

In Spirit and Truth Vol.1



*A Daily Liturgy for the Saints of
Vail Valley Baptist Church*

By Pastor Jay Miller

For Angel, David, and Sam

All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching,
for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness, so
that the man of God may be equipped, having been thoroughly
equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16–17

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Use of the Liturgy

The word liturgy comes from the technical term in ancient Greek, leitourgia, which means "work for the people" is a literal translation of the two words "litos ergos" or "public service".

The early Christians adopted the word to describe their principal act of worship. It was their work and service to God, to worship and know Him intimately and with increasing depth. But this worship should not be a thing reserved for the Lord's Day service and then dismissed for the rest of the week.

In Spirit and Truth contains 31 readings that can be repeated monthly in private or family worship. The prayers, songs, and Scripture found within are not to be the end of your time with God but the beginning. Use these writings as launching point for contemplation and communion with our Lord. With each reading take time to reflect on the meaning of the words as well as the object of our worship, our thrice holy, triune God.

Call To Worship

Hear the Lord call you to worship through His word:

Hear the word of God calling you not just to routine reading but worship of our God.

Adoration

Praise the Lord for He is Good:

Declare the glory, awesomeness, and majesty of the Godhead for they alone are worthy with a hymn.

The Words of Life

Hear the Bibles direction for your life:

God calls us to obedience and holiness in these readings from Scripture.

Confession of Sin

Confess your sins to God:

If we confess our sins, He is faithful to forgive them with a new prayer each day.

Assurance of Pardon

Receive this promise of forgiveness from God:

Rest assured in the words of life that the heirs of the Kingdom are indeed forgiven of their sins.

Prayer for Illumination

As you read his word, ask God to enlighten your mind and heart:

The Bible is accessible enough for the newest believer and contains depths to keep a scholar searching for a lifetime. Ask God for wisdom as you navigate his words with these prayers.

Confession of Faith

Receive this instruction from the church's confession of beliefs: see appendix 1.

Read 2-3 paragraphs from our Statement of beliefs as we contemplate our doctrine and faith.

Catechism

Receive this instruction from one of the church's catechisms: see appendix 2.

Catechism are question and answer sets to teach the basics of our religion. If reading Heidelberg complete a Lord's Day reading daily. If Spurgeon read 3-4 question and answers each day.

Scripture Reading

Read a portion of God's word: see appendix 3.

M'Cheyne will lead you the entire Bible in a year, reading the Old Testament once, and the New Testament and Psalms twice. Each Day you will read from the Old and New Testament.

Prayer of Intercession

As you make your requests to God, pray this prayer:

After spending time in the word of God use these prayers as a start to pray for the needs around you, for the "fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

Benediction

Peace be with you:

Close out your time with words of comfort and assurance from the Lord.

*Liturgical
Readings*

Day 1

Call To Worship

Hear the Lord call you to worship through His word:

Praise Yah! For it is good to sing praises to our God; For it is pleasant and praise is becoming. *Psalm 147:1*

Adoration

Praise the Lord for He is Good:

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Crown Him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon His throne;
hark, how the heav'nly anthem drowns
all music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing
of Him who died for thee,
and hail Him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of love;
behold His hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified:
no angel in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends his burning eye
at mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife
for those He came to save.
His glories now we sing,
who died and rose on high,
who died eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.

Crown Him the Lord of heav'n!
One with the Father known,
one with the Spirit through Him giv'n
from yonder glorious throne;
to Thee be endless praise,
for Thou for us hast died;
be Thou, O Lord, through endless days
adored and magnified.

Crown Him the Son of God,
before the worlds began,
and ye who tread where He hath trod,

crown Him the Son of Man.
All hail, Redeemer, hail;
for Thou hast died for me;
Thy praise and glory shall not fail
throughout eternity!
Matthew Bridges

The Words of Life
Hear the Bibles direction for your life:

But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, so that, just as it is written, "Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord." *1 Corinthians 1:30-31*

Confession of Sin
Confess your sins to God:

SELF-KNOWLEDGE

It is a good day to me when thou givest me
 a glimpse of myself;
Sin is my greatest evil,
 but thou art my greatest good;
I have cause to loathe myself,
 and not to seek self-honour,
 for no one desires to commend his own dunghill.
My country, family, church
 fare worse because of my sins,
 for sinners bring judgment in thinking
 sins are small,
 or that God is not angry with them.
Let me not take other good men as my example,
 and think I am good because I am like them,
For all good men are not so good as thou desirest,
 are not always consistent,
 do not always follow holiness,
 do not feel eternal good in sore affliction.
Show me how to know when a thing is evil
 which I think is right and good,
 how to know when what is lawful
 comes from an evil principle,
 such as desire for reputation or wealth by usury.
Give me grace to recall my needs,
 my lack of knowing thy will in Scripture,
 of wisdom to guide others,
 of daily repentance, want of which keeps thee
 at bay,
 of the spirit of prayer, having words
 without love,
 of zeal for thy glory, seeking my own ends,
 of joy in thee and thy will,
 of love to others.

And let me not lay my pipe
too short of the fountain,
never touching the eternal spring,
never drawing down water from above.

Valley of Vision

Assurance of Pardon

Receive this promise of forgiveness from God:

But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" Therefore, you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God. *Galatians 4:4-7*

Prayer for Illumination

As you read his word, ask God to enlighten your mind and heart:

Almighty God, and most merciful Father, we humbly submit ourselves, and fall down before your Majesty, asking you from the bottom of our hearts, that this seed of your Word now sown among us, may take such deep root, that neither the burning heat of persecution cause it to wither, nor the thorny cares of this life choke it. But that, as seed sown in good ground, it may bring forth thirty, sixty, or a hundredfold, as your heavenly wisdom has appointed. Amen. *Middelburg Liturgy*

Confession of Faith

Receive this instruction from the church's confession of beliefs: see appendix 1.

Catechism

Receive this instruction from one of the church's catechisms: see appendix 2.

Scripture Reading

Read a portion of God's word: see appendix 3.

Prayer of Intercession

As you make your requests to God, pray this prayer:

God the Source of All Good

O Lord God, who inhabitest eternity
The heavens declare thy glory,
The earth thy riches,
The universe is thy temple;
Thy presence fills immensity,
Yet thou hast of thy pleasure created life,
and communicated happiness;
Thou hast made me what I am, and given me
what I have;
In thee I live and move and have my being;

Thy providence has set the bounds of my habitation,
and wisely administers all my affairs.
I thank thee for thy riches to me in Jesus,
for the unclouded revelation of him in thy Word,
where I behold his Person, character, grace, glory,
humiliation, sufferings, death, and resurrection;
Give me to feel a need of his continual saviourhood,
and cry with Job, 'I am vile',
with Peter, 'I perish',
with the publican, 'Be merciful to me, a sinner'.
Subdue in me the love of sin,
Let me know the need of renovation as well as
of forgiveness,
in order to serve and enjoy thee for ever.
I come to thee in the all-prevailing name of Jesus,
with nothing of my own to plead,
no works, no worthiness, no promises.
I am often straying,
often knowingly opposing thy authority,
often abusing thy goodness;
Much of my guilt arises from my religious privileges,
my low estimation of them,
my failure to use them to my advantage,
But I am not careless of thy favour or regardless of
thy glory;
Impress me deeply with a sense of thine
omnipresence, that thou art about my path,
my ways, my lying down, my end.
Valley of Vision

Go to God with any other petitions for the Church, the World, or Personal

Benediction

Peace be with you:

Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, our Lord Jesus, equip you in every good thing to do His will, by doing in us what is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Hebrews 13:20-21

Day 2

Call To Worship

Hear the Lord call you to worship through His word:

I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate, that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which He will bring about at the proper time—He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal might! Amen. /

Timothy 6:13–16

Adoration

Praise the Lord for He is Good:

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

Sing praise to God who reigns above,
the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love,
the God of our salvation.

With healing balm my soul is filled
and every faithless murmur stilled:
To God all praise and glory.

The Lord is never far away,
but through all grief distressing,
an ever-present help and stay,
our peace and joy and blessing.
As with a mother's tender hand,
God gently leads the chosen band:
To God all praise and glory.

Thus, all my toilsome way along,
I sing aloud thy praises,
that earth may hear the grateful song
my voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart,
both soul and body bear your part:
To God all praise and glory.

Let all who name Christ's holy name
give God all praise and glory;
let all who own his power proclaim
aloud the wondrous story!
Cast each false idol from its throne,
for Christ is Lord, and Christ alone:
To God all praise and glory.

Johann Schutz

The Words of Life

Hear the Bible's direction for your life:

“Hear, O Israel! Yahweh is our God, Yahweh is one! “You shall love Yahweh your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. “These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. “You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall speak of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. “You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as phylacteries between your eyes. “You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. *Deuteronomy 6:4–9*

Confession of Sin

Confess your sins to God:

SHORTCOMINGS

O LIVING GOD,

I bless thee

that I see the worst of my heart as well as
the best of it,

that I can sorrow for those sins that carry me
from thee,

that it is thy deep and dear mercy to threaten
punishment so that I may return, pray, live.

My sin is to look on my faults and be discouraged,
or to look on my good and be puffed up.

I fall short of thy glory every day by spending
hours unprofitably,

by thinking that the things I do are good,
when they are not done to thy end,
nor spring from the rules of thy Word.

My sin is to fear what never will be;

I forget to submit to thy will, and fail to be
quiet there.

But Scripture teaches me that thy active will
reveals a steadfast purpose on my behalf,
and this quietens my soul,
and makes me love thee.

Keep me always in the understanding
that saints mourn more for sin than other men,
for when they see how great is thy wrath
against sin,
and how Christ's death alone pacifies that wrath,
that makes them mourn the more.

Help me to see that although I am in the wilderness
it is not all briars and barrenness.

I have bread from heaven, streams from the rock,
light by day, fire by night,
thy dwelling place and thy mercy seat.

I am sometimes discouraged by the way,
but though winding and trying it is safe
and short;

Death dismays me, but my great high priest
stands in its waters,
and will open me a passage,
and beyond is a better country.

While I live let my life be exemplary,
When I die may my end be peace.

Valley of Vision

Assurance of Pardon

Receive this promise of forgiveness from God:

If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not do the truth; but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. / *John 1:6–9*

Prayer for Illumination

As you read his word, ask God to enlighten your mind and heart:

Father you have shown us the blessings of those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of Yahweh. Blessed are those who observe Your testimonies and seek you with all their heart. Following your word, let us scorn all unrighteousness and walk in Your ways. You have commanded us, to keep Your precepts diligently out of your great love for us. Lord, we beseech you help us to keep Your scripture! I praise You for Your righteous judgments and will strive all the days of my life to obey Your will. Amen
Psalms 119:1-8

Confession of Faith

Receive this instruction from the church's confession of beliefs: see appendix 1.

Catechism

Receive this instruction from one of the church's catechisms: see appendix 2.

Scripture Reading

Read a portion of God's word: see appendix 3.

Prayer of Intercession

As you make your requests to God, pray this prayer:

Conflict

O Lord God,
Thou art my protecting arm,
fortress, refuge, shield, buckler.
Fight for me and my foes must flee;
Uphold me and I cannot fall;
Strengthen me and I stand unmoved, unmoveable;

Equip me and I shall receive no wound;
Stand by me and Satan will depart;
Anoint my lips with a song of salvation
and I shall shout thy victory;
Give me abhorrence of all evil,
as a vile monster that
defies thy law, casts off thy yoke,
defiles my nature, spreads misery.
Teach me to look to Jesus on his cross
and so to know sin's loathsomeness in thy sight.
There is no pardon but through thy Son's death,
no cleansing but in his precious blood,
no atonement but his to expiate evil.
Show me the shame, the agony, the bruises
of incarnate God,
that I may read boundless guilt in the
boundless price;
May I discern the deadly viper in its real malignity,
tear it with holy indignation from my breast,
resolutely turn from its every snare,
refuse to hold polluting dalliance with it.
Blessed Lord Jesus, at thy cross
may I be taught the awful miseries from which
I am saved,
ponder what the word 'lost' implies,
see the fires of eternal destruction;
Then may I cling more closely to thy broken self,
adhere to thee with firmer faith,
be devoted to thee with total being,
detest sin as strongly as thy love to me
is strong,
And may holiness be the atmosphere
in which I live.

Valley of Vision

Go to God with any other petitions for the Church, the World, or Personal

Benediction

Peace be with you:

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, might, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. *Jude 24–25*

Day 3

Call To Worship

Hear the Lord call you to worship through His word:

For behold, He who forms mountains and creates the wind and declares to man what are His thoughts, He who makes dawn into gloom. And treads on the high places of the earth, Yahweh God of hosts is His name. *Amos 4:13*

Adoration

Praise the Lord for He is Good:

Thee We Adore, Eternal Lord!

Thee we adore, eternal Lord!
We praise Thy Name with one accord,
Thy saints, who here Thy goodness see,
through all the world do worship Thee.

To Thee aloud all angels cry,
the heav'ns and all the pow'rs on high:
Thee, holy, holy, holy King,
Lord God of hosts, they ever sing.

Th'apostles join the glorious throng;
the prophets swell th'immortal song;
the martyrs' noble army raise
eternal anthems to Thy praise.

From day to day, O Lord, do we
highly exalt and honor Thee!
Thy Name we worship and adore,
world without end, for evermore!

Vouchsafe, O Lord, we humbly pray,
to keep us safe from sin this day;
have mercy, Lord, we trust in Thee;
O let us ne'er confounded be!

Thomas Cotterill

The Words of Life

Hear the Bible's direction for your life:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
Blessed are the lowly, for they shall inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say
all kinds of evil against you because of Me. *Matthew 5:3–11*

Confession of Sin

Confess your sins to God:

Sins

MERCIFUL LORD,

Pardon all my sins of this day, week, year,
 all the sins of my life,
sins of early, middle, and advanced years,
 of omission and commission,
 of morose, peevish and angry tempers,
 of lip, life and walk,
 of hard-heartedness, unbelief, presumption,
 pride,
 of unfaithfulness to the souls of men,
 of want of bold decision in the cause of Christ,
 of deficiency in outspoken zeal for his glory,
 of bringing dishonour upon thy great name,
 of deception, injustice, untruthfulness
 in my dealings with others,
 of impurity in thought, word and deed,
 of covetousness, which is idolatry,
 of substance unduly hoarded, improvidently
 squandered,
not consecrated to the glory of thee,
 the great Giver;
sins in private and in the family,
 in study and recreation, in the busy haunts
 of men,
 in the study of thy Word and in the neglect
 of it,
 in prayer irreverently offered and coldly
 withheld,
 in time misspent,
 in yielding to Satan’s wiles,
 in opening my heart to his temptations,
 in being unwatchful when I know him nigh,
 in quenching the Holy Spirit;
sins against light and knowledge,
 against conscience and the restraints
 of thy Spirit,
 against the law of eternal love.

Pardon all my sins, known and unknown,
 felt and unfelt,
 confessed and not confessed,
 remembered or forgotten.

Good Lord, hear; and hearing, forgive.

Valley of Vision

Assurance of Pardon

Receive this promise of forgiveness from God:

He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will receive compassion. How blessed is the man who is always in dread, but he who hardens his heart will fall into calamity.
Proverbs 28:13–14

Prayer for Illumination

As you read his word, ask God to enlighten your mind and heart:

Grant, Almighty God, since the doctrine of your gospel sounds daily in our ears when you invite us so kindly by your amazing clemency and stretch out your hand by your only begotten Son—

Grant, I pray, that we may be of a teachable and flexible disposition, and that we may sincerely submit to you.

And since your law contains so many dreadful examples of your wrath, may we be moved by them, and may we walk with fear and trembling in obedience to your Word, that at length we may enjoy that inheritance you have promised for us in your heavenly kingdom, by the same Christ our Lord. Amen. *John Calvin*

Confession of Faith

Receive this instruction from the church's confession of beliefs: see appendix 1.

Catechism

Receive this instruction from one of the church's catechisms: see appendix 2.

Scripture Reading

Read a portion of God's word: see appendix 3.

Prayer of Intercession

As you make your requests to God, pray this prayer:

God All-Sufficient

O Lord of Grace,
The world is before me this day,
 and I am weak and fearful,
 but I look to thee for strength;
If I venture forth alone I stumble and fall,
 but on the Beloved's arms I am firm
 as the eternal hills;
If left to the treachery of my heart
 I shall shame thy Name,
 but if enlightened, guided, upheld by thy Spirit,
 I shall bring thee glory.
Be thou my arm to support,

my strength to stand,
my light to see,
my feet to run,
my shield to protect,
my sword to repel,
my sun to warm.

To enrich me will not diminish thy fullness;
All thy lovingkindness is in thy Son,
I bring him to thee in the arms of faith,
I urge his saving Name as the One who died for me.
I plead his blood to pay my debts of wrong.
Accept his worthiness for my unworthiness,
his sinlessness for my transgressions,
his purity for my uncleanness,
his sincerity for my guile,
his truth for my deceits,
his meekness for my pride,
his constancy for my backslidings,
his love for my enmity,
his fullness for my emptiness,
his faithfulness for my treachery,
his obedience for my lawlessness,
his glory for my shame,
his devotedness for my waywardness,
his holy life for my unchaste ways,
his righteousness for my dead works,
his death for my life.

Valley of Vision

Go to God with any other petitions for the Church, the World, or Personal

Benediction

Peace be with you:

Yahweh bless you, and keep you; Yahweh make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you; Yahweh lift up His face on you, And give you peace.’
Numbers 6:24–26

Day 4

Call To Worship

Hear the Lord call you to worship through His word:

Oh give thanks to Yahweh, call upon His name; Make known His acts among the peoples. Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; Muse on all His wondrous deeds. Boast in His holy name; Let the heart of those who seek Yahweh be glad. Inquire of Yahweh and His strength; Seek His face continually. *Psalm 105:1-4*

Adoration

Praise the Lord for He is Good:

Round the Lord in Glory Seated

Round the Lord in glory seated,
cherubim and seraphim
filled his temple, and repeated
each to each th'alternate hymn:
"Lord, Thy glory fills the heaven,
earth is with its fullness stored;
unto Thee be glory given,
holy, holy, holy, Lord."

