

Women's Thursday Bible Class - Larger Catechism – 2021 #6 Lesson

Review brief on last week Q. and A. 146-152.

Q. And A. 153. - so what does God require of us? How can we escape what our guilt deserves?

- Faith
- Repentance
- Diligent use of outward means of grace

Leaning upon the Shorter Catechism (SC #86,87) to review faith and repentance , which were covered in LC # 72,76 when we studied justification.

Q. and A. 154 - outward and ordinary means of grace in order to communicate (convey) the benefits of Christ mediation
His ordinances

The Word

Sacraments

Prayer

These topics will take us to the end of the Larger Catechism! So this Q. And A. provides an overview.

What is meant by **ordinances**? What is meant by **means** of grace?

God uses means - like _____, _____, _____

What is meant by outward and ordinary?

"Grace is not a commodity... Not a helpful idea. Grace is having Christ Himself, his person's influences in the roles He takes as our Prophet, our Priest, and Our King". (Pastor Rob. McCurley)

Mat. 28:19-20

Acts 2: 42, 46-47

What should be the emphasis therefore in the life of the church?

Q. and A. 155 - how are these made **effectual**?

The first phrase absolutely crucial: The Spirit of God maketh.....thus the absolute necessity of the Holy Spirit's work to make effectual the THE WORD -reading, and especially the preaching....

So clearly here the public preaching of God's word is elevated.

- enlightening
- Humbling
- Converting (regeneration)
- Conform and transforming - John 17:17/
- Subduing our wills
- Strengthening against temptation
- Means of establishing, growth, edification, change

Neh. 8:8

Ps. 19:8-11

II Tim. 3:15-17

Rom. 10:13-17

Christ comes to us personally and really through His ordained means. So how should we regard these means? What if they are bypassed, ignored , etc.?

Q. and A. 156 - Read first phrase carefully- why saying that?

Meaning of "**vulgar** languages "

Q. And A. 157 - how is Word to be read? Very similar to Q. &A.160

- high and reverent esteem
- Firm persuasion in being the Word of God - with faith

- Only understood by the Spirit
- Desire
- Diligence
- Attention DIG
- Meditation, application, self denial and prayer

So many verses- Ps. 119:9,11,18,97 Ps.1:2

Is. 66:2b

II Peter 1:19-21

Heb. 4:2

Lk. 10:26-28 Christ's searching word exposes the self righteousness of the lawyer

James 1:25 - practice

Q. And A. 158 - who preach? Public preaching in view

- sufficiently gifted
- Duly approved (set apart)
- Called to that office

I Tim. 3:2 ff qualifications

Eph. 4:8 ff Christ gave gifts to the church....

Heb. 5:4 Aaron called by God (so was Moses!)

Mal. 2:7 the priesthood was an office, called by God

Jer. 14:15 lying prophets NOT sent by God, condemned

Could get into much discussion here.

Q. And A. 159- how is word to be preached?

- sound doctrine
- Diligently
- In season and out of season
- Plainly
- Faithfully, honestly, fully (whole counsel)
- Wisely - to capacity of hearers
- Zealously, sincerely
- With fervent love for God and should of people

How can preaching the whole counsel of God be best furthered?

Chief emphasis would then go to what the Bible emphasizes most, rather than hobby horses, avoiding difficult passages, unpopular ones etc. Titus 2:1,7-8

II Tim. 4:2-5

I Tim. 4:11-16

I Cor. 2:4 and 14:19 I Cor. 9:19-23

II Cor. 2:17, 4:2, 5:13-14 and 12:15, 19

Q. And A. 160 - how is the WORD preached to be heard?

The shorter catechism combines question 157 and 160 - How is the Word to be read and heard, that it may become effectual to salvation? (broad use of term)

SC # 90 says - "that the Word may be effectual to salvation , we must attend thereunto with diligence, preparation and prayer; receive it with faith and love, lay it up in our hearts, and practice it in our lives."

Luke 8:18,15

Acts 17:11 - examined

I Thess. 2:13

James 1:25

Looking at externals and internals

Next week: We start on the Sacraments (Q. And A. 161-164), of baptism, (165- 167) as a means of grace. We will see how far we get!!!!