

Westminster Shorter Catechism

Question 17: Into what estate did the fall bring mankind??

Answer: The fall brought mankind into an estate of sin and misery.

Comment: Because Adam was the federal head of humanity. When he disobeyed God and ‘fell’, we all ‘fell’ in him or because of him. As a result, we all suffer the consequences of sin as him – sin, misery and ultimately death. The only exception is the Lord Jesus Christ because he was not a descendant of Adam.

Scripture Proofs:

Genesis 3:16-19, 23; Romans 3:16; Romans 5:12; Ephesians 2:1

Psalm of the Week: Psalm 136A. The words are on page 8.

Please pray for:

Mon - Andrew & Heather, Caitlin, & Catherine Quigley

Tues - Louise Rock

Wed - Lorna Russell

Thur - Sean Russell

Frid - Jack & Meghan Scott

Bible Question for the week:

1. Who went with Abram and Sair into Egypt?

Answer – Genesis 13:1

The notes on 1 Timothy were written by Rev. Daniel Hemken, minister of Hebron RPCNA. (They have been lightly edited.)

Pray for the Holy Spirit’s help as you study God’s Word.

Monday – 1 Timothy 5:17-25 - How to Treat Elders.

In today's passage, Paul teaches us several things about how we treat the elders in our churches.

- First, as we have already seen, we are to honour them, giving double honour to those who rule well (and paying those who labour as teaching elders) (v.17-18).
- Second, we must be careful not to listen to or participate in gossip about them. A charge against an elder must have two or three witnesses (v.19).
- Third, the church must follow proper discipline procedures (see Matthew 18:15-17). A sinning elder may require a public rebuke (v.20), but all must be judged fairly and impartially (v.21).
- Fourth, we must not be hasty in ordaining men to the office (v.22). Only well-qualified men should be ordained as elders (see I Timothy 3:1-7), lest the church appear to be taking part in sin. Thus, Paul cautions (in v.24), that some men's sins are obvious, but others may remain hidden for some time. Likewise, one man's righteousness may be readily seen, while another may be seen only after much observation (v.25). Therefore, observing and examining a man closely before entrusting him with authority in the church is essential.
- Lastly, in verse 23, we find Paul encouraging Timothy to "use a little wine for the sake of your stomach". Whatever else might be said about this verse, it is clear Paul expects Timothy to take care of himself. A healthy pastor or elder can be more effective in ministry. Therefore, the church should encourage an elder to take time for rest and refreshment and, otherwise, to look after his health so that he might be able to labour hard at shepherding Christ's people.

Questions

1. Why should we not listen to gossip about our elders?
2. Why should we not be hasty in ordaining a man to the office of an elder?
3. Why should we encourage elders to take care of their health?

Memory Verse

"But godliness with contentment in great gain," I Timothy 6:6

Tuesday - 1 Timothy 6:1-2 – Slaves.

In today's reading, Paul deals with how Christian slaves are to treat their masters. Paul was in no way approving of slavery but just dealing with the fact that slavery existed in his day. Moreover, the word translated as "slave" may also be translated as "bondservant", and, thus, can refer not only to people who are forced into servitude and treated like property, but also to those who have voluntarily placed themselves in service (usually to pay off a debt), allowing the fruits of their labour to be owned by another. In either case, Paul's interest is that Christians in bondage bring honour to God through the way they serve their masters. They are to treat their masters with honour. If they are bound in servitude to a fellow Christian, they must not use their brotherhood as an excuse to serve half-heartedly or to disrespect the master. Instead, they should seek to serve a Christian master all the more faithfully due to their love for their brother.

Most of us in the Western civilization do not have direct experience with the institution of slavery. (Some who study the issue, however, say that there are more people in slavery around the world today than at any other time in history). Nevertheless, Paul's instructions in this passage apply well to Christian employees. Christians should treat their employers and supervisors with honour. This is especially true when we work under a fellow Christian. When the world sees that Christians work hard, and serve their employers faithfully and with respect, the Name of Christ is honoured.

Questions

1. How should Christians treat those for whom they work?
2. How should we treat our master or employer if he is a Christian?
3. What happens when the world sees that Christians work hard and honour their employers?

Memory Verse

"But godliness with contentment in great gain," | Timothy 6:6

Wednesday - 1 Timothy 6:3-10 - False Teachers.

A significant purpose of this letter is to help Timothy deal with false teachers in the church at Ephesus. In chapter one, Paul reminded Timothy that sound doctrine accords with the Gospel of salvation by grace, alone, working through faith, alone, in Jesus Christ, alone. Here, Paul speaks of "different" doctrines. These teachings are different (strange and unbiblical) because they disagree with "the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness". Sound teaching will always agree with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the whole counsel of God's Word. Anything else is a false doctrine. Paul points out several things about one who promotes false doctrines.