Heav'n is still with glory ringing;
earth takes up the angels' cry,
"Holy, holy, holy," singing,
"Lord of Hosts, the Lord Most High!"
"Lord, Thy glory fills the heaven,
earth is with its fullness stored;
unto Thee be glory given,
holy, holy, holy, Lord."

With His seraph train before Him,
With His holy Church below,
thus conspire we to adore Him,
bid we thus our anthem flow:
"Lord, Thy glory fills the heaven,
earth is with its fullness stored;
unto Thee be glory given,
holy, holy, holy, Lord."

Thus Thy glorious name confessing,
with Thine angel hosts we cry,
"Holy, holy, holy," blessing
Thee, the Lord of Hosts Most High.
"Lord, Thy glory fills the heaven,
earth is with its fullness stored;
unto Thee be glory given,
holy, holy, holy, Lord."

Gerard F Cobb

The Words of Life

Hear the Bible's direction for your life:

“Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love.
“If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. “These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. “This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. *John 15:9–12*

Confession of Sin

Confess your sins to God:

YET I SIN

ETERNAL FATHER,
Thou art good beyond all thought,
 But I am vile, wretched, miserable, blind;
My lips are ready to confess,
 but my heart is slow to feel,
 and my ways reluctant to amend.
I bring my soul to thee;
 break it, wound it, bend it, mould it.
Unmask to me sin’s deformity,
 that I may hate it, abhor it, flee from it.
My faculties have been a weapon of revolt
 against thee;
 as a rebel I have misused my strength,
 and served the foul adversary of thy kingdom.
Give me grace to bewail my insensate folly,
Grant me to know that the way of transgressors
 is hard,
 that evil paths are wretched paths,
 that to depart from thee is to lose all good.
I have seen the purity and beauty of thy perfect law,
 the happiness of those in whose heart it reigns,
 the calm dignity of the walk to which it calls,
 yet I daily violate and contemn its precepts.
Thy loving Spirit strives within me,
 brings me Scripture warnings,
 speaks in startling providences,
 allures by secret whispers,
 yet I choose devices and desires to my own hurt,
 impiously resent, grieve,
 and provoke him to abandon me.

All these sins I mourn, lament, and for them
 cry pardon.
Work in me more profound and abiding repentance;
Give me the fullness of a godly grief
 that trembles and fears,
 yet ever trusts and loves,

which is ever powerful, and ever confident;
Grant that through the tears of repentance
I may see more clearly the brightness
and glories of the saving cross.

Valley of Vision

Assurance of Pardon

Receive this promise of forgiveness from God:

“Yahweh, Yahweh God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression, and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations.”

Exodus 34:6–7

Prayer for Illumination

As you read his word, ask God to enlighten your mind and heart:

Deal bountifully with Your slave, That I may live and keep your word. Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from your law. I am a sojourner in the earth; Do not hide Your commandments from me. My soul is crushed with longing For Your judgments at all times. You rebuke the arrogant, the cursed, who stray from Your commandments. Take away reproach and contempt from me, For I observe your testimonies. Even though princes sit and talk against me, Your slave muses on Your statutes. Your testimonies also are my delight; They are my counselors. *Psalm*

119:17–24 Gimel

Confession of Faith

Receive this instruction from the church's confession of beliefs: see appendix 1.

Catechism

Receive this instruction from one of the church's catechisms: see appendix 2.

Scripture Reading

Read a portion of God's word: see appendix 3.

Prayer of Intercession

As you make your requests to God, pray this prayer:

The Great God

O fountain of all good,
Destroy in me every lofty thought,
Break pride to pieces and scatter it
to the winds,
Annihilate each clinging shred of
self-righteousness,
Implant in me true lowliness of spirit,
Abase me to self-loathing and self-abhorrence,

Open in me a fount of penitential tears,
Break me, then bind me up;
Thus will my heart be a prepared dwelling
for my God;
Then can the Father take up his abode in me,
Then can the blessed Jesus come with healing
in his touch,
Then can the Holy Spirit descend in
sanctifying grace;
O Holy Trinity, three Persons and one God,
inhabit me, a temple consecrated to thy glory.
When thou art present, evil cannot abide;
In thy fellowship is fullness of joy,
Beneath thy smile is peace of conscience,
By thy side no fears disturb,
no apprehensions banish rest of mind,
With thee my heart shall bloom with fragrance;
Make me meet, through repentance,
for thine indwelling.
Nothing exceeds thy power,
Nothing is too great for thee to do,
Nothing too good for thee to give.
Infinite is thy might, boundless thy love,
limitless thy grace, glorious thy saving name.
Let angels sing for
sinners repenting,
prodigals restored,
backsliders reclaimed,
Satan's captives released,
blind eyes opened,
broken hearts bound up,
the despondent cheered,
the self-righteous stripped,
the formalist driven from a refuge of lies,
the ignorant enlightened,
and saints built up in their holy faith.
I ask great things of a great God.

Valley of Vision

Go to God with any other petitions for the Church, the World, or Personal

Benediction

Peace be with you:

“Blessed be Yahweh, who has given rest to His people Israel, according to all that He promised; not one promise has failed of all His good promises, which He promised by the hand of Moses His servant. “May Yahweh our God be with us, as He was with our fathers; may He not forsake us or abandon us, that He may incline our hearts to Himself, to walk in all His ways and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, which He commanded our fathers. *1 Kings 8:56–58*

Day 5

Call To Worship

Hear the Lord call you to worship through His word:

Praise Yahweh, all nations; Laud Him, all peoples! For His lovingkindness prevails over us, And the truth of Yahweh is everlasting. Praise Yah! *Psalm 117:1-2*

Adoration

Praise the Lord for He is Good:

All People That on Earth do Dwell

All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the LORD with cheerful voice;
Him serve with mirth, His praise forth tell;
come ye before Him and rejoice.

Know that the LORD is God indeed;
without our aid He did us make;
we are His flock, He doth us feed,
and for His sheep He doth us take.

O enter then His gates with praise,
approach with joy His courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless His name always,
for it is seemly so to do.

Because the LORD our God is good,
His mercy is forever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood
and shall from age to age endure.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Him, all creatures here below;
praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

William Kethe

The Words of Life

Hear the Bible's direction for your life:

“For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

“Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

“Beware of doing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven.

“Therefore, in all things, whatever you want people to do for you, so do for them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. *Matthew 5:20, 48, 6:7, 7:12*

Confession of Sin

Confess your sins to God:

PASSION

HOLY LORD,
How little repentance there is in the world,
 and how many sins I have to repent of!
I am troubled for my sin of passion,
 for the shame and horror of it as an evil;
I purpose to give way to it no more,
 and come to thee for strength to that end.
Most men give vent to anger frequently
 and are overcome by it,
 bringing many excuses and extenuations for it,
 as that it occurs suddenly,
 that they delight not in it,
 that they are sorry afterwards,
 that godly men commit it.
They thus seek peace after outbursts of passion
 by entire forgetfulness of it,
 or, by skinning over their wound,
 they hope for healing
 without peace in Christ's blood.
Lord God, I know that my sudden anger arises
 when things cross me,
 and I desire to please only myself, not Christ;
There is in all wrongs and crosses a double cross —
 that which crosses me,
 and that which crosses thee;
In all good things there is
 somewhat that pleases me,
 somewhat that pleases thee;
My sin is that my heart is pleased or troubled
 as things please or trouble me,
 without my having a regard to Christ;
Thus, I am like Eli,
 the subject of punishment for not rebuking sin;
 whereas I should humbly confess my sin
 and fly to the blood of Christ for pardon
 and peace.
Give me, then, repentance, true brokenness,
 lasting contrition,
 for these things thou wilt not despise
 in spite of my sin.

Valley of Vision

Assurance of Pardon

Receive this promise of forgiveness from God:

And He commanded us to preach to the people, and solemnly to bear witness that this is the One who has been designated by God as Judge of the living and the dead. Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His

name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins. *Acts 10:42–43*

Prayer for Illumination

As you read his word, ask God to enlighten your mind and heart:

How can your people keep their way pure? By living according to God's word alone. With all our hearts we have sought You; do not let us stray from Your commandments. Father Your word we have treasured in our hearts, that we might not sin against You. Blessed are You, O Yahweh; we humbly ask that you teach Your statutes to your children. We marvel at the works of heaven and rejoice in the way of Your testimonies. They are more valuable than gold or jewels. Help us to meditate upon Your precepts and look upon Your ways. With you as my guide I shall delight in Your statutes; I shall not forget Your word. Amen *Psalm 119:9-16*

Confession of Faith

Receive this instruction from the church's confession of beliefs: see appendix 1.

Catechism

Receive this instruction from one of the church's catechisms: see appendix 2.

Scripture Reading

Read a portion of God's word: see appendix 3.

Prayer of Intercession

As you make your requests to God, pray this prayer:

Weaknesses

O Spirit of God

Help my infirmities;

When I am pressed down with a load
of sorrow,

perplexed and knowing not what to do,

slandered and persecuted,

made to feel the weight of the cross,

help me, I pray thee.

If thou seest in me

any wrong thing encouraged,

any evil desire cherished,

any delight that is not thy delight,

any habit that grieves thee,

any nest of sin in my heart,

then grant me the kiss of thy forgiveness,

and teach my feet to walk the way of

thy commandments.

Deliver me from carking care,

and make me a happy, holy person;

Help me to walk the separated life with

firm and brave step,

and to wrestle successfully against weakness;
Teach me to laud, adore, and magnify thee,
with the music of heaven,
And make me a perfume of praiseful gratitude
to thee.

I do not crouch at thy feet as a slave before a tyrant,
but exult before thee as a son with a father.
Give me power to live as thy child in all my actions,
and to exercise sonship by conquering self.
Preserve me from the intoxication that comes
of prosperity;
Sober me when I am glad with a joy that comes
not from thee.

Lead me safely on to the eternal kingdom,
not asking whether the road be rough or smooth.
I request only to see the face of him I love,
to be content with bread to eat,
with raiment to put on,
if I can be brought to thy house in peace.

Valley Vision

Go to God with any other petitions for the Church, the World, or Personal

Benediction

Peace be with you:

Blessed be Yahweh God, the God of Israel, Who alone works wondrous
deeds. And blessed be His glorious name forever; And may the whole earth
be filled with His glory. Amen, and Amen. *Psalm 72:18-19*

Day 6

Call To Worship

Hear the Lord call you to worship through His word:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, *Ephesians 1:3*

Adoration

Praise the Lord for He is Good:

Amid The Thronging Worshipers

Amid the thronging worshipers
Jehovah will I bless;
before my brethren, gathered here
His Name will I confess.
Come, praise Him, ye that fear the LORD,
ye children of His grace;
with rev'ence sound His glories forth
And bow before His face.

The burden of the sorrowful
The LORD will not despise;
He has not turned from those that mourn,
He hearkens to their cries.
His goodness makes me join the throng
where saints His praise proclaim,
and there will I fulfill my vows
'mid those who fear His Name.

He feeds with good the humble soul
and satisfies the meek,
and they shall live and praise the LORD
who for His mercy seek.
The ends of all the earth take thought,
the nations seek the LORD;
they worship Him, the King of kings,
in earth and heav'n adored.

Author Unknown

The Words of Life

Hear the Bible's direction for your life:

Then God spoke all these words, saying,
“I am Yahweh your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.
“You shall have no other gods before Me.
“You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth.

“You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, Yahweh your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

“You shall not take the name of Yahweh your God in vain, for Yahweh will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.

“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

“Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath of Yahweh your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female slave or your cattle or your sojourner who is within your gates.

“For in six days Yahweh made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore Yahweh blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.

Exodus 20:1–11

Confession of Sin

Confess your sins to God:

THE DARK GUEST

O LORD,

Bend my hands and cut them off,

for I have often struck thee with

a wayward will,

when these fingers should embrace thee by faith.

I am not yet weaned from all created glory,

honour, wisdom, and esteem of others,

for I have a secret motive to eye my name

in all I do.

Let me not only speak the word sin, but see
the thing itself.

Give me to view a discovered sinfulness,
to know that though my sins are crucified
they are never wholly mortified.

Hatred, malice, ill-will,

vain-glory that hungers for and hunts after
man’s approval and applause,

all are crucified, forgiven,

but they rise again in my sinful heart.

O my crucified but never wholly mortified
sinfulness!

O my life-long damage and daily shame!

O my indwelling and besetting sins!

O the tormenting slavery of a sinful heart!

Destroy, O God, the dark guest within
whose hidden presence makes my life a hell.

Yet thou hast not left me here without grace;

The cross still stands and meets my needs
in the deepest straits of the soul.

I thank thee that my remembrance of it
is like David’s sight of Goliath’s sword

which preached forth thy deliverance.
The memory of my great sins, my many
temptations, my falls,
bring afresh into my mind the remembrance
of thy great help, of thy support from heaven,
of the great grace that saved such a wretch
as I am.
There is no treasure so wonderful
as that continuous experience of thy grace
toward me which alone can subdue
the risings of sin within:
Give me more of it.
Valley of Vision

Assurance of Pardon

Receive this promise of forgiveness from God:

but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies are put as a footstool for his feet. For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. *Hebrews 10:12–14*

Prayer for Illumination

As you read his word, ask God to enlighten your mind and heart:

O Lord, you who are merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, descend to us and be with us today that we may bow and worship you. Open blind eyes and hard hearts that we might perceive your wisdom. Amen.

Confession of Faith

Receive this instruction from the church's confession of beliefs: see appendix 1.

Catechism

Receive this instruction from one of the church's catechisms: see appendix 2.

Scripture Reading

Read a portion of God's word: see appendix 3.

Prayer of Intercession

As you make your requests to God, pray this prayer:

The Mover

O Supreme moving cause,
May I always be subordinate to thee,
be dependent upon thee,
be found in the path where thou dost walk,
and where thy Spirit moves,
take heed of estrangement from thee,
of becoming insensible to thy love.

Thou dost not move men like stones,
but dost endue them with life,
not to enable them to move without thee,
but in submission to thee, the first mover.
O Lord, I am astonished at the difference
between my receivings and my deservings,
between the state I am now in and my past
gracelessness,
between the heaven I am bound for and
the hell I merit.
Who made me to differ, but thee?
for I was no more ready to receive Christ
than were others;
I could not have begun to love thee hadst thou not
first loved me,
or been willing unless thou hadst first made me so.
O that such a crown should fit the head of such
a sinner!
such high advancement be for an unfruitful
person!
such joys for so vile a rebel!
Infinite wisdom cast the design of salvation
into the mould of purchase and freedom;
Let wrath deserved be written on the door of hell,
But the free gift of grace on the gate of heaven.
I know that my sufferings are the result of my
sinning,
but in heaven both shall cease;
Grant me to attain this haven and be done
with sailing,
and may the gales of thy mercy blow me safely
into harbour.
Let thy love draw me nearer to thyself,
wean me from sin, mortify me to this world,
and make me ready for my departure hence.
Secure me by thy grace as I sail across this
stormy sea.

Valley of Vision

Go to God with any other petitions for the Church, the World, or Personal

Benediction

Peace be with you:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship
of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. *2 Corinthians 13:14*

Day 7

Call To Worship

Hear the Lord call you to worship through His word:

In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, with the train of His robe filling the temple. Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is Yahweh of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory." *Isaiah 6:1-3*

Adoration

Praise the Lord for He is Good:

O LORD, Our Lord, in All the Earth

O LORD, our Lord, in all the earth,
how excellent Thy name!
Thy glory Thou hast spread afar
in all the starry frame.

From lips of children, Thou, O LORD
hast mighty strength ordained,
that adversaries should be stilled
and vengeful foes restrained.

When I regard the wondrous heav'ns,
Thy handiwork on high,
the moon and stars ordained by Thee,

"O what is man?" I cry.
O what is man, in Thy regard
to hold so large a place,
and what the son of man, that Thou
dost visit him in grace.

On man Thy wisdom hath bestowed
a pow'r well-nigh divine;
with honor Thou hast crowned his head
with glory like to Thine.

Thou hast subjected all to him,
and lord of all is he,
of flocks and herds, and beasts and birds,
and all within the sea.

Thy mighty works and wondrous grace
Thy glory, LORD, proclaim,
O LORD, our Lord, in all the earth,
How excellent Thy Name.

Joseph P. Holbrook

The Words of Life

Hear the Bible's direction for your life:

“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which Yahweh your God gives you.

“You shall not murder.

“You shall not commit adultery.

“You shall not steal.

“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

“You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife or his male slave or his female slave or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor.” *Exodus 20:12-17*

Confession of Sin

Confess your sins to God:

PENITENCE

O LORD OF GRACE,

I have been hasty and short in private prayer,

O quicken my conscience to feel this folly,
to bewail this ingratitude;

My first sin of the day leads into others,
and it is just that thou shouldst withdraw
thy presence

from one who waited carelessly on thee.

Keep me at all times from robbing thee,
and from depriving my soul of thy due worship;

Let me never forget

that I have an eternal duty to love, honour
and obey thee,

that thou art infinitely worthy of such;

that if I fail to glorify thee

I am guilty of infinite evil that merits infinite
punishment,

for sin is the violation of an infinite obligation.

O forgive me if I have dishonoured thee,

Melt my heart, heal my backslidings,
and open an intercourse of love.

When the fire of thy compassion warms my
inward man,

and the outpourings of thy Spirit fill my soul,
then I feelingly wonder at my own depravity,
and deeply abhor myself;

then thy grace is a powerful incentive
to repentance,

and an irresistible motive to inward holiness.

May I never forget that thou hast my heart
in thy hands.

Apply to it the merits of Christ's atoning blood
whenever I sin.

