there is the necessity of this application, for none can have any saving benefit by it until it is applied, John 1:12. In contemplation of the purchased redemption, the lives of the elect are spared, and they have means of grace given them, until they are brought to Christ, Tit. 3:3, 4. Nonetheless, until that time, they remain in a state of wrath, their sins unpardoned, and they are without actual right to the inheritance of the saints, Eph. 2:1-3. There is no remedy that can recover a man unless it is applied, 1 John 1:7; so men must die eternally, notwithstanding the death of Christ, unless his redemption be applied to them in particular, John 11:26.

Question 3—*Who applies this purchased redemption?*

*Answer*—This redemption, which is purchased by the Son, is applied by the Holy Ghost, who gains the sinners consent and brings the soul to Christ, Tit. 3:5, 6. This is apparent under several considerations:

*First*, the Spirit of God makes use of outward means, particularly the ministry of the Word, in order to convince the sinner of his interest in Christ, 1 Cor. 3:5. This means is suited to the nature of rational creatures, wherein their sin, danger and need of Christ, his ability and willingness to save are laid before them, and they are invited and persuaded to accept of a Redeemer, Gen. 6:3; Ps. 65:4. Faith comes by the hearing of the Word according to the working of the Spirit, Rom. 10:17; Rev. 3:6.

*Second*, there is a powerful operation of the Spirit upon all the faculties of the soul that accompanies it, 1 Thess. 1:5, 6. A new light is let into the mind, the soul is made willing to be made the Lord's only, wholly and forever, Ps. 110:3; Phil. 2:13. The conscience is quickened, the affections are spiritualized, and the whole soul is affected, so that the heart and will embrace Christ as he is offered, Rom. 10:10. This is the proper work of the Spirit, who can take of what belongs to Christ and give to poor sinners, John 14:26.

*Third*, this is an application which is applied only to those for whom it was purchased, the elect, Acts 13:48. The Holy Spirit knows the deep things of God, being privy to the counsel of peace that passed between the Father and Son from eternity, Zech. 6:13; 1 Cor. 2:10. Such as fall away may have some enlightening of the Spirit, Heb. 6:3-6; but they never had the spirit of sanctification resting on them for this application, Rom. 1:4.

*Fourth*, although this application is not completed at once, it is certain that the whole Christ, with all his benefits, is at once made over to the sinner, which is sealed by the Spirit, Eph. 4:30. So, the Holy Ghost is still working in believers carrying on this work, and will never leave it, until he has perfectly united believers with himself, and taken away everything that occasions distance, Rom. 8:23; Eph. 2:13.