

The Principles of Christian Religion

**A Study through the Baptist
Catechism using Benjamin
Beddome's *Scriptural Exposition***

Outline of the BC

- I. Introductory Questions: 1-6
- II. What We are to Believe: 7-43
- III. What Duty God Requires: 44-114
 - A. The Law and our Inability: 44-89
 - B. The Gospel and the Means of Grace: 90-114

Outline of Questions 23-43

Question 23	Redemption Administered	<i>Pactum Salutis</i>	From the Father
Questions 24-31	Redemption Accomplished	<i>Historia Salutis</i>	Through the Son
Questions 32-43	Redemption Applied	<i>Ordo Salutis</i>	By the Holy Spirit

Outline of Questions 32-43

- Application of Redemption (Q. 32-33)
 - Effectual Calling (Q. 34)
 - Benefits in this Life (Q. 35)
 - Justification (Q. 36)
 - Adoption (Q. 37)
 - Sanctification (Q. 38)
 - Attendant Benefits (Q. 39)
 - Benefits at Death (Q. 40)
 - Benefits at the Resurrection (Q. 41)
 - [Unbelievers at Death (Q. 42)]
 - [Unbelievers at the Day of Judgment (Q. 43)]

Question and Answer 41

Q. 41: What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection?

A. At the resurrection believers, being raised up in glory,¹ shall be openly acknowledged, and acquitted in the Day of Judgment,² and made perfectly blessed, both in soul and body, in the full enjoyment of God³ to all eternity.⁴

¹ 1 Corinthians 15:43

² Matthew 25:23; Matthew 10:32

³ 1 John 3:2; 1 Corinthians 13:12

⁴ 1 Thessalonians 4:17,18

Question and Answer 41

- Introduction to the Resurrection
 - The Greco-Roman culture of Paul's day had a hard time accepting the doctrine of the resurrection.
 - Acts 17:32; I Cor. 15:12
 - Why?
 - This was due to the influence of a Platonic philosophy which considered everything spiritual to be inherently good and everything physical to be inherently bad.
 - The ultimate goal of existence was believed to be to escape the body and be pure spirit.
 - » E.g., the Gnostic Gospel of Judas

Question and Answer 41

- Introduction to the Resurrection
 - 2,000 some years later, we still haven't quite escaped the influences of this dualism.
 - We still think and speak of our ultimate hope and eternal state in terms of a bodiless, ethereal existence in a non-physical, purely spiritual realm.
 - We disparage our bodies, treating them as though they don't really matter and acting as if our souls are the only thing that's really important.

Question and Answer 41

- Introduction to the Resurrection
 - But the Biblical perspective is quite different.
 - God made both the body and the soul and declared them both “very good” (Gen. 1-2).
 - Sin corrupts both the body and the soul.
 - Death, the separation of body and soul, is unnatural and the result of sin.
 - II Cor. 5:1-4
 - Our ultimate hope is the reuniting of our glorified bodies and souls.
 - Rom. 8:23-25

Question and Answer 41

1. The Resurrection in General

- It is possible that there should be a resurrection (Acts 26:8).
- It is certain that there shall be a resurrection (Dan. 12:2).
- There has already been a resurrection (Matt. 27:52).
 - What was this?
 - A “Zombie Apocalypse”?
 - An “auxiliary testimony” to what Christ accomplished in His death and resurrection
 - Probably not a final resurrection (cf. Lazarus)

Question and Answer 41

1. The Resurrection in General

- This work is ascribed to the Father (2 Cor. 4:14).
- And to the Son (John 5:22).
- And to the Spirit (Rom. 8:11).
- And the saints shall rise first (1 Thess. 4:16).

Question and Answer 41

2. The Resurrection Body

- The same bodies will be raised again (Job 19:26).
 - It is a resurrection of our current bodies, not a recreation of entirely new bodies.
 - Cf. Christ's body before and after resurrection
 - How is this possible?
- But they will be very different from what they are now (1 Cor. 15:37, 38, 42).
 - I Cor. 15:35-53

Question and Answer 41

2. The Resurrection Body

- They will be free from all natural weaknesses (1 Cor. 15:43).
- They will be free from all moral defilements (Rev. 20:6).
- They will be endowed with activity and vigour (1 Cor. 15:44).
- They will be rendered incorruptible and immortal (1 Cor. 15:53).