Let thy mercies draw me to thyself.
Wean me from all evil, mortify me to the world,
and make me ready for my departure hence
animated by the humiliations of penitential love.
My soul is often a chariot without wheels,
clogged and hindered in sin's miry clay;
Mount it on eagle's wings
and cause it to soar upward to thyself.
Valley of Vision

Assurance of Pardon

Receive this promise of forgiveness from God:

Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. Who rescued us from the authority of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. *Colossians 1:12–14*

Prayer for Illumination

As you read his word, ask God to enlighten your mind and heart:

Deal generously with Your redeemed, so that we may live and keep Your word. Open our eyes, that we may behold the wonderful things of Your Scripture. As we spend our days upon earth; guide us to your commandment. Lead our souls to thirsts for Your word as those in the desert. Guide us so we might avoid the reproach the proud, the cursed, the foolish who stray from Your commandments. Even though the world and its rulers may scorn us, Your redeemed live within Your statutes. Your scripture is my joy, my counselor, guide, and friend. Amen *Psalm 119:17-24*

Confession of Faith

Receive this instruction from the church's confession of beliefs: see appendix 1.

Catechism

Receive this instruction from one of the church's catechisms: see appendix 2.

Scripture Reading

Read a portion of God's word: see appendix 3.

Prayer of Intercession

As you make your requests to God, pray this prayer:

Choices

O God,
Though I am allowed to approach thee
I am not unmindful of my sins,
I do not deny my guilt,
I confess my wickedness, and earnestly
plead forgiveness.

May I with Moses choose affliction rather than
enjoy the pleasures of sin.
Help me to place myself always under thy guiding
and guardian care,
to take firmer hold of the sure covenant that
binds me to thee,
to feel more of the purifying, dignifying,
softening influence of the religion I profess,
to have more compassion, love, pity, courtesy,
to deem it an honour to be employed by thee
as an instrument in thy hands,
ready to seize every opportunity of usefulness,
and willing to offer all my talents to thy service.
Thou hast done for me all things well,
hast remembered, distinguished, indulged me.
All my desires have not been gratified,
but thy love denied them to me
when fulfilment of my wishes would have
proved my ruin or injury.
My trials have been fewer than my sins,
and when I have kissed the rod it has fallen
from thy hands.
Thou hast often wiped away my tears,
restored peace to my mourning heart,
chastened me for my profit.
All thy work for me is perfect,
and I praise thee.
Valley of Vision

Go to God with any other petitions for the Church, the World, or Personal

Benediction

Peace be with you:

Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I
give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful. *John*
14:27

Day 8

Call To Worship

Hear the Lord call you to worship through His word:

And you being dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive with Him, having graciously forgiven us all our transgressions. Having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us which was hostile to us, He also has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them in Him. *Colossians 2:13–15*

Adoration

Praise the Lord for He is Good:

Stand Up, and Bless the Lord

Stand up, and bless the Lord,
ye people of His choice;
stand up, and bless the Lord your God
with heart, and soul, and voice.

Tho' high above all praise,
above all blessing high,
who would not fear His holy Name,
and laud and magnify?

O for the living flame,
from His own altar brought,
to touch our lips, our minds inspire,
and wing to heav'n our thought!

There, with benign regard,
our hymns He deigns to hear;
though unrevealed to mortal sense,
the spirit feels Him near.

God is our strength and song,
and His salvation ours;
then be His love in Christ proclaimed
with all our ransomed pow'rs.

Stand up and bless the Lord,
the Lord your God adore;
stand up, and bless His glorious Name
henceforth for evermore.

James Montgomery

The Words of Life

Hear the Bible's direction for your life:

You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore, whoever wishes to be a friend of the world sets himself as an enemy of God. Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: “He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us”? But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, “God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble” Be subject therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. *James 4:4–7*

Confession of Sin

Confess your sins to God:

Paradoxes

O CHANGELESS GOD,

Under the conviction of thy Spirit I learn that

the more I do, the worse I am,

the more I know, the less I know,

the more holiness I have, the more sinful I am,

the more I love, the more there is to love.

O wretched man that I am!

O Lord,

I have a wild heart,

and cannot stand before thee;

I am like a bird before a man.

How little I love thy truth and ways!

I neglect prayer,

by thinking I have prayed enough and earnestly,

by knowing thou hast saved my soul.

Of all hypocrites, grant that I may not be

an evangelical hypocrite,

who sins more safely because grace abounds,

who tells his lusts that Christ’s blood

cleanseth them,

who reasons that God cannot cast him into hell,

for he is saved,

who loves evangelical preaching, churches,

Christians, but lives unholily.

My mind is a bucket without a bottom,

with no spiritual understanding,

no desire for the Lord’s Day,

ever learning but never reaching the truth,

always at the gospel-well but never holding water.

My conscience is without conviction or contrition,

with nothing to repent of.

My will is without power of decision or resolution.

My heart is without affection, and full of leaks.

My memory has no retention,

so I forget easily the lessons learned,

and thy truths seep away.

Give me a broken heart that yet carries home

the water of grace.

Valley of Vision

Assurance of Pardon

Receive this promise of forgiveness from God:

But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you have your benefit, leading to sanctification, and the end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gracious gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Romans 6:22–23*

Prayer for Illumination

As you read his word, ask God to enlighten your mind and heart:

Grant, Almighty God,
that since You are pleased kindly to invite us to Thyself and have consecrated Your Word for our salvation— O grant that we may willingly, and from the heart, obey Thee and become so teachable that what You have designed for our salvation may not turn to our perdition.

But may that incorruptible seed by which you regenerate us into a hope of the celestial life so drive its roots into our hearts and bring forth fruit that Your name may be glorified. And may we be so planted in the courts of Your house that we may grow and flourish, and that fruit may appear through the whole course of our life, until we shall at length enjoy that blessed life that is laid up for us in heaven, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

John Calvin

Confession of Faith

Receive this instruction from the church's confession of beliefs: see appendix 1.

Catechism

Receive this instruction from one of the church's catechisms: see appendix 2.

Scripture Reading

Read a portion of God's word: see appendix 3.

Prayer of Intercession

As you make your requests to God, pray this prayer:

Divine Mercies

Thou eternal God,
Thine is surpassing greatness, unspeakable
goodness, super-abundant grace;
I can as soon count the sands of ocean's 'lip'
as number thy favours towards me;
I know but a part, but that part exceeds all praise.
I thank thee for personal mercies,
a measure of health, preservation of body,
comforts of house and home, sufficiency of food
and clothing,
continuance of mental powers,

my family, their mutual help and support,
the delights of domestic harmony and peace,
the seats now filled that might have been vacant,
my country, church, Bible, faith.
But, O, how I mourn my sin, ingratitude, vileness,
the days that add to my guilt,
the scenes that witness my offending tongue;
All things in heaven, earth, around, within, without,
condemn me —
the sun which sees my misdeeds,
the darkness which is light to thee,
the cruel accuser who justly charges me,
the good angels who have been provoked to leave
me,
thy countenance which scans my secret sins,
thy righteous law, thy holy Word,
my sin-soiled conscience, my private and
public life,
my neighbours, myself —
all write dark things against me.
I deny them not, frame no excuse, but confess,
'Father, I have sinned';
Yet still I live, and fly repenting to thy outstretched
arms;
thou wilt not cast me off, for Jesus brings me near,
thou wilt not condemn me, for he died in
my stead,
thou wilt not mark my mountains of sin,
for he levelled all,
and his beauty covers my deformities.
O my God, I bid farewell to sin by clinging
to his cross,
hiding in his wounds, and sheltering in his side.

Valley of Vision

Go to God with any other petitions for the Church, the World, or Personal

Benediction

Peace be with you:

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so
that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. *Romans 15:13*

Day 9

Call To Worship

Hear the Lord call you to worship through His word:

Who is a God like You, who forgives iniquity And passes over the transgression of the remnant of His inheritance? He does not hold fast to His anger forever Because He delights in lovingkindness. He will again have compassion on us; He will subdue our iniquities. And You will cast all their sins Into the depths of the sea. You will give truth to Jacob And lovingkindness to Abraham, Which You swore to our fathers From the days of old. *Micah 7:18–20*

Adoration

Praise the Lord for He is Good:

O Worship the King

O worship the King, all glorious above,
and gratefully sing His pow'r and His love;
our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.

O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
and dark is His path on the wings of the storm.

The earth with its store of wonders untold,
almighty, Thy pow'r hath founded of old;
established it fast by a changeless decree,
and round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.

Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
in Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail;
Thy mercies how tender! how firm to the end!
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.

Robert Grant

The Words of Life

Hear the Bibles direction for your life:

Therefore, laying aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord. And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, you also, as living

stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. *1 Peter 2:1–5*

Confession of Sin

Confess your sins to God:

Man, A Nothing

O LORD,

I am a shell full of dust,
but animated with an invisible rational soul
and made anew by an unseen power of grace;

Yet I am no rare object of valuable price,
but one that has nothing and is nothing,
although chosen of thee from eternity,
given to Christ, and born again;

I am deeply convinced
of the evil and misery of a sinful state,
of the vanity of creatures,
but also of the sufficiency of Christ.

When thou wouldst guide me I control myself,
When thou wouldst be sovereign I rule myself.
When thou wouldst take care of me I suffice myself.
When I should depend on thy providings I supply
myself,

When I should submit to thy providence I follow
my will,

When I should study, love, honour, trust thee,
I serve myself;

I fault and correct thy laws to suit myself,
Instead of thee I look to a man's approbation,
and am by nature an idolater.

Lord, it is my chief design to bring my heart back
to thee.

Convince me that I cannot be my own God,
or make myself happy,
nor my own Christ to restore my joy,
nor my own Spirit to teach, guide, rule me.

Help me to see that grace does this by providential
affliction,
for when my credit is good thou dost cast me
lower,
when riches are my idol thou dost wing them
away,
when pleasure is my all thou dost turn it into
bitterness.

Take away my roving eye, curious ear, greedy
appetite, lustful heart;
show me that none of these things
can heal a wounded conscience,
or support a tottering frame,
or uphold a departing spirit.
then take me to the cross

and leave me there.
Valley of Vision

Assurance of Pardon

Receive this promise of forgiveness from God:

Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, *Romans 8:1-3*

Prayer for Illumination

As you read his word, ask God to enlighten your mind and heart:

We find ourselves empty; revive us according to Your word. We have sought your wisdom in prayer, and You have answered and taught us Your will. Open our hearts that we may understand the way of Your instructions and think on Your wondrous deeds. My soul weeps because of my sin; help us find repentance according to Your teachings. Remove every deceitful and false way from us and replace it with Your law. In you we have found the faithful way; Your judgments ever guide us. Let me cling to Your testimonies; O Yahweh, that I might never be put to shame! I shall run the way of Your commandments, for You will enlarge my heart. Amen *Psalms 119:25-32*

Confession of Faith

Receive this instruction from the church's confession of beliefs: see appendix 1.

Catechism

Receive this instruction from one of the church's catechisms: see appendix 2.

Scripture Reading

Read a portion of God's word: see appendix 3.

Prayer of Intercession

As you make your requests to God, pray this prayer:

Faith and the World

O Lord,
The world is artful to entrap,
 approaches in fascinating guise,
 extends many a gilded bait,
 presents many a charming face.
Let my faith scan every painted bauble,
 and escape every bewitching snare
 in a victory that overcomes all things.
In my duties give me firmness, energy, zeal,
 devotion to thy cause,
 courage in thy name,

love as a working grace,
and all commensurate with my trust.
Let faith stride forth in giant power,
and love respond with energy in every act.
I often mourn the absence of my beloved Lord
whose smile makes earth a paradise,
whose voice is sweetest music,
whose presence gives all graces strength.
But by unbelief I often keep him outside my door.
Let faith give entrance that he may abide
with me for ever.

Thy Word is full of promises,
flowers of sweet fragrance,
fruit of refreshing flavour
when culled by faith.
May I be made rich in its riches,
be strong in its power,
be happy in its joy,
abide in its sweetness,
feast on its preciousness,
draw vigour from its manna.
Lord, increase my faith.
Valley of Vision

Go to God with any other petitions for the Church, the World, or Personal

Benediction

Peace be with you:

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to keep all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." *Matthew 28:18–20*

Day 10

Call To Worship

Hear the Lord call you to worship through His word:

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became his counselor? Or who has first given to him that it might be repaid to him? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen. *Romans 11:33–36*

Adoration

Praise the Lord for He is Good:

All Creatures of Our God and King

All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
thou silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise Him, O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
ye clouds that sail in heav'n along,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
ye lights of ev'ning, find a voice!
O praise Him, O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

And all ye men of tender heart,
forgiving others, take your part,
O sing ye! Alleluia!
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
praise God and on Him cast your care!
O praise Him, O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless
and worship Him in humbleness,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One!
O praise Him, O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Francis of Assisi

The Words of Life

Hear the Bibles direction for your life:

And He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” “This is the great and foremost commandment. “And the second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ “On these two commandments hang the whole Law and the Prophets.” *Matthew 22:37–40*

Confession of Sin

Confess your sins to God:

Heart Corruptions

O GOD,

May thy Spirit speak in me that I may
speak to thee.

I have no merit, let the merit of Jesus stand for me.

I am undeserving, but I look to thy tender mercy.

I am full of infirmities, wants, sin;

thou art full of grace.

I confess my sin, my frequent sin, my wilful sin;

All my powers of body and soul are defiled:

A fountain of pollution is deep within my nature.

There are chambers of foul images within my being;

I have gone from one odious room to another,

walked in a no-man’s-land of dangerous

imaginations,

pried into the secrets of my fallen nature.

I am utterly ashamed that I am what I am in myself;

I have no green shoot in me nor fruit, but thorns

and thistles;

I am a fading leaf that the wind drives away;

I live bare and barren as a winter tree,

unprofitable, fit to be hewn down and burnt.

Lord, dost thou have mercy on me?

Thou hast struck a heavy blow at my pride,

at the false god of self,

and I lie in pieces before thee.

But thou hast given me another Master and Lord,

thy Son, Jesus,

and now my heart is turned towards holiness,

my life speeds as an arrow from a bow

towards complete obedience to thee.

Help me in all my doings to put down sin

and to humble pride.

Save me from the love of the world and the pride

of life,

from everything that is natural to fallen man,

and let Christ’s nature be seen in me day by day.

Grant me grace to bear thy will without repining,

and delight to be

not only chiselled, squared, or fashioned,

but separated from the old rock where I have

been embedded so long,

and lifted from the quarry to the upper air,
where I may be built in Christ for ever.

Valley of Vision

Assurance of Pardon

Receive this promise of forgiveness from God:

“Yet even now,” declares Yahweh, “Return to Me with all your heart And with fasting, weeping, and wailing; And tear your heart and not your garments.” Now return to Yahweh your God, For He is gracious and compassionate, Slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness, And relenting concerning evil. *Joel 2:12–13*

Prayer for Illumination

As you read his word, ask God to enlighten your mind and heart:

O heavenly Father, whose law is perfect, converting the soul; a sure testimony, giving wisdom to the unlearned, and enlightening the eyes—we humbly implore you, through your boundless goodness, to enlighten our blind intellect by your Holy Spirit, so that we may truly understand and profess your law and live according to it. Since it has pleased you, most merciful Father, to reveal the mysteries of your will only to the little ones; and since you look to him alone who is of a humble and contrite spirit, who has reverence for your Word, grant us a humble spirit and keep us from all fleshly wisdom, which is enmity against you. Bring to the right way those who stray from the truth, so that we all may unanimously serve you in holiness and righteousness, all the days of our life. We ask this from you, most merciful Father, in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen. *Micronius*

Confession of Faith

Receive this instruction from the church’s confession of beliefs: see appendix 1.

Catechism

Receive this instruction from one of the church’s catechisms: see appendix 2.

Scripture Reading

Read a portion of God’s word: see appendix 3.

Prayer of Intercession

As you make your requests to God, pray this prayer:

Man’s Great End

Lord of all being,
There is one thing that deserves my greatest care,
that calls forth my ardent desires,
That is, that I may answer the great end for which
I am made —
to glorify thee who hast given me being,
and to do all the good I can for my fellow men;

Verily, life is not worth having
if it be not improved for this noble purpose.
Yet, Lord, how little is this the thought of mankind!
Most men seem to live for themselves,
without much or any regard for thy glory,
or for the good of others;
They earnestly desire and eagerly pursue
the riches, honours, pleasures of this life,
as if they supposed that wealth, greatness,
merriment,
could make their immortal souls happy;
But, alas, what false delusive dreams are these!
And how miserable ere long will those be that
sleep in them,
for all our happiness consists in loving thee,
and being holy as thou art holy.

O may I never fall into the tempers and vanities,
the sensuality and folly of the present world!
It is a place of inexpressible sorrow, a vast empty
nothingness;
Time is a moment, a vapour,
and all its enjoyments are empty bubbles,
fleeting blasts of wind,
from which nothing satisfactory can be derived;
Give me grace always to keep in covenant with thee,
and to reject as delusion a great name here
or hereafter,
together with all sinful pleasures or profits.
Help me to know continually
that there can be no true happiness,
no fulfilling of thy purpose for me,
apart from a life lived in and for
the Son of thy love.

Valley of Vision

Go to God with any other petitions for the Church, the World, or Personal

Benediction

Peace be with you:

that He would give you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being firmly rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God. *Ephesians 3:16–19*

Day 11

Call To Worship

Hear the Lord call you to worship through His word:

Behold, bless Yahweh, all you slaves of Yahweh, Who stand in the house of Yahweh by night! Lift up your hands to the sanctuary And bless Yahweh. May Yahweh bless you from Zion, Who made heaven and earth. *Psalm 134:1–3*

Adoration

Praise the Lord for He is Good:

O Lord of Heaven and Earth and Sea

O Lord of heav'n and earth and sea,
to Thee all praise and glory be;
how shall we show our love to Thee,
who givest all?

The golden sunshine, vernal air,
sweet flow'rs and fruits Thy love declare,
when harvests ripen, Thou art there,
who givest all.

For peaceful homes and healthful days,
for all the blessings earth displays,
we owe Thee thankfulness and praise,
who givest all.

Thou didst not spare Thine only Son,
but gav'st Him for a world undone,
and freely with that blessed One,
Thou givest all.

Thou giv'st the Holy Spirit's dow'r,
Spirit of life and love and pow'r,
and dost His sev'nfold graces show'r
upon us all.

For souls redeemed, for sins forgiv'n,
for means of grace and hopes of heav'n,
Father, what can to Thee be giv'n,
who givest all?

