

## Westminster Larger Catechism (WLC) 2020-2021

### Women's Thursday Bible Class #21

Prayer Did you receive the additional **recap of points from #20** lesson? Read over .

**Q#. 82 What is the communion in glory which the members of the invisible church have with Christ?**

A. The communion in glory which the members of the invisible church have with Christ , is **in this life, immediately after death, and at last perfected at the resurrection and day of judgment.**

This is the summary answer of topic more fully explained in Q. 83-90 Just briefly make distinction between **communion in grace** Q. #69-81. And **communion in glory.**

Like three stages or installments- in which we receive glory, not all at once.

**Q. 83 What is the communion in glory with Christ which the members of the invisible church enjoy in this life? ( the beginnings!)**

A. The members of the invisible church have communicated to them in this life the **first-fruits** of glory with Christ , as they are members of Him their Head, and so **in Him** are interested in ( entitled to) that glory which He is now fully possessed of; and

As an **earnest** thereof, enjoy

- the sense of God's love
- Peace of conscience
- Joy in the Holy Ghost, and
- Hope of glory;
- **as on the contrary** , -
- sense of God's revenging wrath, horror of conscience, and a fearful expectation of judgment , are to the wicked the beginning of their torments which they shall endure after death.

II Cor. 3:18, 1:22;

Col. 3:1-4

Eph. 2:5-7

Rom. 5:1-2,5; 14:17

**Foretaste** - like a sample      Similar to **first fruits, earnest**

Why cannot Christians have a full enjoyment of Christ's glory here and now( this changes t death)

Just as with believers, so the wicked in this life experience a foretaste of the miseries of hell-future destiny

Gen. 4:13 ,16 Cain knew judgment and went out from the presence of the Lord, and Mat. 27:4 (sense of condemned conscience)

What remains for those who reject Christ in this life? Heb. 10:27-31 (Need of endurance , Heb. 10:36-39 last lesson)

Jesus' warnings about the seriousness of temptations to sin. He speaks of hell in Mark 9: 42 ff

Does the believer enjoy this foretaste of glory equally at all times?

**Q. 84 shall all men die?**

A. Death being threatened as the wages of sin, it is appointed unto all men once to die; for that all sinned. ( in Adam , Rom. 5:12) Rom. 6:23 Heb. 9:27

Only Enoch and Elijah, and those living when Christ returns - translated to a state of glory without dying.

**Vos- Is death to be regarded as a normal or an abnormal experience of human beings? Will science ever be able to overcome death????**

**Q# 85 Death being the wages of sin, why are not the righteous delivered from death, seeing all their sins are forgiven in Christ? I.e. why do Christians have to die?**

A. The righteous shall be delivered from death itself at the Last Day, and even in death are delivered from the sting and curse of it; so that , although they die, yet it is out of God's love, to free them perfectly from sin and misery, and to make them capable of further communion with Christ in glory, which they then enter upon.

I Cor. 15: 26; 55-57

Rev. 14:12-13

Phil. 1:21-26

When we are **not** given a clear answer to a "problem" from the Bible, what should we do?

Even to a Christian, death is a consequence of sin, that is an effect of sin on the human. But real distinction to the Christian is that benefit comes from his death!

How is communion with Christ in glory more perfect , fuller enjoyment in heavenly glory?3 reasons earlier -

**Q.#86 What is the communion in glory with Christ , which the members of the invisible church enjoy immediately after death?**

A. The communion in glory with Christ, which the members of the invisible church enjoy **immediately after death**, is, in that their souls are then made perfect in holiness, and received into the highest of heavens, where they behold the face of God in light and glory, **waiting for the full redemption of their bodies**, which even in death continue United to Christ, and **rest** in their graves as in **their beds**, till at the Last Day they be again united to their souls. **Whereas**, the souls of the wicked are at their death cast into hell, where they remain in torments and utter darkness, and their bodies kept in their graves, as in **their prisons**, till the resurrection and judgment of the great day.

Heb. 12:23

II Cor. 5:1,6,8 and Phil. 1:23 compared with Acts 3:21 and Eph. 4:10

I John 3:2-3; I Cor. 13:12

Rom. 8:23 (18-26) and Ps. 16:9

So what is the blessed condition of believers in Christ after their death?

I Thess. 4:14,17

Isaiah 57:2

Job 19:26-27

Luke 16:23-24 (19-31) ; Acts 1:25; Jude 6-7 Luke 23:39-43

False ideas: Idea of " soul sleep" rejected - no, soul is conscious and active

Practice of prayers for the dead

Spiritism ( communicating with the dead)

Roman Catholic doctrine of purgatory - no, death fixes destiny.

What is an ancient pagan attitude toward the body after death? And how does that differ from the Christian belief about the body?

So far let us sum up what we can take away:

Physical death implies the separation of the body and the soul.

At death, the soul becomes a disembodied spirit, the condition it remains in during this immediate state. ( simply the time which elapses between death and the resurrection)

The body at death, sees corruption and returns to dust. So the soul returns to God who gave it, the body returns to dust from whence it came.

So death fixes destiny in the case of both the righteous and the wicked.

In the case is of the righteous, .....

In the case of the wicked,.....

Before completeness ( as to capacity for joy or pain) is reached, body and soul must be reunited.

Physical death again is separation of the soul and body, while spiritual death is the separation of the soul from God.

Quote from The Presbyterian Standards by Francis Beattie:

"The souls of the righteous do immediately pass into glory, and are received into the highest heavens. The souls of the wicked are cast into hell, where they remain for the judgment day. The former are in heaven and the latter are in hell in a disembodied state. The resurrection unites these souls and bodies, the judgment publicly announces their destiny respectively, and they re-enter the abodes whence they came for judgment and remain forever therein."( p. 391)

### **Next week:**

Carefully read questions 87-90, concerning **after the resurrection and the Last judgment**. We will then have completed the I section of II of the Larger Catechism!