Question and Answer 41

2. The Resurrection Body

- They will in all these respects resemble the glorious body of Christ (Phil. 3:21).
 - What do we know of Christ's resurrection body?
 - It could be seen and touched, it could eat, etc.
 - But it could also, apparently, do some more "supernatural" kinds of things (Luke 24:31-43; John 20:19, 26).
- And those who are found alive at Christ's second coming will undergo a change equivalent to the resurrection (1 Cor. 15:51).

Question and Answer 41

3. The Day of Judgment

- The saints will be gathered together at the day of judgment (Psa. 50:5).
- And this will be the work of the angels (Matt. 24:31).
- They will be separated from the wicked (Matt. 25:32).
- And this will be a final separation (Luke 16:26).

Question and Answer 41

3. The Day of Judgment

- They will accompany Christ to the judgment (Jude 14).
- And be assessors with him in it (Matt. 19:28).
- And testify their approbation of all his proceedings (Rev. 19:1,2).

Question and Answer 41

3. The Day of Judgment

- The saints will be openly acknowledged in the day of judgment (Matt. 10:32).
- And openly acquitted (Matt. 25:23).
- And openly rewarded (ibid).
- Their good works will then be remembered (Matt. 25:35).
- And their evil ones forgotten (Jer. 50:20).

Question and Answer 41

- Excursus: The Saint's on Judgment Day
 - Wait for Question 43.

Question and Answer 41

4. The Eternal State

- Heaven will be the place of the saints' residence (2 Kings 2:11).
 - What do we mean by "heaven" as our final dwelling-place?
 - Rev. 21:1, 2
- It is prepared for them (John 14:2).
- And promised to them (Tit. 1:2).

Question and Answer 41

4. The Eternal State

- In heaven they will see God (Matt. 5:8).
 - Often called “the Beatific Vision”
 - Best understood as beholding the incarnate Son? (John 14:8-9)
- This will be a transforming vision (1 John 3:2).
- And an abiding one (1 Thess. 4:17).
- This is enough to comfort them under all the sorrows and afflictions of life (1 Thess. 4:18).

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Question and Answer 42

Q. 42: But what shall be done to the wicked at their death?

A. The souls of the wicked shall, at their death, be cast into the torments of hell, and their bodies lie in their graves, till the resurrection and judgment of the great day.¹

¹ Luke 16:23, 24; Acts 1:25; Jude 7; 1 Peter 3:16;
Psalm

49:14

Question and Answer 42

1. The Death of the Wicked

- The wicked must die as well as the righteous (Heb. 9:27).
- They must die though they would not (Prov. 14:32).
- Death often comes upon them unexpected (1 Thess. 5:3).
- And it finds them unprepared (Matt. 25:10).

Question and Answer 41

2. The Fate of the Souls of the Wicked

- The souls of the wicked at death go into a place of torments (Luke 16:23).
- And lie under the wrath of God (Psa. 21:9).
- And under the agonies of an accusing conscience (Mark 9:46).
- They have some presages of this beforehand (Heb. 10:27).
- And their misery will be equal to their fears (Psa. 90:11).

Question and Answer 41

2. The Fate of the Souls of the Wicked
 - All things round them will conspire to make them miserable (Job 18:11).
 - The saints will not pity them (Psa. 52:6).
 - Partnership in misery will not alleviate their pains (Isa. 13:8).
 - They shall have a sad remembrance of their former abundance (Luke 16:25),
 - And a distant prospect of the heavenly happiness (Luke 13:28).
 - And all this will tend to fill them with inexpressible anguish, and horror, fury, and despair (Matt. 13:42).

Question and Answer 41

2. The Fate of the Souls of the Wicked

- There is no possibility for the wicked to escape (Matt. 23:33).
- They cannot escape by cunning (Job 5:13).
- Nor by power (1 Sam. 2:9).
- Nor by flight (Jer. 23:24).
- Nor by numbers (Prov. 11:21).
- Hell then will be large enough to hold the whole company of the ungodly (Isa. 30:33).

Question and Answer 41

3. The Fate of the Bodies of the Wicked

- The bodies of the wicked are lodged in the grave (Psa. 49:14).
- The grave consumes them (Job 24:19).
- It mars their beauty (Psa. 49:14).
- And robs them of their glory (Psa. 49:17).
- And blots out their memory (Job 24:20).
- They are reserved there to the Day of Judgment (2 Pet. 2:9).
- And they shall then be brought forth

The Biblical "Afterlife"