- First, he is "puffed up with conceit and understands nothing" - he thinks more highly of his intelligence, learning, knowledge of the Bible and spiritual things, and his ability to reason, than he ought. (One way this has occurred frequently in Church history is for a man to claim he understands the real meaning of the Bible while no one before him has ever gotten it right.)
- Second, he has "an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words" - he is argumentative and enjoys stirring up needless debates.
- Third, the fruit of his quarrelling is division among God's people.
- Finally, his motive is often financial or other earthly gain. He thinks that by promoting alternative teaching to that of the legitimate elders in the church, he can make his living (and even enrich himself) from the generosity of the immature, who cannot yet distinguish between true and false doctrines or otherwise gain respect and other earthly rewards.

Questions

1. With what will sound teaching always agree?
2. What does Paul mean by "an unhealthy craving for controversy"?
3. What often motivates false teachers?

Memory Verse

"But godliness with contentment in great gain," 1 Timothy 6:6

Thursday - 1 Timothy 6:3-10 - Godliness with Contentment.

Yesterday, we saw in this passage that the usual motive of a false teacher is the desire for earthly rewards, such as money or renown. Paul says that such people view godliness as a means of gain. That he is speaking of false teachers who seek to enrich themselves is seen in the following verses, in which Paul reminds us that we brought nothing into this world and cannot take anything with us when we leave it. He warns that the love of money has produced all manner of evil. (One such evil is the promotion of false gospels.) The desire to be rich in the things of this world results from a lack of contentment, which has led many to follow harmful desires, which, in turn, have led to their ruin and destruction.

By contrast, in verse 6 Paul speaks of a type of gain that godliness does bring. As one who has true saving faith in Jesus Christ grows spiritually, he will value the things of this world less and less, and value the things of God and the world to come more and more. This produces contentment with whatever our situation in this life might be. This is a significant gain, for it relieves anxiety, keeps us focused on Christ's Kingdom, keeps us satisfied with what we have (rather than focusing on what we do not have), and builds our trust in our Sovereign Creator and Saviour God.

Questions

1. Of what has the love of money been a cause?
2. How do false teachers think of godliness?
3. In what way is there great gain in godliness?

Memory Verse

“But godliness with contentment in great gain,” 1 Timothy 6:6

Friday – 1 Timothy 6:11 - The Man of God.

As we have seen in this study, teachers of falsehood are often motivated by a love of money, which produces all kinds of evil. Paul tells Timothy to flee these things, calling him a "man of God". Timothy is the only person in the New Testament called a man of God. In the Old Testament, the expression "man of God" refers to a man called by God to speak His Word. Therefore, we can easily see how Paul's words to Timothy apply to preachers of the Gospel. Nevertheless, it is fair to say that everyone who is in Christ is a man or woman of God, and thus, each of us can rightly apply these words to ourselves. We must flee the love of money and all the evils it produces.

By contrast, we should pursue several things:

- 1) Righteousness - doing that which God has commanded.
- 2) Godliness - revering and rightly worshiping God.
- 3) Faith - trusting God.
- 4) Love - being self-sacrificial in our service to God and treatment of our neighbour.
- 5) Steadfastness - being patient and persevering in our service to Christ and His people.
- 6) Gentleness - being meek, humble, and gentle in our treatment of others.

Questions

1. What must Christians flee?
2. What are some things we should pursue?
3. Why does Paul call Timothy a "man of God"?

Memory Verse

"But godliness with contentment in great gain," 1 Timothy 6:6

Psalm 136A

1. Thank the LORD for good is He,
For His steadfast love endures.
To the God of gods, thanks be,
For His steadfast love endures.
Praises give the King of kings,
For His steadfast love endures.
He alone does wondrous things,
For His steadfast love endures.

2. He with skill has made the skies,
For His steadfast love endures.
From the seas made land arise,
For His steadfast love endures.
He has made great shining lights,
For His steadfast love endures.
Sun rules day; moon, stars rule night,
For His steadfast love endures.

3. Egypt's firstborn He did smite
For His steadfast love endures.
Brought out Is'rael by His might,
For His steadfast love endures.
He the Red Sea split in two,
For His steadfast love endures.
He made Is'rael pass on through,
For His steadfast love endures.

4. He drowned Pharaoh and his men
For His steadfast love endures.
Led His own through deserts then,
For His steadfast love endures.
Kings of splendor then He slew,
For His steadfast love endures.
Mighty kings He overthrew:
For His steadfast love endures.

5. Sihon, king of Amorites,
For His steadfast love endures,
Og, the king of Bashanites;
For His steadfast love endures.
He willed Israel their land,
For His steadfast love endures.
As His servant, heirs they stand,
For His steadfast love endures.

6. He remembered us when low,
For His steadfast love endures.
Gave deliv'rance from our foe,
For His steadfast love endures.
He gives food to all that live,
For His steadfast love endures.
Thanks to God of heaven give,
For His steadfast love endures.