Christopher Wordsworth

The Words of Life

Hear the Bible's direction for your life:

Let love be without hypocrisy—by abhorring what is evil, clinging to what is good, being devoted to one another in brotherly love, giving preference to one another in honor, not lagging behind in diligence, being fervent in spirit,

serving the Lord, rejoicing in hope, persevering in affliction, being devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, pursuing hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless, and do not curse.

Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep, by being of the same mind toward one another, not being haughty in mind, but associating with the humble. Do not be wise in your own mind.

Never paying back evil for evil to anyone, respecting what is good in the sight of all men, if possible, so far as it depends on you, being at peace with all men,

never taking your own revenge, beloved—instead leave room for the wrath of God. For it is written, “VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY,” says the Lord. *Romans 12:9–19*

Confession of Sin

Confess your sins to God:

A Cry for Deliverance

Heavenly Father,

Save me entirely from sin.

I know I am righteous through the
righteousness of another,

but I pant and pine for likeness to thyself;

I am thy child and should bear thy image,

Enable me to recognize my death unto sin;

When it tempts me may I be deaf unto its voice.

Deliver me from the invasion as well as
the dominion of sin.

Grant me to walk as Christ walked,

to live in the newness of his life,

the life of love, the life of faith,

the life of holiness.

I abhor my body of death,

its indolence, envy, meanness, pride.

Forgive, and kill these vices,

have mercy on my unbelief,

on my corrupt and wandering heart.

When thy blessings come I begin to idolize them,

and set my affection on some beloved object —

children, friends, wealth, honour;

Cleanse this spiritual adultery and give me chastity;

close my heart to all but thee.

Sin is my greatest curse;

Let thy victory be apparent to my consciousness,

and displayed in my life.

Help me to be always devoted, confident, obedient,

resigned, childlike in my trust of thee,

to love thee with soul, body, mind, strength,

to love my fellow-man as I love myself,

to be saved from unregenerate temper,

hard thoughts, slanderous words, meanness,

unkind manners,

to master my tongue and keep the door

of my lips.
Fill me with grace daily,
that my life be a fountain
of sweet water.
Valley of Vision

Assurance of Pardon

Receive this promise of forgiveness from God:

but He whom God raised did not see corruption.
“Therefore let it be known to you, brothers, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and that in Him, everyone who believes is justified from all things which you could not be justified from through the Law of Moses. *Acts 13:37–39*

Prayer for Illumination

As you read his word, ask God to enlighten your mind and heart:

Teach us, O Yahweh, the way of Your statutes, that we may observe them all the days of our lives. Give us understanding, that we may observe the scriptures and keep them with all our hearts. Lead us to walk in the narrow way of Your commandments and find delight in them. Awaken our sleeping hearts to embrace to Your testimonies and not to dishonest gain. my eyes to turn away from looking at worthlessness and revive me in Your ways. Plant Your word into the very souls of Your redeemed. May it grow a righteous yield for Your glory. Remove my deserved and well earns reproach and replace it with Your judgments, for they are good. Oh, my Lord and God, I long for Your precepts; refine me in Your righteousness. Amen *Psalm 119:33-40*

Confession of Faith

Receive this instruction from the church's confession of beliefs: see appendix 1.

Catechism

Receive this instruction from one of the church's catechisms: see appendix 2.

Scripture Reading

Read a portion of God's word: see appendix 3.

Prayer of Intercession

As you make your requests to God, pray this prayer:

Christ is All

O lover to the uttermost,
May I read the meltings of thy heart to me
in the manger of thy birth
in the garden of thy agony,
in the cross of thy suffering,
in the tomb of thy resurrection,
in the heaven of thy intercession.

Bold in this thought I defy my adversary,
tread down his temptations,
resist his schemings,
renounce the world,
am valiant for truth.

Deepen in me a sense of my holy relationship
to thee,
as spiritual Bridegroom,
as Jehovah's Fellow
as sinners' Friend.

I think of thy glory and my vileness,
thy majesty and my meanness,
thy beauty and my deformity,
thy purity and my filth,
thy righteousness and my iniquity.

Thou hast loved me everlastingly, unchangeably,
may I love thee as I am loved;

Thou hast given thyself for me,
may I give myself to thee;

Thou hast died for me,
may I live to thee,
in every moment of my time,
in every movement of my mind,
in every pulse of my heart.

May I never dally with the world
and its allurements,
but walk by thy side,
listen to thy voice,
be clothed with thy graces,
and adorned with thy righteousness.

Valley of Vision

Go to God with any other petitions for the Church, the World, or Personal

Benediction

Peace be with you:

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely, and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He who calls you, who also will do it. *1 Thessalonians 5:23–24*

Day 12

Call To Worship

Hear the Lord call you to worship through His word:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and unfading, having been kept in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. *1 Peter 1:3-5*

Adoration

Praise the Lord for He is Good:

How Marvelous God's Greatness

How marvelous God's greatness!
How glorious His might!
To this the world bears witness
in wonders day and night -
in form of flow'r and snowflake,
in morn's resplendent birth,
in afterglow at even,
in sky and sea and earth.

Each tiny flow'ret whispers
the great Life-giver's Name;
the mighty mountain masses
His majesty proclaim;
the hollow vales are hymning
God's shelter for His own;
the snowcapped peaks are pointing
to God's almighty throne.

The ocean's vast abysses
in one grand psalm record
the deep mysterious counsels
and mercies of the Lord;
the icy waves of winter
are thund'ring on the strand;
and grief's chill stream is guided
by God's all gracious hand.

The starry hosts are singing
thro' all the light strewn sky
of God's eternal temple
and palace courts on high;
when in these outer chambers
such glory gilds the night,
O, what transcendent brightness
is God's eternal light!

Valdimar Briem

The Words of Life

Hear the Bible's direction for your life:

But you did not learn Christ in this way— if indeed you heard Him and were taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus— to lay aside, in reference to your former conduct, the old man, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and to be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and to put on the new man, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE of you WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another. BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity.

He who steals must steal no longer, but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need. Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for building up what is needed, so that it will give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and anger and wrath and shouting and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Instead, be kind to one another, tender-hearted, graciously forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has graciously forgiven you.
Ephesians 4:20–32

Confession of Sin

Confess your sins to God:

Self-Depreciation

O Lord,
My every sense, member, faculty, affection,
 is a snare to me,
I can scarce open my eyes but I envy those
 above me,
 or despise those below.
I covet honour and riches of the mighty,
 and am proud and unmerciful to the rags
 of others;
If I behold beauty it is a bait to lust,
 or see deformity, it stirs up loathing and disdain;
How soon do slanders, vain jests, and wanton
 speeches creep into my heart!
Am I comely? what fuel for pride!
Am I deformed? what an occasion for repining!
Am I gifted? I lust after applause!
Am I unlearned? how I despise what I have not!
Am I in authority? how prone to abuse my trust,
 make will my law, exclude others' enjoyments,
 serve my own interests and policy!
Am I inferior? how much I grudge others'
 pre-eminence!
Am I rich? how exalted I become!

Thou knowest that all these are snares
by my corruptions,
and that my greatest snare is myself.
I bewail that my apprehensions are dull,
my thoughts mean,
my affections stupid,
my expressions low,
my life unbeseeming;
Yet what canst thou expect of dust but levity,
of corruption but defilement?
Keep me ever mindful of my natural state,
but let me not forget my heavenly title,
or the grace that can deal with every sin.
Valley of Vision

Assurance of Pardon

Receive this promise of forgiveness from God:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their transgressions against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. *2 Corinthians 5:17–19*

Prayer for Illumination

As you read his word, ask God to enlighten your mind and heart:

Blessed Lord, you have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning—grant us that we may in such a way hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them; that by patience and comfort of your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen. *Book of Common Prayer*

Confession of Faith

Receive this instruction from the church's confession of beliefs: see appendix 1.

Catechism

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Scripture Reading

Read a portion of God's word: see appendix 3.

Prayer of Intercession

As you make your requests to God, pray this prayer:

Caring Love

All sufficient King,
When I come into thy presence I see

the glory of thy perfections,
the throne of eternal and universal empire,
the ten thousand time ten thousand who minister to thee.
Impress my mind with the consciousness of thy greatness,
not to drive me from thee,
but to inspire me to approach thee;
not to diminish my confidence in thee,
but to lead me to admire thy great condescension.

Thou hast been mindful of me and visited me,
taken charge of me from birth,
cared in all conditions for me,
fed me at thy table,
drawn the curtains of love around me,
given me new mercies every morning.
Suffer me not to forget that I look for yet greater blessings –
a hope beyond the grave,
the earnest and foretastes of immortality,
holiness, wisdom, strength, peace, joy;
all these thou hast provided for me in Christ.

I grieve to think how insensible I have been
of the claims of thy authority,
and the endearments of thy love;
how little I have credited thy truth,
trusted thy promises,
feared thy threats,
obeyed thy commands,
improved my advantages,
welcomed thy warnings,
responded to thy grace;
but notwithstanding my desert I yet live.
May thy goodness always lead me to repentance,
and thy longsuffering prove my salvation
Valley of Vision

Go to God with any other petitions for the Church, the World, or Personal

Benediction
Peace be with you:

Now may the Lord of peace Himself continually give you peace in every
circumstance. The Lord be with you all! *2 Thessalonians 3:16*

Day 13

Call To Worship

Hear the Lord call you to worship through His word:

Praise Yah! Praise, O slaves of Yahweh, Praise the name of Yahweh. May the name of Yahweh be blessed. From now until forever. From the rising of the sun to its setting. The name of Yahweh is to be praised. *Psalm 113:1-3*

Adoration

Praise the Lord for He is Good:

Give to Our God Immortal Praise

Give to our God immortal praise;
mercy and truth are all His ways;
wonders of grace to God belong,
repeat His mercies in your song.

Give to the LORD of lords renown,
the King of kings with glory crown;
His mercies ever shall endure,
when lords and kings are known no more.

He built the earth, He spread the sky,
and fixed the starry lights on high;
wonders of grace to God belong,
repeat His mercies in your song.

He fills the sun with morning light,
He bids the moon direct the night;
His mercies ever shall endure,
when suns and moons shall shine no more.

The Jews He freed from Pharaoh's hand
and brought them to the promised land;
wonders of grace to God belong,
repeat His mercies in your song.

He saw the Gentiles dead in sin
and felt His pity move within;
His mercies ever shall endure,
when death and sin shall reign no more.

He sent His Son with pow'r to save
from guilt, and darkness, and the grave;
wonders of grace to God belong,
repeat His mercies in your song.

Through this vain world He guides our feet
and leads us to His heav'nly seat;

His mercies ever shall endure,
when this vain world shall be no more.
Isaac Watts

The Words of Life
Hear the Bible's direction for your life:

Love is patient, love is kind, is not jealous, does not brag, is not puffed up; it does not act unbecomingly, does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered; it does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; it bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. *1 Corinthians 13:4-7*

Confession of Sin
Confess your sins to God:

Mercy

God of the Publican,
Be merciful to me a sinner;
 this I am by nature and practice,
 this thy Word proclaims me to be,
 this I hope I feel myself to be;
Yet thou hast not left me to despair,
 for there is no 'peradventure' in thy grace;
I have all the assurance I need
 that with thee is plenteous redemption.

In spite of the number and heinousness of my sins
 thou hast given me a token for good;
The golden sceptre is held out,
 and thou hast said 'Touch it and live'.
May I encourage myself by a sense of thy
 all-sufficiency,
 by faith in thy promises,
 by views of the experience of others.
To that dear refuge in which so many have sheltered
 from every storm
 may I repair,
In that fountain always freely open for sin
 may I be cleansed from every defilement.
Sin is that abominable thing which thy soul hates,
 and this alone separates thee and me.
Thou canst not contradict the essential perfections
 of thy nature;
Thou canst not make me happy with thyself,
 till thou hast made me holy like thyself.

O holy God, make me such a creature as thou canst
 take pleasure in,
 and such a being that I can take pleasure in thee.
May I consent to and delight in thy law
 after the inner man,

never complain over the strictness of thy demands,
but mourn over my want of conformity to them;
never question thy commandments,
but esteem them to be right.

By thy Spirit within me
may my practice spring from principle, and
my dispositions be conformable with duty.

Valley of Vision

Assurance of Pardon

Receive this promise of forgiveness from God:

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our transgressions, according to the riches of His grace which He caused to abound to us in all wisdom and insight, *Ephesians 1:7-8*

Prayer for Illumination

As you read his word, ask God to enlighten your mind and heart:

Heavenly Father may Your loving kindnesses fill us, Your salvation rescue us according to Your word; Please do not take away the word of truth from our mouths, for we wait for Your judgments. We seek to know and keep Your law continually, forever and ever. Help us walk in truth, found in your will and word. Guided by you we will speak of Your testimonies before the mighty and shall not be ashamed. We shall delight in Your charges, which we your children love. We will lift up our hands to Your commandments and will study and mediate on Your statutes.

Amen *Psalms 119:41-48*

Confession of Faith

Receive this instruction from the church's confession of beliefs: see appendix 1.

Catechism

Receive this instruction from one of the church's catechisms: see appendix 2.

Scripture Reading

Read a portion of God's word: see appendix 3.

Prayer of Intercession

As you make your requests to God, pray this prayer:

Union with Christ

O Father,
Thou hast made man for the glory of thyself,
and when not an instrument of that glory,
he is a thing of nought;
No sin is greater than the sin of unbelief,
for if union with Christ is the greatest good,
unbelief is the greatest sin,
as being cross to thy command;

I see that whatever my sin is,
yet no sin is like disunion from Christ by unbelief.
Lord, keep me from committing the greatest sin
in departing from him,
for I can never in this life perfectly obey
and cleave to Christ.
When thou takest away my outward blessings,
it is for sin,
in not acknowledging that all that I have is of thee,
in not serving thee through what I have,
in making myself secure and hardened.
Lawful blessings are the secret idols, and
do most hurt;
the greatest injury is in the having,
the greatest good in the taking away.
In love divest me of blessings that I may glorify
thee the more;
remove the fuel of my sin,
and may I prize the gain of a little holiness
as overbalancing all my losses.
The more I love thee with a truly gracious love
the more I desire to love thee,
and the more miserable I am at my want of love;
The more I hunger and thirst after thee,
the more I faint and fail in finding thee,
The more my heart is broken for sin,
the more I pray it may be far more broken.

My great evil is that I do not remember
the sins of my youth,
nay, the sins of one day I forget the next.
Keep me from all things that turn to unbelief
or lack of felt union with Christ.

Valley of Vision

Further Petitions for the Church, the World, or Personal

Benediction

Peace be with you:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. *Philemon 25*

Day 14

Call To Worship

Hear the Lord call you to worship through His word:

And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying, “Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.” *Revelation 4:9–11*

Adoration

Praise the Lord for He is Good:

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small,
in all life Thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish, but naught changeth Thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
all praise we would render, O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!
Walter Chalmers Smith

The Words of Life

Hear the Bible's direction for your life:

Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, fulfill my joy, that you think the same way, by maintaining the same love, being united in spirit, thinking on one purpose, doing nothing from selfish ambition or vain glory, but with humility of mind regarding one another as more important than yourselves, not merely looking out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this way of thinking in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although existing in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a slave, by

being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. *Philippians 2:1-8*

Confession of Sin

Confess your sins to God:

The Deeps

LORD JESUS,
Give me a deeper repentance,
 a horror of sin,
 a dread of its approach;
Help me chastely to flee it,
 and jealously to resolve that my heart
 shall be thine alone.
Give me a deeper trust,
 that I may lose myself to find myself in thee,
 the ground of my rest,
 the spring of my being.
Give me a deeper knowledge of thyself
 as Saviour, Master, Lord, and King.
Give me deeper power in private prayer,
 more sweetness in thy Word,
 more steadfast grip on its truth.
Give me deeper holiness in speech, thought, action,
 and let me not seek moral virtue apart from thee.
Plough deep in me, great Lord,
 heavenly Husbandman,
 that my being may be a tilled field,
 the roots of grace spreading far and wide,
 until thou alone art seen in me,
 thy beauty golden like summer harvest,
 thy fruitfulness as autumn plenty.
I have no Master but thee,
 no law but thy will,
 no delight but thyself,
 no wealth but that thou givest,
 no good but that thou blessest,
 no peace but that thou bestowest.
I am nothing but that thou makest me,
I have nothing but that I receive from thee,
I can be nothing but that grace adorns me.
Quarry me deep, dear Lord,
 and then fill me to overflowing
 with living water.

Valley of Vision

Assurance of Pardon

Receive this promise of forgiveness from God:

“Come now, and let us reason together,” Says Yahweh, “Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be as white as snow; Though they are red like

crimson, They will be like wool. “If you are willing and obey, You will eat the best of the land; *Isaiah 1:18–19*

Prayer for Illumination

As you read his word, ask God to enlighten your mind and heart:

Almighty God, and most merciful Father, we humbly submit ourselves, and fall down before your Majesty, asking you from the bottom of our hearts, that this seed of your Word now sown among us, may take such deep root, that neither the burning heat of persecution cause it to wither, nor the thorny cares of this life choke it. But that, as seed sown in good ground, it may bring forth thirty, sixty, or a hundredfold, as your heavenly wisdom has appointed. Amen. *Middelburg Liturgy*

Confession of Faith

Receive this instruction from the church’s confession of beliefs: see appendix 1.

Catechism

Receive this instruction from one of the church’s catechisms: see appendix 2.

Scripture Reading

Read a portion of God’s word: see appendix 3.

Prayer of Intercession

As you make your requests to God, pray this prayer:

Grace Active

Lord Jesus, Great High Priest,
Thou hast opened a new and living way
by which a fallen creature can approach thee with acceptance.
Help me to contemplate the dignity of thy Person,
the perfectness of thy sacrifice,
the effectiveness of thy intercession.
O what blessedness accompanies devotion,
when under all the trials that weary me,
the cares that corrode me,
the fears that disturb me,
the infirmities that oppress me,
I can come to thee in my need
and feel peace beyond understanding!
The grace that restores is necessary to preserve,
lead, guard, supply, help me.
And here thy saints encourage my hope;
they were once poor and are now rich,
bound and are now free,
tried and now are victorious.
Every new duty calls for more grace than I now possess,
but not more than is found in thee,
the divine Treasury in whom all fullness dwells.
To thee I repair for grace upon grace,

until every void made by sin be replenished
and I am filled with all thy fullness.

