

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

Question. 1. *Who is the First and Chiefest being?*

Answer. God is the First and Chiefest being *a*.

(a) Isa. 44. 6. & 48.12.

Q. 2. *Ought every One to believe there is a God?*^{xviii}

A. Every One ought to believe there is a God *b*; and it is their great Sin and Folly who do not *c*.

(b) Heb. 11. 6.

(c) Psal. 14. 1.

Q. 3. *How may we know there is a God?*

A. The Light of Nature in

Question 1. *What is the chief end of man?*

A. Man's chief end is to glorify God, *a* and to enjoy Him forever *b*.

(a) 1 Cor. 10. 31.

Rom. 11. 36.

(b) Psa. 73. 24, to the end.

Question 1. *What is the chief and highest end of man?*

Answer 1. Man's chief and highest end is to glorify God, *a* and fully to enjoy him forever *b*.

(a) Rom. 11. 36.

1 Cor. 10. 31.

(b) Psa. 73. 24-28

Q. 2. *How doth it appear that there is a God?*

A. The very light of nature in

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man, and the Works of God plainly declare that there is a God *d*; but his Word and Spirit only, do **it fully and effectually**, for **the Salvation of Sinners** *e*.

(d) Rom. 1. 19, 20.

Psal. 19. 1, 2, 3. Acts 17. 24.

(e) 1 Cor. 2. 10.

2 Tim. 3. 15, 16.

Q. 4. *What is the Word of God?*

A. The Holy Scriptures of the Old and New **Testament**, are the Word of God, **and** the only certain Rule of Faith and Obedience *c*.

(c)^{xix} 2 Tim. 3. 16.

Ephes. 2. 20.

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Q. 2. *What rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy Him?*

A. The Word of God (which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments) *c* is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him *d*.

(c) 2 Tim. 3. 16. Eph. 2. 20.

(d) 1 Joh. 1. 3, 4.

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man, and the works of God, declare plainly that there is a God; *c* but his word and Spirit only do sufficiently and effectually reveal him unto men for their salvation *d*.

(c) Rom. 1. 19-20.

Psa. 19.1-3. Acts 17. 28.

(d) 1 Cor. 2. 9-10.

2 Tim. 3. 15-17. Isa. 59. 21.

Q. 3. *What is the word of God?*

A. The holy scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the word of God, *e* the only rule of faith and obedience. *f*

(e) 2 Tim. 3. 16.

2 Peter 1.19-21.

(f) Eph. 2. 20. Rev. 22. 18-19.

Isa. 8. 20. Luke 16. 29, 31.

Gal. 1. 8-9. 2 Tim. 3. 15-16.

Question and Answer 4

Q. 4: What is the Word of God?

A. The Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the Word of God, and the only certain rule of faith and obedience.¹

¹ 2 Timothy 3:16; Ephesians 2:20

Question and Answer 4

- If the Word and Spirit only reveal God fully and effectually for the salvation of sinners, then “What is the Word of God?” is a vitally important question.
- What other writings out there claim to be the Word of God?
 - The Apocrypha (2LCF 1.2-3)
 - The Book of Mormon
 - The Quran/Koran

Question and Answer 4

1. The Divine Origin of the Scriptures

- From God (2 Tim. 3:16)
- Not from Evil Spirits (Matt. 12:26)
- Not from Wicked Men (Matt. 7:16)
- Not (just) from Good Men (Rom. 9:1)

- How does this work? How did the Scriptures come to be the Word of God, or rather, how did the Word of God become inscripturated?

Question and Answer 4

2. The Inspiration of the Scriptures

- Two Key Texts: 2 Tim. 3:16 and 2 Pet. 1:21
- Theories of Inspiration
 - Mechanical Inspiration
 - Emphasizes Divine Authorship
 - Downplays Human Authorship
 - » Speaks of human authors merely as “flutes” or “secretaries”
 - » Believes God either dictated every word or put the human authors into a trance in which their minds were completely passive

Question and Answer 4

2. The Inspiration of the Scriptures

– Theories of Inspiration

- Organic Inspiration

- Upholds both Divine and Human Authorship
- The human authors were true authors: their writings reveal differences in their styles, personalities, experiences, educations, etc.
- God used their human creativity and research.
 - » Luke 1:1-4; 1 Cor. 1:14-16; 7:40
- But He did this in such a way as to preserve them from error and ensure that their words would also be His very words.
 - » Remember the doctrine of Concurrence.

Question and Answer 4

3. The Testimonies to the Scriptures

- Miracles (Heb. 2:4)
- Success of the Gospel (Rom. 10:18)
- Martyrs (Rev. 6:9)
- Internal Witness (1 John 5:10)
 - The Testimony of the Spirit (2LCF 1.4-5)
 - John 16:13,14; 1 Cor. 2:10-12; 1 John 2:20,27
 - Subjectively: “the inward work,” “in our hearts”
 - Objectively: “by and with the Word”
 - » The Word’s “Self-Authentication”
 - » Circular Reasoning?

Question and Answer 4

4. The Authority of the Scriptures

- “Rule” = Standard
- Its Necessity (Isa. 53:6)
- Its Sufficiency (Psa. 19:7)
 - 2LCF 1.6
- Its Perspicuity (Prov. 8:8,9)
 - 2LCF 1.7 (2 Pet. 3:16)
- Its Extensiveness (Psa. 119:96)
- Its Permanency (1 Pet. 1:23)

Question and Answer 4

4. The Authority of the Scriptures

– Its Uniqueness (Rev. 22:18; cf. LCF 1.10)

- Over Human Traditions (Matt. 15:6)
- Over the Authority of the Church (1 Cor. 2:5)
- Over Religious Leaders (Isa. 28:7)
- Over the Light of Nature (Rom. 3:17; Jer. 10:23)
- Over the Examples of Many (Exo. 23:2)
- Over the Examples of the Good (1 Cor. 11:1)

Question and Answer 4

5. The Use of the Scriptures

- We should encourage the translation of them (1 Cor. 14:6).
 - 2LCF 1.8 – Why emphasize this?
- We should readily receive and embrace them (Acts 17:11).
- We should make them our rule (Phil. 3:16).