LORD'S DAY 21

Q54. What do you believe concerning the "Holy Catholic Church?"

A. I believe that the Son of God
through his Spirit and Word,
out of the whole human race,
from the beginning of the world to its end,
gathers, protects, and preserves for himself
a community chosen for eternal life
and united in true faith.
And of this community I am and always will be a living member.

Genesis 26:4 John 10:10 Ephesians 1:10-13 Romans 1:16; Isaiah 59:21; Romans 10:14-17; Ephesians 5:26 Romans 8:29-30; Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 4:3-6 Acts 2:46; Psalm 71:18; I Corinthians 11:26; John 10:28-30; I Corinthians 1:8-9 I John 3:21; I John 2:19; Galatians 3:28

Q55. What do you understand by the "communion of saints?"

A. First, that believers one and all, as members of this community, share in the Lord Jesus Christ and in all his treasures and gifts.

Second, that each member should consider it a duty to use these gifts readily and joyfully for the service and enrichment of other members.

I John 1:3 I Corinthians 12:12-13, 21; 13:5-6; Philippians 2:4-6; Hebrews 3:14

Q56. What do you believe concerning the "forgiveness of sins?"

A. I believe that God because of Christ's satisfaction, will no longer remember any of my sins nor my sinful nature which I need to struggle against all my life.

Rather, by grace

God imputes to me the righteousness of Christ
to free me forever from judgement.

I John 2:2 II Corinthians 5:19, 21; Romans 7:24-25; Psalm 103:3, 10-12; Jeremiah 31:34; Romans 8:1-4 John 3:18; Ephesians 1:7; Romans 4:7-8; 7:18 I suggest using a notebook to record your answers, thoughts, and questions that come to mind as you read the catechism and scripture. When we meet it will help to have something written that you can refer back to as we discuss the lessons and pray for each other.

As we enter the second part of the catechism our attention turns from our sin to our deliverance.

LORD'S DAY 21: May 21 – May 27, 2017

SUNDAY: Read questions and answers with all scripture references

MONDAY: Sometimes theologians speak of the visible and invisible church. What do you think they mean? Research these terms.

TUESDAY: Why should you consider it both a privilege and duty to be a part of a local church? What gifts has God given to you to be used in service and encouragement of others?

WEDNESDAY: What is meant by the term "Christ's satisfaction?"

THURSDAY: Read Romans 7: 14-21

Why do you think the catechism adds the line about struggling against our sinful nature all our lives?

FRIDAY: Why are the words "but God" some of the most beautiful words in the Bible?

SATURDAY: Read the corresponding essay in THE GOOD NEWS WE ALMOST FORGOT