May my desires be enlarged and my hopes emboldened,
that I may honour thee by my entire dependency
and the greatness of my expectation.

Do thou be with me, and prepare me for all
the smiles of prosperity, the frowns of adversity,
the losses of substance, the death of friends,
the days of darkness, the changes of life,
and the last great change of all.

May I find thy grace sufficient for all my needs.
Valley of Vision

Go to God with any other petitions for the Church, the World, or Personal

Benediction

Peace be with you:

Yahweh will keep you from all evil; He will keep your soul. Yahweh will
keep your going out and your coming in From now until forever. *Psalm*
121:7-8

Day 15

Call To Worship

Hear the Lord call you to worship through His word:

Make a loud shout to Yahweh, all the earth. Serve Yahweh with gladness;
Come before Him with joyful songs. Know that Yahweh, He is God; It is He
who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of
His pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving And His courts with praise.
Give thanks to Him, bless His name. For Yahweh is good; His loving
kindness endures forever And His faithfulness, generation unto generation.

Psalm 100:1-5

Adoration

Praise the Lord for He is Good:

O Father, You Whose Love Profound

O Father, Thou whose love profound
a ransom for our souls hath found,
before Thy throne we sinners bend;
to us Thy pard'ning love extend.

Almighty Son, Incarnate Word,
our Prophet, Priest, Redeemer, Lord,
before Thy throne we sinners bend;
to us Thy saving grace extend.

Eternal Spirit, by whose breath
the soul is raised from sin and death,
before Thy throne we sinners bend;
to us Thy quick'ning pow'r extend.

Jehovah! Father, Spirit, Son,
mysterious Godhead, Three in One,
before Thy throne we sinners bend;
grace, pardon, life, to us extend.

Edward Cooper

The Words of Life

Hear the Bibles direction for your life:

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given
to Me in heaven and on earth. "Go therefore and make disciples of all the
nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy
Spirit, teaching them to keep all that I commanded you; and behold, I am
with you always, even to the end of the age." *Matthew 28:18-20*

Confession of Sin

Confess your sins to God:

Backsliding

O LORD,
When the world's unbelievers reject thee,
 and are so forsaken by thee
 that thou callest them no more,
 it is to thine own thou dost turn,
 for in such seasons of general apostasy
 they in some measure backslide with the world.

O how free is thy grace
 that reminds them of the danger that
 confronts them
 and urges them to persevere in adherence
 to thyself!

I bless thee that those who turn aside
 may return to thee immediately,
 and be welcomed without anything
 to commend them,
 notwithstanding all their former backslidings.

I confess that this is suited to my case, for of late
 I have found great want,
 and lack of apprehension of divine grace;
 I have been greatly distressed of soul
 because I did not suitably come to the fountain
 that purges away all sin;
 I have laboured too much for spiritual life,
 peace of conscience, progressive holiness,
 in my own strength.

I beg thee, show me the arm of all might;
Give me to believe
 that thou canst do for me more than
 I ask or think,
 and that, though I backslide, thy love will never
 let me go,
 but will draw me back to thee with everlasting
 cords;
 that thou dost provide grace in the wilderness,
 and canst bring me out, leaning on the arm
 of my Beloved;
 that thou canst cause me to walk with him
 by the rivers of waters in a straight way,
 wherein I shall not stumble.

Keep me solemn, devout, faithful, resting
 on free grace for assistance, acceptance,
 and peace of conscience.

Valley of Vision

Assurance of Pardon

Receive this promise of forgiveness from God:

Yahweh is compassionate and gracious, Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness. He will not always contend with us, And He will not keep His anger forever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, And He has not rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens

are above the earth, So great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, So Yahweh has compassion on those who fear Him. *Psalm 103:8–13*

Prayer for Illumination

As you read his word, ask God to enlighten your mind and heart:

Father God remember your words to Your redeemed, in which You have called us to trust. This is our comfort in affliction, that Your word has revived and restored us. The arrogant may laugh and mock, yet we will not turn aside from Your commands. We remember Your judgments from of old, O Yahweh, and find comfort in your perfect justice. Burning indignation has seized me because of the wicked, who have forsaken and mocked Your law. But in your church the scriptures have become our song of life. We will remember Your name, O Yahweh in the dark times and cling to Your truth. This has become mine, that I observe Your precepts. Amen *Psalm 119:49-56*

Confession of Faith

Receive this instruction from the church's confession of beliefs: see appendix 1.

Catechism

Receive this instruction from one of the church's catechisms: see appendix 2.

Scripture Reading

Read a portion of God's word: see appendix 3.

Prayer of Intercession

As you make your requests to God, pray this prayer:

Christ Alone

O God,
Thy main plan, and the end of thy will
 is to make Christ glorious and beloved
 in heaven
where he is now ascended,
where one day all the elect will behold his glory
and love and glorify him for ever.
Though here I love him but little,
 may this be my portion at last.
In this world thou hast given me a beginning,
 one day it will be perfected in the realm above.
Thou hast helped me to see and know Christ,
 though obscurely,
 to take him, receive him,
 to possess him, love him,
 to bless him in my heart, mouth, life.
Let me study and stand for discipline,
 and all the ways of worship,

out of love for Christ;
and to show my thankfulness;
to seek and know his will from love,
to hold it in love,
and daily to care for and keep this state of heart.

Thou hast led me to place all my nature
and happiness
in oneness with Christ,
in having heart and mind centred only on him,
in being like him in communicating good
to others;

This is my heaven on earth,
But I need the force, energy, impulses of thy Spirit
to carry me on the way to my Jerusalem.

Here, it is my duty
to be as Christ in this world,
to do what he would do,
to live as he would live,
to walk in love and meekness;
then would he be known,
then would I have peace in death.

Valley of Vision

Go to God with any other petitions for the Church, the World, or Personal

Benediction

Peace be with you:

Now to Him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the Gentiles, leading to obedience of faith; to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen.

Romans 16:25–27

Day 16

Call To Worship

Hear the Lord call you to worship through His word:

And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. *1 Peter 2:4–5*

Adoration

Praise the Lord for He is Good:

This Is My Father's World

This is my Father's world,
and to my list'ning ears
all nature sings, and 'round me rings
the music of the spheres.

This is my Father's world;
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world;
the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white
declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world,
He shines in all that's fair;
in the rustling grass I hear Him pass;
He speaks to me ev'rywhere.

This is my Father's world;
O, let me not forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the Ruler yet.

This is my Father's world;
why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is King, let heavens ring!
God reigns; Let earth be glad!

Maltbie D. Babcock

The Words of Life

Hear the Bibles direction for your life:

But you, O man of God, flee from these things, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. *1 Timothy 6:11–12*

Confession of Sin

Confess your sins to God:

Continual Repentance

O God of grace,
Thou hast imputed my sin to my substitute,
and hast imputed his righteousness
to my soul,
clothing me with a bridegroom's robe,
decking me with jewels of holiness.
But in my Christian walk I am still in rags;
my best prayers are stained with sin;
my penitential tears are so much impurity;
my confessions of wrong are so many
aggravations of sin;
my receiving the Spirit is tainted with
selfishness.

I need to repent of my repentance;
I need my tears to be washed;
I have no robe to bring to cover my sins,
no loom to weave my own righteousness;
I am always standing clothed in filthy garments,
and by grace am always receiving change of
raiment,
for thou dost always justify the ungodly;
I am always going into the far country,
and always returning home as a prodigal,
always saying, Father, forgive me,
and thou art always bringing forth
the best robe.

Every morning let me wear it,
every evening return in it,
go out to the day's work in it,
be married in it,
be wound in death in it,
stand before the great white throne in it,
enter heaven in it shining as the sun.

Grant me never to lose sight of
the exceeding sinfulness of sin,
the exceeding righteousness of salvation,
the exceeding glory of Christ,
the exceeding beauty of holiness,
the exceeding wonder of grace.

Valley of Vision

Assurance of Pardon

Receive this promise of forgiveness from God:

Then you will say in that day, "I will give thanks to You, O Yahweh; For although You were angry with me, Your anger is turned away, And You comfort me. "Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not dread; For

Yah—Yahweh Himself—is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation.” Therefore you will joyously draw water From the springs of salvation. *Isaiah 12:1–3*

Prayer for Illumination

As you read his word, ask God to enlighten your mind and heart:

Grant, Almighty God, that as we have not only been created by Thee, but when You have placed us in this world You have also enriched us with abundance of all blessings—

O grant that we may not transfer to others the glory due to Thee, and that especially since we are daily admonished by Your Word, and even severely reprov'd, we may not with an iron hardness resist, but render ourselves pliable to Thee, and not give ourselves up to our own devices, but follow, with true docility and meekness, that rule You have prescribed in Your Word, until at length having put off all the remains of errors, we shall enjoy that blessed light You have prepared for us in heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *John Calvin*

Confession of Faith

Receive this instruction from the church's confession of beliefs: see appendix 1.

Catechism

Receive this instruction from one of the church's catechisms: see appendix 2.

Scripture Reading

Read a portion of God's word: see appendix 3.

Prayer of Intercession

As you make your requests to God, pray this prayer:

Morning Needs

O God, the author of all good,
I come to thee for the grace another day will require
 for its duties and events.
I step out into a wicked world,
I carry about with me an evil heart,
I know that without thee I can do nothing,
 that everything with which I shall be concerned,
 however harmless in itself,
 may prove an occasion of sin or folly,
 unless I am kept by thy power.
Hold thou me up and I shall be safe.
Preserve my understanding from subtilty of error,
 my affections from love of idols,
 my character from stain of vice,
 my profession from every form of evil.
May I engage in nothing in which I cannot implore thy blessing.
 and in which I cannot invite thy inspection.

Prosper me in all lawful undertakings,
or prepare me for disappointments;
Give me neither poverty nor riches;
Feed me with food convenient for me,
lest I be full and deny thee
and say, Who is the Lord?
or be poor, and steal, and take thy name in vain.
May every creature be made good to me by prayer and thy will;
Teach me how to use the world, and not abuse it,
to improve my talents,
to redeem my time,
to walk in wisdom toward those without,
and in kindness to those within,
to do good to all men,
and especially to my fellow Christians.
And to thee be the glory.
Valley of Vision

Go to God with any other petitions for the Church, the World, or Personal

Benediction

Peace be with you:

Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, our Lord Jesus, equip you in every good thing to do His will, by doing in us what is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever.
Amen. *Hebrews 13:20–21*

Day 17

Call To Worship

Hear the Lord call you to worship through His word:

Yahweh reigns, let the peoples tremble; He sits enthroned above the cherubim, let the earth quake! Yahweh is great in Zion, And He is exalted above all the peoples. Let them praise Your great and awesome name; Holy is He. *Psalm 99:1-3*

Adoration

Praise the Lord for He is Good:

It Is Good to Sing Your Praises

It is good to sing Your praises
and to thank You, O Most High,
showing forth Your loving-kindness
when the morning lights the sky.
It is good when night is falling
of Your faithfulness to tell,
while with sweet, melodious praises
songs of adoration swell.

You have filled my heart with gladness
through the works Your hands have wrought;
You have made my life victorious;
great Your works and deep Your thought.
You, O LORD, on high exalted,
reign forevermore in might;
all Your enemies shall perish,
sin be banished from Your sight.

But the good shall live before You,
planted in Your dwelling place,
fruitful trees and ever verdant,
nourished by Your boundless grace.
In His goodness to the righteous
God His righteousness displays;
God, my Rock, my Strength and Refuge,
just and true are all Your ways.

Author Unknown

The Words of Life

Hear the Bible's direction for your life:

I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and teaching. *2 Timothy 4:1-2*

Confession of Sin

Confess your sins to God:

Pride

O thou terrible meek,
Let not pride swell my heart.
 My nature is the mire beneath my feet,
 the dust to which I shall return.
In body I surpass not the meanest reptile;
Whatever difference of form and intellect is mine
 is a free grant of thy goodness;
Every faculty of mind and body is thy
 undeserved gift.
Low as I am as a creature, I am lower as a sinner;
I have trampled thy law times without number;
Sin's deformity is stamped upon me,
 darkens my brow, touches me with corruption:
How can I flaunt myself proudly?
Lowest abasement is my due place,
 for I am less than nothing before thee.
Help me to see myself in thy sight,
 then pride must wither, decay, die, perish.
Humble my heart before thee,
 and replenish it with thy choicest gifts.
As water rests not on barren hill summits,
 but flows down to fertilize lowest vales,
So make me the lowest of the lowly,
 that my spiritual riches may exceedingly abound.
When I leave duties undone,
 may condemning thought strip me of pride,
 deepen in me devotion to thy service,
 and quicken me to more watchful care.
When I am tempted to think highly of myself,
 grant me to see the wily power of my spiritual
 enemy;
Help me to stand with wary eye on the watch-tower
 of faith,
 and to cling with determined grasp to my
 humble Lord;
If I fall let me hide myself in my Redeemer's
 righteousness,
 and when I escape, may I ascribe all deliverance
 to thy grace.
Keep me humble, meek, lowly.

Valley of Vision

Assurance of Pardon

Receive this promise of forgiveness from God:

“Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your uncleanness and from all your idols. “Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. “I will put

My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to do My judgments. “And you will inhabit the land that I gave to your fathers; so you will be My people, and I will be your God. *Ezekiel 36:25–28*

Prayer for Illumination

As you read his word, ask God to enlighten your mind and heart:

Yahweh is our portion; we have promised to keep Your words. We have sought to please Your face with all our being; Be gracious to us according to Your word. We have considered our ways and turned our way according to Your testimonies. We hastened and did not delay keeping Your commandments. Though the cords of the wicked encircled us we will not forget Your law. In darkest night we shall rise to give thanks to You because of Your righteous judgments. We are the companions of all those who fear You, and of those who keep Your precepts. The earth, O Yahweh, is full of Your lovingkindness; teach us Your statutes that we may find your grace. Amen *Psalm 119:57-64*

Confession of Faith

Receive this instruction from the church’s confession of beliefs: see appendix 1.

Catechism

Receive this instruction from one of the church’s catechisms: see appendix 2.

Scripture Reading

Read a portion of God’s word: see appendix 3.

Prayer of Intercession

As you make your requests to God, pray this prayer:

The Love of Jesus

O Father of Jesus,
Help me to approach thee with deepest
 reverence,
 not with presumption,
 not with servile fear, but with holy boldness.
Thou art beyond the grasp of my understanding,
 but not beyond that of my love.
Thou knowest that I love thee supremely,
 for thou art supremely adorable, good, perfect.

My heart melts at the love of Jesus,
 my brother, bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh,
 married to me, dead for me, risen for me;
He is mine and I am his,
 given to me as well as for me;
I am never so much mine as when I am his,
 or so much lost to myself until lost in him;
 then I find my true manhood.

But my love is frost and cold, ice and snow;
Let his love warm me,
 lighten my burden,
 be my heaven;
May it be more revealed to me in all its influences
 that my love to him may be more fervent
 and glowing;
Let the mighty tide of his everlasting love
 cover the rocks of my sin and care;
Then let my spirit float above those things
 which had else wrecked my life.

Make me fruitful by living to that love,
 my character becoming more beautiful every day.
If traces of Christ's love-artistry be upon me,
 may he work on with his divine brush
 until the complete image be obtained
 and I be made a perfect copy of him,
 my Master.

O Lord Jesus, come to me,
O Divine Spirit, rest upon me,
O Holy Father, look on me in mercy
 for the sake of the well-beloved.

Valley of Vision

Go to God with any other petitions for the Church, the World, or Personal

Benediction

Peace be with you:

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, might, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. *Jude 24–25*

Day 18

Call To Worship

Hear the Lord call you to worship through His word:

After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." *Revelation 7:9-10*

Adoration

Praise the Lord for He is Good:

O Splendor of God's Glory Bright

O Splendor of God's glory bright,
from Light eternal bringing light,
O Light of light, light's living Spring,
true Day, all days illumining.

Come, very Sun of heaven's love,
in lasting radiance from above,
and pour the Holy Spirit's ray
on all we think or do today.

And now to Thee our pray'rs ascend,
O Father, glorious without end;
we plead with sovereign grace for pow'r
to conquer in temptation's hour.

Confirm our will to do the right,
and keep our hearts from envy's blight;
let faith her eager fires renew,
and hate the false, and love the true.

O joyful be the passing day
with thoughts as pure as morning's ray,
with faith like noontide shining bright,
our souls unshadowed by the night.

Dawn's glory gilds the earth and skies,
let Him, our perfect Morn, arise,
the Word in God the Father one,
the Father imaged in the Son.

Ambrose of Milan

The Words of Life

Hear the Bible's direction for your life:

And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoever keeps His word, truly in him the love of God has been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked. Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word which you have heard. *1 John 2:3-7*

Confession of Sin

Confess your sins to God:

Confession and Petition

Holy Lord,
I have sinned times without number,
and been guilty of pride and unbelief,
of failure to find thy mind in thy Word,
of neglect to seek thee in my daily life.
My transgressions and short-comings
present me with a list of accusations,
But I bless thee that they will not stand against me,
for all have been laid on Christ;
Go on to subdue my corruptions,
and grant me grace to live above them.
Let not the passions of the flesh nor lustings
of the mind bring my spirit into subjection,
but do thou rule over me in liberty and power.
I thank thee that many of my prayers
have been refused —
I have asked amiss and do not have,
I have prayed from lusts and been rejected,
I have longed for Egypt and been given a
wilderness.
Go on with thy patient work,
answering 'no' to my wrongful prayers,
and fitting me to accept it.
Purge me from every false desire,
every base aspiration,
everything contrary to thy rule.
I thank thee for thy wisdom and thy love,
for all the acts of discipline to which I am subject,
for sometimes putting me into the furnace
to refine my gold and remove my dross.

No trial is so hard to bear as a sense of sin.
If thou shouldst give me choice to live
in pleasure and keep my sins,
or to have them burnt away with trial,
give me sanctified affliction.
Deliver me from every evil habit,
every accretion of former sins,

everything that dims the brightness
of thy grace in me,
everything that prevents me taking delight
in thee.

Then I shall bless thee, God of Jeshurun,
for helping me to be upright.

Valley of Vision

Assurance of Pardon

Receive this promise of forgiveness from God:

He will swallow up death for all time, And Lord Yahweh will wipe tears away from all faces, And He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; For Yahweh has spoken. And it will be said in that day, "Behold, this is our God in whom we have hoped that He would save us. This is Yahweh in whom we have hoped; Let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation." *Isaiah 25:8–9*

Prayer for Illumination

As you read his word, ask God to enlighten your mind and heart:

Almighty God, the fountain of wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask, and our ignorance in asking—we ask you to have compassion upon our weaknesses; and those things, which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask, grant to give us for the worthiness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *Book of Common Prayer (1552)*

Confession of Faith

Receive this instruction from the church's confession of beliefs: see appendix 1.

Catechism

Receive this instruction from one of the church's catechisms: see appendix 2.

Scripture Reading

Read a portion of God's word: see appendix 3.

Prayer of Intercession

As you make your requests to God, pray this prayer:

Spiritus Sanctus

O Holy Spirit,
As the sun is full of light,
the ocean full of water,
Heaven full of glory, so may my heart be
full of thee.

Vain are all divine purposes of love
and the redemption wrought by Jesus
except thou work within,
regenerating by thy power,
giving me eyes to see Jesus,

showing me the realities of the unseen world.
Give me thyself without measure,
as an unimpaired fountain,
as inexhaustible riches.
I bewail my coldness, poverty, emptiness,
imperfect vision, languid service,
prayerless prayers, praiseless praises.
Suffer me not to grieve or resist thee.
Come as power,
to expel every rebel lust, to reign supreme
and keep me thine;
Come as teacher,
leading me into all truth, filling me with
all understanding;
Come as love,
that I may adore the Father, and love him
as my all;
Come as joy,
to dwell in me, move in me, animate me;
Come as light,
illuminating the Scripture, moulding me
in its laws;
Come as sanctifier,
body, soul and spirit wholly thine;
Come as helper,
with strength to bless and keep, directing my
every step;
Come as beautifier,
bringing order out of confusion, loveliness
out of chaos.
Magnify to me thy glory by being magnified in me,
and make me redolent of thy fragrance.

Valley of Vision

Go to God with any other petitions for the Church, the World, or Personal

Benediction

Peace be with you:

Yahweh bless you, and keep you; Yahweh make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you; Yahweh lift up His face on you, And give you peace.'

Numbers 6:24–26

Day 19

Call To Worship

Hear the Lord call you to worship through His word:

It is good to give thanks to Yahweh And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; To declare Your lovingkindness in the morning And Your faithfulness by night, With the ten-stringed lute and with the harp, With resounding music upon the lyre. For You, O Yahweh, have made me glad by what You have done, I will sing for joy at the works of Your hands. *Psalm 92:1-4*

Adoration

Praise the Lord for He is Good:

Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor

Lord, enthroned in heav'nly splendor,
first-begotten from the dead,
Thou alone, our strong Defender,
lifest up Thy people's head.

Jesus, true and living Bread!
Prince of Life, for us Thou livest,
by Thy body souls are healed;
Prince of Peace, Thy peace Thou givest,
by Thy blood is pardon sealed.

Word of God in flesh revealed.
Paschal Lamb! Thine offering finished
once for all when Thou wast slain,
in its fullness undiminished
shall forevermore remain.

Cleansing souls from ev'ry stain.
Great High Priest of our profession,
through the oil Thou ent'redst in;
by Thy mighty intercession
grace and mercy Thou dost win.

Only sacrifice for sin.
Life-imparting heav'nly Manna,
stricken Rock, with streaming side,
heav'n and earth with loud hosanna
worship Thee, the Lamb who died.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Ris'n, ascended, glorified!
George H. Bourne

The Words of Life

Hear the Bibles direction for your life:

Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. And the world is passing away, and also its lusts, but the one who does the will of God abides forever. *1 John 2:15–17*

Confession of Sin

Confess your sins to God:

Coming to the High Priest

Lord Jesus, our great high priest,
surely you are faithful.
Surely you will do the work
of the high priest for my soul.
I have sinned, and sinned greatly.
But Lord, it is the work
of our high priest to clear my debt.
Now, Lord Jesus, I come to you as my high priest.
Resolve this for me.
I confess that my own conscience accuses me.
Satan accuses me. Moses accuses me.
But it is the work of our great high priest to remove
all accusations brought against poor believers.
So now Lord, I do come
to you as my great high priest.
Take away the accusations.
When I look at what I do, there is so much deadness,
so much hardness of heart, and so many distractions.
I am afraid my best will never be enough.
But Lord, it is the job of our great high priest
to take away the weeds of the work we do,
and to present it to God.
Now, O Lord, I come to you as my high priest.
Carry my prayers to God the Father.
When I consider my former life, Lord,
I can only conclude that
I am a poor sinner, and cursed.
Yet it is the job of our great high priest
to bless the people.
So Lord, I come to you now as my high priest.
Bless me! And by your grace,
tell me to increase and multiply. Amen.
Valley of Vision

Assurance of Pardon

Receive this promise of forgiveness from God:

Who is a God like You, who forgives iniquity And passes over the transgression of the remnant of His inheritance? He does not hold fast to His anger forever Because He delights in lovingkindness. He will again have compassion on us; He will subdue our iniquities. And You will cast all their sins Into the depths of the sea. *Micah 7:18–19*

Prayer for Illumination

As you read his word, ask God to enlighten your mind and heart:

You have dealt graciously with Your redeemed, O Yahweh, according to Your word. Teach me good discernment and knowledge, for we have confidence in Your commandments. Before we were afflicted, we went astray, but now we have learned keep Your word. You are good and do good; teach me Your good statutes. Even if the arrogant slander me with lying; with all my heart we will observe Your precepts. Their heart is foolish and dark, but we delight in Your law. It is good for us that we were afflicted, for in our afflictions we have had Your statutes laid on our hearts. The law of Your mouth is better than thousands of gold and silver pieces. Amen *Psalm 119:65-72*

Confession of Faith

Receive this instruction from the church's confession of beliefs: see appendix 1.

Catechism

Receive this instruction from one of the church's catechisms: see appendix 2.

Scripture Reading

Read a portion of God's word: see appendix 3.

Prayer of Intercession

As you make your requests to God, pray this prayer:

Longings After God

My Dear Lord,
I can but tell thee that thou knowest
 I long for nothing but thyself,
 nothing but holiness,
 nothing but union with thy will.
Thou hast given me these desires,
 and thou alone canst give me the thing desired.
My soul longs for communion with thee,
 for mortification of indwelling corruption,
 especially spiritual pride.
How precious it is
 to have a tender sense and clear apprehension
 of the mystery of godliness,
 of true holiness!
What a blessedness to be like thee
 as much as it is possible for a creature
 to be like its Creator!
Lord, give me more of thy likeness;
Enlarge my soul to contain fullness of holiness;
Engage me to live more for thee.
Help me to be less pleased with my spiritual
 experiences,

and when I feel at ease after sweet communings,
teach me it is far too little I know and do.

Blessed Lord,

let me climb up near to thee,
and love, and long, and plead, and wrestle
with thee,
and pant for deliverance from the body of sin,
for my heart is wandering and lifeless,
and my soul mourns to think it should ever
lose sight of its Beloved.

Wrap my life in divine love,
and keep me ever desiring thee,
always humble and resigned to thy will,
more fixed on thyself,
that I may be more fitted for doing
and suffering.

Valley of Vision

Go to God with any other petitions for the Church, the World, or Personal

Benediction

Peace be with you:

“Blessed be Yahweh, who has given rest to His people Israel, according to all that He promised; not one promise has failed of all His good promises, which He promised by the hand of Moses His servant. “May Yahweh our God be with us, as He was with our fathers; may He not forsake us or abandon us, that He may incline our hearts to Himself, to walk in all His ways and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, which He commanded our fathers *1 Kings 8:56–58*

Day 20

Call To Worship

Hear the Lord call you to worship through His word:

Therefore I exhort you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a sacrifice—living, holy, and pleasing to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may approve what the will of God is, that which is good and pleasing and perfect. *Romans 12:1–2*

Adoration

Praise the Lord for He is Good:

Praise the LORD who reigns above

Praise the LORD who reigns above
and keeps His courts below;
praise the holy God of love,
and all His greatness show.
Praise Him for His noble deeds,
praise Him for His matchless pow'r;
Him from whom all good proceeds
let earth and heaven adore.

Celebrate th'eternal God
with harp and psaltery;
timbrels soft and cymbals loud
in His high praise agree.
Praise Him, ev'ry tuneful string;
all the reach of heav'nly art,
all the pow'rs of music bring,
the music of the heart.

Him, in whom they move and live,
let ev'ry creature sing,
glory to their Maker give,
and homage to their King.
Hallowed be His name beneath,
as in heav'n, on earth adored;
praise the LORD in ev'ry breath,
let all things praise the LORD!
Charles Wesley

The Words of Life

Hear the Bible's direction for your life:

“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.
“Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. “For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” *Matthew 11:28–30*

Confession of Sin

Confess your sins to God:

Contrition

O thou most high,
It becomes me to be low in thy presence.
I am nothing compared with thee;
I possess not the rank and power of angels,
but thou hast made me what I am,
and placed me where I am;
help me to acquiesce in thy sovereign pleasure.
I thank thee that in the embryo state
of my endless being
I am capable by grace of improvement;
that I can bear thy image,
not by submissiveness, but by design,
and can work with thee and advance thy cause
and glory.
But, alas, the crown has fallen from my head:
I have sinned;
I am alien to thee;
my head is deceitful and wicked,
my mind an enemy to thy law.
Yet, in my lostness thou hast laid help
on the Mighty One
and he comes between to put his hands
on us both,
my Umpire, Daysman, Mediator,
whose blood is my peace,
whose righteousness is my strength,
whose condemnation is my freedom,
whose Spirit is my power,
whose heaven is my heritage.
Grant that I may feel more the strength
of thy grace
in subduing the evil of my nature,
in loosing me from the present evil world,
in supporting me under the trials of life,
in enabling me to abide with thee in my valleys,
in exercising me to have a conscience void
of offence before thee and before men.
In all my affairs may I distinguish between
duty and anxiety,
and may my character and not my
circumstances chiefly engage me.

Valley of Vision

Assurance of Pardon

Receive this promise of forgiveness from God:

“Declare and draw near with your case; Indeed, let them consult together. Who has made this heard from of old? Who has long since declared it? Is it not I, Yahweh? And there is no other God besides Me, A righteous God and a Savior; There is none except Me. “Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; For I am God, and there is no other. “I have sworn by Myself, The word has gone forth from My mouth in righteousness And will not turn back, That to Me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear allegiance.
Isaiah 45:21–23

Prayer for Illumination

As you read his word, ask God to enlighten your mind and heart:

We beseech you, O Lord, be gracious to Your people, that we, leaving day by day the things which displease you, may be more and more filled with the love of Your commandments, and being supported by Your comfort in this present life, may advance to the full enjoyment of life immortal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen *Leonine Sacramentary*

Confession of Faith

Receive this instruction from the church’s confession of beliefs: see appendix 1.

Catechism

Receive this instruction from one of the church’s catechisms: see appendix 2.

Scripture Reading

Read a portion of God’s word: see appendix 3.

Prayer of Intercession

As you make your requests to God, pray this prayer:

The Spirit of Jesus

Lord Jesus Christ,
Fill me with thy Spirit
 that I may be occupied with his presence.
I am blind — send him to make me see;
dark — let him say, ‘Let there be light’!
May he give me faith to behold
my name engraven in thy hand,
my soul and body redeemed by thy blood,
my sinfulness covered by the life of
 pure obedience.
Replenish me by his revealing grace,
that I may realise my indissoluble union with thee;
that I may know thou hast espoused me
 to thyself for ever,
 in righteousness, love, mercy, faithfulness;
that I am one with thee,
 as a branch with its stock, as a building
 with its foundation.
May his comforts cheer me in my sorrows,

his strength sustain me in my trials,
his blessings revive me in my weariness,
his presence render me a fruitful tree of holiness,
his might establish me in peace and joy,
his incitements make me ceaseless in prayer,
his animation kindle in me undying devotion.
Send him as the searcher of my heart,
to show me more of my corruptions
and helplessness
that I may flee to thee,
cling to thee,
rest on thee,
as the beginning and end of my salvation.
May I never vex him by my indifference
and waywardness,
grieve him by my cold welcome,
resist him by my hard rebellion.
Answer my prayers, O Lord,
for thy great name's sake.

Valley of Vision

Go to God with any other petitions for the Church, the World, or Personal

Benediction

Peace be with you:

Blessed be Yahweh God, the God of Israel, Who alone works wondrous deeds. And blessed be His glorious name forever; And may the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen, and Amen. *Psalm 72:18-19*

Day 21

Call To Worship

Hear the Lord call you to worship through His word:

How lovely are Your dwelling places, O Yahweh of hosts! My soul has longed and even fainted for the courts of Yahweh; My heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God. *Psalm 84:1–2*

Adoration

Praise the Lord for He is Good:

Praise to the LORD, the Almighty

Praise to the LORD, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation.
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near:
join me in glad adoration!

Praise to the LORD, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been
granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the LORD, who with marvelous wisdom hath made thee,
decked thee with health, and with loving han guided and stayed thee.
How oft in grief hath not He brought thee relief,
spreading His wings for to shade thee!

Praise to the LORD, who doth prosper thy works and defend thee;
surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
if with His love He befriend thee.

Praise to the LORD, O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
Let the amen sound from His people again:
gladly forever adore Him!

Joachim Neander

The Words of Life

Hear the Bibles direction for your life:

And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. “For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. “For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?
“For what will a man give in exchange for his soul?
“For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.” *Mark 8:34–38*

Confession of Sin

Confess your sins to God:

Reliance

My Father,
When thou art angry towards me for my
 wrongs
I try to pacify thee by abstaining from future sin;
But teach me
 that I cannot satisfy thy law,
 that this effort is a resting in my righteousness,
 that only Christ's righteousness, ready made,
 already finished, is fit for that purpose;
 that thy chastising me for my sin is not
 that I should try to reform, but only
 that I may be more humbled, afflicted, and
 separated from sin, by being reconciled,
 and made righteous in Christ by faith;
 that a sense of my sufficiency and ability in him
 is one means of my being immovable;
 that I can never be so by resting on my own faith,
 but by trusting in thee as my only support,
 by faith;
 that if I cast away my faith I cast away thee,
 for by faith I apprehend thee,
 and as thou art very precious,
 so is my faith very precious to me;
 that I fall short of the purity thou requirest,
 because in thinking I am holy I do not
 seek holiness,
 or, believing I am impotent, I do no more.
Humble me for not being as holy as I should be,
or as holy as I might be through Christ,
for thou art all, and to possess thee is to possess all.
But to make the creature something
is to make it stand between thee and me,
so that I do not walk humbly and holily.
Lord, forgive me for this.
Valley of Vision

Assurance of Pardon

Receive this promise of forgiveness from God:

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. “For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. *John 3:16–17*

Prayer for Illumination

As you read his word, ask God to enlighten your mind and heart:

Your hands made us and established us; give us understanding, that we may learn Your commandments. May those who fear You see us and be glad, because we wait for Your word. We know, O Yahweh, that Your judgments are righteous, and that in faithfulness You have chastised me. Oh, may Your lovingkindness comfort us, according to Your word to Your slave. May Your compassion come to us that we may live, for Your law is our joy. May our hearts be blameless in Your statutes, So that we will not be ashamed. Guide us and teach us Lord. Amen *Psalm 119:73-80*

Confession of Faith

Receive this instruction from the church's confession of beliefs: see appendix 1.

Catechism

Receive this instruction from one of the church's catechisms: see appendix 2.

Scripture Reading

Read a portion of God's word: see appendix 3.

Prayer of Intercession

As you make your requests to God, pray this prayer:

Devotion

God of my end,
It is my greatest, noblest pleasure
to be acquainted with thee
and with my rational, immortal soul;
It is sweet and entertaining
to look into my being
when all my powers and passions
are united and engaged in pursuit of thee,
when my soul longs and passionately breathes
after conformity to thee
and the full enjoyment of thee;
No hours pass away with so much pleasure
as those spent in communion with thee
and with my heart.
O how desirable, how profitable to the Christian life
is a spirit of holy watchfulness
and godly jealousy over myself,
when my soul is afraid of nothing
except grieving and offending thee,
the blessed God, my Father and friend,
whom I then love and long to please,
rather than be happy in myself.
Knowing, as I do, that this is the pious temper,
worthy of the highest ambition, and closest pursuit
of intelligent creatures and holy Christians,
may my joy derive from glorifying and delighting thee.
I long to fill all my time for thee,
whether at home or in the way;

to place all my concerns in thy hands;
to be entirely at thy disposal,
having no will or interest of my own.
Help me to live to thee for ever,
to make thee my last and only end,
so that I may never more in one instance love my sinful self.

Valley of Vision

Go to God with any other petitions for the Church, the World, or Personal

Benediction

Peace be with you:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship
of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. *2 Corinthians 13:14*

Day 22

Call To Worship

Hear the Lord call you to worship through His word:

Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For in Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, And in Him all things hold together. And He is the head of the body, the church; Who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, And through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross—through Him—whether things on earth or things in heaven. *Colossians 1:15–20*

Adoration

Praise the Lord for He is Good:

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven;
to His feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
evermore His praises sing:

Praise the everlasting King.
Praise Him for His grace and favor
to our fathers in distress.
Praise Him still the same as ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless.

Glorious in His faithfulness.
Fatherlike He tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame He knows.
In His hands He gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.

Widely yet His mercy flows.
Frail as summer's flow'r we flourish,
blows the wind and it is gone;
but while mortals rise and perish,
God endures unchanging on.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise the high eternal One!
Angels, help us to adore Him;
ye behold Him face to face;
saints triumphant, bow down before Him,
gathered in from ev'ry race.

Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace.
Henry Francis Lyte

The Words of Life
Hear the Bible's direction for your life:

Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth. And by this we will know that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight. And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He gave a commandment to us. And the one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He gave us.
1 John 3:18–24

Confession of Sin
Confess your sins to God:

Humiliation

Sovereign Lord,
When clouds of darkness, atheism, and
unbelief come to me,
I see thy purpose of love
in withdrawing the Spirit that I might prize
him more,
in chastening me for my confidence in
past successes, that my wound of secret
godlessness might be cured.
Help me to humble myself before thee
by seeing the vanity of honour
as a conceit of men's minds,
as standing between me and thee;
by seeing that thy will must alone be done,
as much in denying as in giving spiritual enjoyments;
by seeing that my heart is nothing but evil,
mind, mouth, life void of thee;
by seeing that sin and Satan are allowed power
in me that I might know my sin, be humbled,
and gain strength thereby;
by seeing that unbelief shuts thee from me,
so that I sense not thy majesty, power, mercy,
or love.
Then possess me, for thou only art good
and worthy.
Thou dost not play in convincing me of sin,
Satan did not play in tempting me to it,
I do not play when I sink in deep mire,
for sin is no game, no toy, no bauble;

Let me never forget that the heinousness of sin lies
not so much in the nature of the sin committed,
as in the greatness of the Person sinned against.
When I am afraid of evils to come, comfort me,
by showing me
that in myself I am a dying, condemned wretch,
but that in Christ I am reconciled, made alive,
and satisfied;
that I am feeble and unable to do any good,
but that in him I can do all things;
that what I now have in Christ is mine in part,
but shortly I shall have it perfectly in heaven
Valley of Vision

Assurance of Pardon

Receive this promise of forgiveness from God:

Seek Yahweh while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near. Let
the wicked forsake his way And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let
him return to Yahweh, And He will have compassion on him, And to our
God, For He will abundantly pardon. *Isaiah 55:6–7*

Prayer for Illumination

As you read his word, ask God to enlighten your mind and heart:

Grant, Almighty God, since during our pilgrimage in this world we have
daily need of the teaching and government of Your Spirit, that with true
modesty we may depend on Your Word and secret inspiration and not take
too much on ourselves.

Grant, also, that we may be conscious of our ignorance, blindness, and
stupidity, and always flee to Thee, and never permit ourselves to be drawn
aside in any way by the cunning of Satan and of the ungodly.

May we remain so fixed in Your truth as never to turn aside from it while
you direct us through the whole course of our vocation, and then may we
arrive at that heavenly glory that has been obtained for us through the blood
of Your only begotten Son. Amen. *John Calvin*

Confession of Faith

*Receive this instruction from the church's confession of beliefs: see
appendix 1.*

Catechism

*Receive this instruction from one of the church's catechisms: see appendix
2.*

Scripture Reading

Read a portion of God's word: see appendix 3.

Prayer of Intercession

As you make your requests to God, pray this prayer:

Christian Calling

O Lord God

The first act of calling is by thy command
in thy Word,

‘Come unto me, return unto me’;

The second is to let in light,
so that I see that I am called particularly,
and perceive the sweetness of the command
as well as its truth,
in regard to thy great love of the sinner,
by inviting him to come, though vile,
in regard to the end of the command,
which is fellowship with thee,
in regard to thy promise in the gospel,
which is all of grace.

Therefore, Lord,

I need not search to see if I am elect, or loved,
for if I turn thou wilt come to me;
Christ has promised me fellowship if I take him,
and the Spirit will pour himself out on me,
abolishing sin and punishment,
assuring me of strength to persevere.

It is thy pleasure to help all that pray for grace,
and come to thee for it.

When my heart is unsavoury with sin, sorrow,
darkness, hell,
only thy free grace can help me act
with deep abasement under a sense
of unworthiness.

Let me lament for forgetting daily to come to thee,
and cleanse me from the deceit of bringing
my heart to a duty
because the act pleased me or appealed to reason.

Grant that I may be salted with suffering,
with every exactment tempered to my soul,
every rod excellently fitted to my back,
to chastise, humble, break me.

Let me not overlook the hand that holds the rod,
as thou didst not let me forget the rod that fell
on Christ,
and drew me to him.

Valley of Vision

Go to God with any other petitions for the Church, the World, or Personal

Benediction

Peace be with you:

Now may the Lord of peace Himself continually give you peace in every
circumstance. The Lord be with you all! *2 Thessalonians 3:16*

Day 23

Call To Worship

Hear the Lord call you to worship through His word:

O Yahweh, our Lord, How majestic is Your name in all the earth, Who displays Your splendor above the heavens! From the mouth of infants and nursing babies You have established strength Because of Your adversaries, To make the enemy and the revengeful cease. *Psalm 8:1-2*

Adoration

Praise the Lord for He is Good:

Rejoice, the Lord Is King

Rejoice! the Lord is King!
Your Lord and King adore.
Rejoice, give thanks and sing
and triumph evermore:
lift up your heart! Lift up your voice;
rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Jesus, the Savior reigns,
the God of truth and love;
when He had purged our stains,
He took His seat above:
lift up your heart! Lift up your voice;
rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

His Kingdom cannot fail,
He rules o'er earth and heav'n;
the keys of death and hell
are to our Jesus giv'n:
lift up your heart! Lift up your voice;
rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope,
for Christ the Judge shall come
to gather all His saints
to their eternal home:
lift up your heart! Lift up your voice;
rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Charles Wesley

The Words of Life

Hear the Bibles direction for your life:

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. “But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. *Matthew 6:19-21*

Confession of Sin

Confess your sins to God:

New Beginning

Incomprehensible, Great and Glorious God,
I adore thee and abase myself.

I approach thee mindful that I am
less than nothing,
a creature worse than nothing.

My thoughts are not screened from thy gaze.
My secret sins blaze in the light of thy countenance.

Enable me to remember that blood which cleanseth
all sin,
to believe in that grace which subdues
all iniquities,
to resign myself to that agency which can
deliver me from the bondage of corruption
into the glorious liberty of the sons of God.

Thou hast begun a good work in me
and canst alone continue and complete it.

Give me an increasing conviction of my tendency
to err,
and of my exposure to sin.

Help me to feel more of the purifying, softening
influence of religion,
its compassion, love, pity, courtesy,
and employ me as thy instrument
in blessing others.

Give me to distinguish
between the mere form of godliness and its power,
between life and a name to live,
between guile and truth,
between hypocrisy and a religion that will bear
thy eye.

If I am not right, set me right, keep me right;
And may I at last come to thy house in peace.

Valley of Vision

Assurance of Pardon

Receive this promise of forgiveness from God:

“All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will never cast out. “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. “Now this is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. “For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.” *John 6:37–40*

Prayer for Illumination

As you read his word, ask God to enlighten your mind and heart:

Our soul cries out for Your salvation; we wait for Your word. Our eyes seek after Your word, Saying, "When will You rescue us?" For we are like a wineskin in the smoke, But I do not forget Your statutes. How many are the days of Your Redeemed? When will Your judgement come upon the Earth? The world has laid traps for us, men who do not love you with Your law. All Your commandments are faithful; they have persecuted us with deceit; save us Lord! They have sought the end of us on the earth, but as for me, I did not forsake Your teachings. Revive me according to Your lovingkindness, So that I may keep the testimony of Your mouth. Amen *Psalm 119:81-88*

Confession of Faith

Receive this instruction from the church's confession of beliefs: see appendix 1.

Catechism

Receive this instruction from one of the church's catechisms: see appendix 2.

Scripture Reading

Read a portion of God's word: see appendix 3.

Prayer of Intercession

As you make your requests to God, pray this prayer:

A Convert's First Prayer

My Father,
I could never have sought my happiness
 in thy love,
 unless thou had'st first loved me.
Thy Spirit has encouraged me by grace to seek thee,
 has made known to me thy reconciliation in Jesus,
 has taught me to believe it,
 has helped me to take thee for my God
 and portion.
May he grant me to grow in the knowledge
 and experience of thy love,
 and walk in it all the way to glory.
Blessed for ever be thy fatherly affection,
 which chose me to be one of thy children
 by faith in Jesus:
I thank thee for giving me the desire to live as such.
In Jesus, my brother, I have my new birth,
 every restraining power,
 every renewing grace.
It is by thy Spirit I call thee Father,
 believe in thee, love thee;
Strengthen me inwardly for every purpose
 of my Christian life;
Let the Spirit continually reveal to me my interest
 in Christ,

and open to me the riches of thy love in him;
May he abide in me that I may know my union
with Jesus,
and enter into constant fellowship with him;
By thy Spirit may I daily live to thee,
rejoice in thy love,
find it the same to me as to thy Son,
and become rooted and grounded in it
as a house on rock;
I know but little —
increase my knowledge of thy love in Jesus,
keep me pressing forward for clearer discoveries
of it,
so that I may find its eternal fullness;
Magnify thy love to me according to its greatness,
and not according to my deserts or prayers,
and whatever increase thou givest,
let it draw out greater love to thee.

Valley of Vision

Go to God with any other petitions for the Church, the World, or Personal

Benediction

Peace be with you:

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so
that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. *Romans 15:13*

Day 24

Call To Worship

Hear the Lord call you to worship through His word:

But you are A CHOSEN FAMILY, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY. 1 Peter 2:9-10

Adoration

Praise the Lord for He is Good:

Lord, We Bow Before Your Glory

Lord, we bow before Your glory
manifested in Your Son.
Radiant with Your perfect beauty,
He is heav'n's Beloved One.
Saving grace has given us vision,
opened eyes that one were blind.
He on whom we brought derision
now delights our heart and mind.

Such a Savior, now exalted,
well deserves our heartfelt praise.
Dying He has death defeated;
ris'n He reigns for endless days.
Now in heaven interceding,
Jesus, Friend of sinners, prays
for the weakest, daily pleading;
all sufficient is His grace.

O that we might know You better,
Jesus Christ, our living Lord.
Let our love grow daily greater
as we hear Your Holy Word.
There You have revealed Your glory,
there we marvel at Your grace.
Feed our souls and make us like You
till we see You face to face.

Eric J. Alexander

The Words of Life

Hear the Bibles direction for your life:

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, CASTING ALL YOUR ANXIETY ON HIM, because He cares for you. Be of sober spirit, be watchful. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

But resist him, firm in the faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished among your brethren who are in the world. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, strengthen, confirm, and ground you. To Him be might forever and ever. Amen. *1 Peter 5:6–11*

Confession of Sin

Confess your sins to God:

Mortification

O Divine Lawgiver,
I take shame to myself
for open violations to thy law,
for my secret faults,
my omissions of duty,
my unprofitable attendance
upon means of grace,
my carnality in worshipping thee,
and all the sins of my holy things.
My iniquities are increased over my head:
My trespasses are known in the heavens,
and there Christ is gone also,
my Advocate with the Father,
my propitiation for sins,
and I hear his word of peace.
At present it is a day of small things with me,
I have light enough to see my darkness,
sensibility enough to feel the hardness of my heart,
spirituality enough to mourn my want of a
heavenly mind;
but I might have had more,
I ought to have had more,
I have never been straitened in thee,
thou hast always placed before me an
infinite fullness,
and I have not taken it.
I confess and bewail my deficiencies
and backslidings:
I mourn my numberless failures,
my incorrigibility under rebukes,
my want of profiting under ordinances of mercy,
my neglect of opportunities for usefulness.
It is not with me as in months past;
O recall me to thyself, and enable me to feel
my first love.
May my improvements correspond with my
privileges,
May my will accept the decisions of my judgement,
my choice be that which conscience approves,
and may I never condemn myself
in the things I allow!

Valley of Vision

Assurance of Pardon

Receive this promise of forgiveness from God:

Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of Yahweh been revealed? For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, And like a root out of parched ground; He has no stately form or majesty That we should look upon Him, Nor appearance that we should desire Him. He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our peace fell upon Him, And by His wounds we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But Yahweh has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him. *Isaiah 53:1–6*

Prayer for Illumination

As you read his word, ask God to enlighten your mind and heart:

Almighty, gracious Father, since our whole salvation depends on our true understanding of your holy Word, grant that our hearts—freed from worldly affairs—may hear and understand your holy Word with all diligence and faith, so that we may rightly discern your gracious will, cherish it, and live by it with all earnestness, to your praise and honor, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. *Martin Bucer*

Confession of Faith

Receive this instruction from the church's confession of beliefs: see appendix 1.

Catechism

Receive this instruction from one of the church's catechisms: see appendix 2.

Scripture Reading

Read a portion of God's word: see appendix 3.

Prayer of Intercession

As you make your requests to God, pray this prayer:

Victory

O Divine Redeemer,
Great was thy goodness
 in undertaking my redemption,
 in consenting to be made sin for me,
 in conquering all my foes;
Great was thy strength
 in enduring the extremities of divine wrath,
 in taking away the load of my iniquities;

Great was thy love
in manifesting thyself alive,
in showing thy sacred wounds,
that every fear might vanish,
and every doubt be removed;
Great was thy mercy
in ascending to heaven
in being crowned and enthroned
there to intercede for me,
there to succour me in temptation,
there to open the eternal book,
there to receive me finally to thyself;
Great was thy wisdom
in devising this means of salvation;
Bathe my soul in rich consolations
of thy resurrection life;
Great was thy grace
in commanding me to come hand in hand
with thee to the Father,
to be knit to him eternally,
to discover in him my rest,
to find in him my peace,
to behold his glory,
to honour him who is alone worthy;
in giving me the Spirit as teacher, guide,
power,
that I may live repenting of sin,
conquer Satan,
find victory in life.
When thou art absent all sorrows are here,
When thou art present all blessings are mine.
Valley of Vision

Go to God with any other petitions for the Church, the World, or Personal

Benediction

Peace be with you:

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to keep all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” *Matthew 28:19–20*

Day 25

Call To Worship

Hear the Lord call you to worship through His word:

Oh give thanks to Yahweh, call upon His name; Make known His acts among the peoples. Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; Muse on all His wondrous deeds. Boast in His holy name; Let the heart of those who seek Yahweh be glad. Inquire of Yahweh and His strength; Seek His face continually. *Psalm 105:1-4*

Adoration

Praise the Lord for He is Good:

When Morning Gilds the Skies

When morning gilds the skies,
my heart awaking cries,
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Alike at work and prayer
to Jesus I repair,
may Jesus Christ be praised!

Does sadness fill my mind?
A solace here I find,
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Or fades my earthly bliss?
My comfort still is this,
may Jesus Christ be praised!

The night becomes as day
when from the heart we say,
may Jesus Christ be praised!
The pow'rs of darkness fear
when this sweet song they hear,
may Jesus Christ be praised!

Let earth's wide circle round
in joyful notes resound,
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Let air and sea and sky
from depth to height reply,
may Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this, while life is mine,
my canticle divine,
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this th'eternal song
through all the ages long,
may Jesus Christ be praised!

Joseph Barnby

The Words of Life

Hear the Bible's direction for your life:

“Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. “For the gate is narrow and the way is constricted that leads to life, and there are few who find it. *Matthew 7:13–14*

Confession of Sin

Confess your sins to God:

The Cry of a Convicted Sinner

Thou righteous and holy Sovereign,
In whose hand is my life and whose are all
 my ways,
Keep me from fluttering about religion;
 fix me firm in it,
 for I am irresolute;
 my decisions are smoke and vapour,
 and I do not glorify thee,
 or behave according to thy will;
Cut me not off before my thoughts grow
 to responses,
 and the budding of my soul into full flower,
 for thou art forbearing and good,
 patient and kind.
Save me from myself,
 from the artifices and deceits of sin,
 from the treachery of my perverse nature,
 from denying thy charge against my offences,
 from a life of continual rebellion against thee,
 from wrong principles, views, and ends;
 for I know that all my thoughts, affections,
 desires and pursuits are alienated from thee.
I have acted as if I hated thee, although thou art
 love itself;
 have contrived to tempt thee to the uttermost,
 to wear out thy patience;
 have lived evilly in word and action.
Had I been a prince
 I would long ago have crushed such a rebel;
Had I been a father
 I would long since have rejected my child.
O, thou Father of my spirit,
 thou King of my life,
 cast me not into destruction,
 drive me not from thy presence,
 but wound my heart that it may be healed;
 break it that thine own hand
 may make it whole.

Valley of Vision

Assurance of Pardon

Receive this promise of forgiveness from God:

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we boast in hope of the glory of God. *Romans 5:1–2*

Prayer for Illumination

As you read his word, ask God to enlighten your mind and heart:

Forever, O Yahweh, Your word stands firm in heaven. Your faithfulness endures from generation to generation; You established the earth, and it stands. They stand this day according to Your judgments, for all things are under Your will. If Your law had not been our delight, then we will perish in our sin. We will never forget Your precepts, for by them You have justified us. We are Yours, save us; we have sought Your precepts. The wicked hope for me—to destroy me; but we shall observe Your testimonies. We have seen the scope of all perfection; Your word is our all and all. Amen *Psalm 119:89-96*

Confession of Faith

Receive this instruction from the church's confession of beliefs: see appendix 1.

Catechism

Receive this instruction from one of the church's catechisms: see appendix 2.

Scripture Reading

Read a portion of God's word: see appendix 3.

Prayer of Intercession

As you make your requests to God, pray this prayer:

Divine Promises

Glorious Jehovah, My Covenant God,
All thy promises in Christ Jesus are
 yea and amen, and all shall be fulfilled.
Thou hast spoken them, and they shall be done,
 commanded, and they shall come to pass.
Yet I have often doubted thee,
 have lived at times as if there were no God.
Lord, forgive me that death in life,
 when I have found something apart from thee,
 when I have been content with ephemeral things.
But through thy grace I have repented;
Thou hast given me to read my pardon
 in the wounds of Jesus,
 and my soul doth trust in him, my God incarnate,
 the ground of my life, the spring of my hope.
Teach me to be resigned to thy will,

to delight in thy law,
to have no will but thine,
to believe that everything thou doest is
for my good.

Help me to leave my concerns in thy hands,
for thou hast power over evil,
and bringest from it an infinite progression
of good,
until thy purposes are fulfilled.

Bless me with Abraham's faith
that staggers not at promises through unbelief.

May I not instruct thee in my troubles,
but glorify thee in my trials;

Grant me a distinct advance in the divine life;
May I reach a higher platform,
leave the mists of doubt and fear in the valley,
and climb to hill-tops of eternal security in Christ
by simply believing he cannot lie,
or turn from his purpose.

Give me the confidence I ought to have in him
who is worthy to be praised,
and who is blessed for evermore.

Valley of Vision

Go to God with any other petitions for the Church, the World, or Personal

Benediction

Peace be with you:

that He would give you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being firmly rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God. *Ephesians 3:16-19*

Day 26

Call To Worship

Hear the Lord call you to worship through His word:

giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. Who rescued us from the authority of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. *Colossians 1:12-14*

Adoration

Praise the Lord for He is Good:

Thine Be the Glory

Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry Thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where Thy body lay.

Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry Thou o'er death hast won.
Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb.
Lovingly He greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let His church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting.

Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry Thou o'er death hast won.
No more we doubt Thee, glorious Prince of life!!
Life is nought without Thee; aid us in our strife;
make us more than conqu'rors, through Thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to Thy home above.

Edmond Louis Budry

The Words of Life

Hear the Bible's direction for your life:

“But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who disparage you.
“Whoever hits you on the cheek, offer him the other also; and whoever takes away your garment, do not withhold your tunic from him either. “Give to everyone who asks of you, and whoever takes away what is yours, do not demand it back. *Luke 6:27-30*

Confession of Sin

Confess your sins to God:

The Mediator

EVERLASTING CREATOR-FATHER,
I have destroyed myself,

my nature is defiled,
the powers of my soul are degraded;
I am vile, miserable, strengthless,
but my hope is in thee.

If ever I am saved it will be by goodness
undeserved and astonishing,
not by mercy alone but by abundant mercy,
not by grace but by exceeding riches of grace;
And such thou hast revealed, promised, exemplified
in thoughts of peace, not of evil.

Thou hast devised means
to rescue me from sin's perdition,
to restore me to happiness, honour, safety.

I bless thee for the everlasting covenant,
for the appointment of a Mediator.

I rejoice that he failed not, nor was discouraged,
but accomplished the work thou gavest him
to do;
and said on the cross, 'It is finished.'

I exult in the thought that
thy justice is satisfied,
thy truth established,
thy law magnified,
and a foundation is laid for my hope.

I look to a present and personal interest
in Christ and say,
Surely he has borne my griefs,
carried my sorrows,
won my peace,
healed my soul.

Justified by his blood I am saved by his life,
Glorying in his cross I bow to his sceptre,
Having his Spirit I possess his mind.

Lord, grant that my religion may not be
occasional and partial,
but universal, influential, effective,
and may I always continue in thy words
as well as thy works,
so that I may reach my end in peace.

Valley of Vision

Assurance of Pardon

Receive this promise of forgiveness from God:

But God, being rich in mercy because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. *Ephesians 2:4–7*

Prayer for Illumination

As you read his word, ask God to enlighten your mind and heart:

Lord Jesus, this special water that we pour into the basin of our soul, water from the Scriptures, from the Psalms, is the water of the message from heaven.

So let this water penetrate my soul and my flesh, that through the moisture of this rain the valleys of my mind and the field of my heart may grow green.

May your raindrops fall on me, giving grace and eternal life. Wash my mind that I may not sin again and again. Wash the heel of my soul, that I may be able to erase the curse, and not feel the serpent's bite. *Author Unknown*

Confession of Faith

Receive this instruction from the church's confession of beliefs: see appendix 1.

Catechism

Receive this instruction from one of the church's catechisms: see appendix 2.

Scripture Reading

Read a portion of God's word: see appendix 3.

Prayer of Intercession

As you make your requests to God, pray this prayer:

Refuge

O Lord,
Whose power is infinite and wisdom infallible,
Order things that they may neither hinder,
nor discourage me,
nor prove obstacles to the progress of thy cause;
Stand between me and all strife, that no evil befall,
no sin corrupt my gifts, zeal, attainments;
May I follow duty and not any foolish device
of my own;
Permit me not to labour at work which thou wilt
not bless,
that I may serve thee without disgrace or debt;
Let me dwell in thy most secret place under thy
shadow,
where is safe impenetrable protection from
the arrow that flieth by day,
the pestilence that walketh in darkness,
the strife of tongues,
the malice of ill-will,
the hurt of unkind talk,
the snares of company,
the perils of youth,
the temptations of middle life,
the mournings of old age,

the fear of death.
I am entirely dependent upon thee for support,
counsel, consolation.
Uphold me by thy free Spirit,
and may I not think it enough to be preserved
from falling,
but may I always go forward, always abounding
in the work thou givest me to do.
Strengthen me by thy Spirit in my inner self
for every purpose of my Christian life.
All my jewels I give to the shadow of the safety
that is in thee —
my name anew in Christ,
my body, soul, talents, character,
my success, wife, children, friends, work,
my present, my future, my end.
Take them, they are thine, and I am thine,
now and for ever.
Valley of Vision

Go to God with any other petitions for the Church, the World, or Personal

Benediction

Peace be with you:

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely, and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He who calls you, who also will do it. *1 Thessalonians 5:23–24*

Day 27

Call To Worship

Hear the Lord call you to worship through His word:

Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You. Let the nations be glad and sing for joy; For You will judge the peoples with uprightness And lead the nations on the earth. Selah. Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You. *Psalm 67:3–5*

Adoration

Praise the Lord for He is Good:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

Alleluia, alleluia!
Hearts to heav'n and voices raise:
sing to God a hymn of gladness,
sing to God a hymn of praise.
He, who on the cross a victim
for the world's salvation bled,
Jesus Christ, the King of glory,
now is risen from the dead.

Now the iron bars are broken,
Christ from death to life is born,
glorious life, and life immortal,
on the holy Easter morn.
Christ has triumphed, and we conquer
by His mighty enterprise;
we with Him to life eternal
by His resurrection rise.

Christ is risen, Christ, the first-fruits
of the holy harvest field,
which will all its full abundance
at His second coming yield.
Then the golden ears of harvest
will their heads before Him wave,
ripened by His glorious sunshine
from the furrows of the grave.

Christ is risen, we are risen!
Shed upon us heav'nly grace,
rain, and dew and gleams of glory
from the brightness of Thy face,
that we, with our hearts in heaven,
here on earth may fruitful be,
and by angel hands be gathered,
and be ever, Lord, with Thee.

Alleluia, alleluia!
Glory be to God on high!
Alleluia! to the Savior
who has gained the victory!
Alleluia! to the Spirit,
fount of love and sanctity!
Alleluia, alleluia
to the Triune Majesty.
Christopher Wordsworth

The Words of Life

Hear the Bible's direction for your life:

“This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. “Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. “You are My friends if you do what I command you. “No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. “You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would abide, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you. “This I command you, that you love one another. *John 15:12–17*

Confession of Sin

Confess your sins to God:

The Mediator

Everlasting Creator-Father,
I have destroyed myself,
 my nature is defiled,
 the powers of my soul are degraded;
 I am vile, miserable, strengthless,
 but my hope is in thee.
If ever I am saved it will be by goodness
 undeserved and astonishing,
 not by mercy alone but by abundant mercy,
 not by grace but by exceeding riches of grace;
And such thou hast revealed, promised, exemplified
 in thoughts of peace, not of evil.

Thou hast devised means
 to rescue me from sin's perdition,
 to restore me to happiness, honour, safety.
I bless thee for the everlasting covenant,
 for the appointment of a Mediator.
I rejoice that he failed not, nor was discouraged,
 but accomplished the work thou gavest him
 to do;
 and said on the cross, 'It is finished.'
I exult in the thought that
 thy justice is satisfied,
 thy truth established,

thy law magnified,
and a foundation is laid for my hope.
I look to a present and personal interest
in Christ and say,
Surely he has borne my griefs,
carried my sorrows,
won my peace,
healed my soul.
Justified by his blood I am saved by his life,
Glorying in his cross I bow to his sceptre,
Having his Spirit I possess his mind.

Lord, grant that my religion may not be
occasional and partial,
but universal, influential, effective,
and may I always continue in thy words
as well as thy works,
so that I may reach my end in peace.

Valley of Vision

Assurance of Pardon

Receive this promise of forgiveness from God:

For God has not appointed us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him. *1 Thessalonians 5:9–10*

Prayer for Illumination

As you read his word, ask God to enlighten your mind and heart:

Oh how we love Your Word! It is my meditation all day. Your commandments make me wiser than my enemies, for they are mine forever. We have been taught by the highest teacher, for Your testimonies are my meditation. We perceive more than the wise of the world, because I have observed Your precepts. We have restrained our feet from every evil way, that we may keep Your word. We have not turned aside from Your judgments, for You Yourself have taught me. How sweet is Your word! Sweeter than honey to us! From Your precepts we are given wisdom; therefore, we will forsake every false way. Amen
Psalms 119:97-104

Confession of Faith

Receive this instruction from the church's confession of beliefs: see appendix 1.

Catechism

Receive this instruction from one of the church's catechisms: see appendix 2.

Scripture Reading

Read a portion of God's word: see appendix 3.

Prayer of Intercession

As you make your requests to God, pray this prayer:

Christlikeness

Father of Jesus,
Dawn returns, but without thy light within
no outward light can profit;
Give me the saving lamp of thy Spirit that I may
see thee,
the God of my salvation, the delight of my soul,
rejoicing over me in love.
I commend my heart to thy watchful care,
for I know its treachery and power;
Guard its every portal from the wily enemy,
Give me quick discernment of his deadly arts,
Help me to recognize his bold disguise as an
angel of light,
and bid him begone.
May my words and works allure others to the
highest walks of faith and love!
May loiterers be quickened to greater diligence
by my example!
May worldlings be won to delight in acquaintance
with thee!
May the timid and irresolute be warned
of coming doom by my zeal for Jesus!
Cause me to be a mirror of thy grace,
to show others the joy of thy service,
May my lips be well-tuned cymbals
sounding thy praise,
Let a halo of heavenly-mindedness
sparkle around me
and a lamp of kindness sunbeam my path.
Teach me the happy art of
attending to things temporal
with a mind intent on things eternal.
Send me forth to have compassion
on the ignorant and miserable.
Help me to walk as Jesus walked,
my only Saviour and perfect model,
his mind my inward guest,
his meekness my covering garb.
Let my happy place be amongst the poor in spirit,
my delight the gentle ranks of the meek.
Let me always esteem others better than myself,
and find in true humility
an heirdom to two worlds.

Valley of Vision

Go to God with any other petitions for the Church, the World, or Personal

Benediction

Peace be with you:

Now may the Lord of peace Himself continually give you peace in every circumstance. The Lord be with you all! *2 Thessalonians 3:16*

Day 28

Call To Worship

Hear the Lord call you to worship through His word:

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; for OUR GOD IS A CONSUMING FIRE. *Hebrews 12:28–29*

Adoration

Praise the Lord for He is Good:

The Strife Is O'er

The strife is o'er, the battle done;
the victory of life is won;
the song of triumph has begun:
Alleluia!

The pow'rs of death have done their worst,
but Christ their legions hath dispersed;
let shout of holy joy outburst:
Alleluia!

The three sad days are quickly sped;
He rises glorious from the dead;
all glory to our risen Head:
Alleluia!

He closed the yawning gates of hell;
the bars of heav'n's high portals fell;
let hymns of praise His triumph tell.
Alleluia!

Lord! by the stripes which wounded Thee,
from death's dread sting Thy servants free,
that we may live, and sing to Thee:
Alleluia!

Giovanni P. de Palestrina

The Words of Life

Hear the Bible's direction for your life:

So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined at the table again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? "You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. "If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. "For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. "Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. *John 13:12–16*

Confession of Sin

Confess your sins to God:

Reproofs

O merciful God,
When I hear of disagreeable things amongst
Christians,
it brings an additional weight and burden
on my spirit;
I come to thee in my distress and make lamentable
complaint;
Teach me how to take reproofs from friends,
even though I think I do not deserve them;
Use them to make me tenderly afraid of sin,
more jealous over myself,
more concerned to keep heart and life
unblameable;
Cause them to help me
to reflect on my want of spirituality,
to abhor myself,
to look upon myself as unworthy,
and make them beneficial to my soul.
May all thy people know how little, mean,
and vile I am,
that they may see I am nothing,
less than nothing,
to be accounted nothing,
that so they may pray for me aright,
and have not the least dependence upon me.
It is sweet to be nothing and have nothing,
and to be fed with crumbs from thy hands.
Blessed be thy Name for anything that life brings.
How do poor souls live who have not thee,
or when helpless have no God to go to,
who feel not the constraining force of thy love,
and the sweetness of communion?
O how admirably dost thou captivate the soul,
making all desires and affections centre on thee!
Give me such vivacity in religion,
that I may be able to take all reproofs
from other men
as from thy hands,
and glorify thee for them
from a sense of thy beneficent love
and of my need to have my pride destroyed.

Valley of Vision

Assurance of Pardon

Receive this promise of forgiveness from God:

For we ourselves also once were foolish, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, despicable,

hating one another. But when the kindness and affection of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not by works which we did in righteousness, but according to His mercy, through the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that having been justified by His grace, we would become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. *Titus 3:3–7*

Prayer for Illumination

As you read his word, ask God to enlighten your mind and heart:

O God Almighty, the Father of your Christ, your only begotten Son, would you give me now an undefiled body, a pure heart, and a watchful mind? Grant me the knowledge that always points to the truth, as well as the influence of the Holy Spirit for gaining and enjoying that truth, in your peace and assurance. I ask this through Jesus Christ, by whom is glory to you, in the Holy Spirit forever, amen. *Apostolic Constitutions*

Confession of Faith

Receive this instruction from the church's confession of beliefs: see appendix 1.

Catechism

Receive this instruction from one of the church's catechisms: see appendix 2.

Scripture Reading

Read a portion of God's word: see appendix 3.

Prayer of Intercession

As you make your requests to God, pray this prayer:

Love Shed Abroad

Gracious God,
My heart praises thee for the wonder
 of thy love in Jesus;
He is heaven's darling, but is for me
 the incarnate, despised, rejected,
 crucified sin-bearer;
In him thy grace has almost out-graced itself,
In him thy love to rebels has reached its height;
O to love thee with a love like this!
My heart is stone, melt it with thy love,
My heart is locked, let thy love be the master key
 to open it;
O Father, I adore thee for thy great love
 in the gift of Jesus,
O Jesus, I bless thee for resigning thy life for me,
O Holy Spirit, I thank thee for revealing to me
 this mystery;
Great God, let thy Son see in me the travail
 of his soul!
Bring me away from my false trusts to rest in him,

and him only.
Let me not be so callous to his merit
as not to love him,
so indifferent to his blood
as not to desire cleansing.
Lord Jesus, Master, Redeemer, Saviour,
come and take entire possession of me;
this is thy right by purchase.
In the arms of love enfold and subdue
my wilful spirit.
Take, sanctify, use my every faculty.
I am not ashamed of my hope,
nor has my confidence led me into confusion.
I trusted in thee regarding my innumerable sins,
and thou hast cast them behind thy back.
I trusted in thee when evils encompassed me,
and thou broughtest me out into a wealthy place.
I trusted in thee in an hour of distress,
and thou didst not fail me, though faith trembled.
O God of the eternal choice,
O God of the restored possession purchased
on the tree,
O God of the effectual call,
Father, Son, Holy Spirit,
I adore thy glory, honour, majesty, power,
dominion for ever.

Valley of Vision

Go to God with any other petitions for the Church, the World, or Personal

Benediction

Peace be with you:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. *Philemon 25*

Day 29

Call To Worship

Hear the Lord call you to worship through His word:

Give thanks to Yahweh, for He is good,
For His lovingkindness endures forever.
Give thanks to the God of gods,
For His lovingkindness endures forever.
Give thanks to the Lord of lords,
For His lovingkindness endures forever. *Psalm 136:1–3*

Adoration

Praise the Lord for He is Good:

Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing

Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!
Now is the triumph of our King!
To all the world glad news we bring:
"Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"

The Lord of life is ris'n today;
death's mighty stone is rolled away;
let ev'ry tongue rejoice and say:
"Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"

We praise in songs of victory
that Love, that Life, which cannot die,
and sing with hearts uplifted high:
"Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"

Cyril A. Alington

The Words of Life

Hear the Bibles direction for your life:

“Do not worry then, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear for clothing?’ ‘For all these things the Gentiles eagerly seek; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ‘But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. ‘So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. *Matthew 6:31–34*

Confession of Sin

Confess your sins to God:

The Broken Heart

O Lord,
No day of my life has passed that has not
proved me guilty in thy sight.
Prayers have been uttered from a

prayerless heart;
Praise has been often praiseless sound;
My best services are filthy rags.
Blessed Jesus, let me find a covert in thy appeasing
wounds.
Though my sins rise to heaven thy merits soar
above them;
Though unrighteousness weighs me down to hell,
thy righteousness exalts me to thy throne.
All things in me call for my rejection,
All things in thee plead my acceptance.
I appeal from the throne of perfect justice
to thy throne of boundless grace.
Grant me to hear thy voice assuring me:
that by thy stripes I am healed,
that thou wast bruised for my iniquities,
that thou hast been made sin for me
that I might be righteous in thee,
that my grievous sins, my manifold sins,
are all forgiven,
buried in the ocean of thy concealing blood.
I am guilty, but pardoned,
lost, but saved,
wandering, but found,
sinning, but cleansed.
Give me perpetual broken-heartedness,
Keep me always clinging to thy cross,
Flood me every moment with descending grace,
Open to me the springs of divine knowledge,
sparkling like crystal,
flowing clear and unsullied
through my wilderness of life.
Valley of Vision

Assurance of Pardon

Receive this promise of forgiveness from God:

Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives. *Hebrews 2:14–15*

Prayer for Illumination

As you read his word, ask God to enlighten your mind and heart:

Your word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. We have sworn and strove, to keep Your righteous judgments. We are exceedingly afflicted; O Yahweh, revive us according to Your word. O Lord we beg, be pleased with the offerings of my mouth, O Yahweh and teach me Your will. Our souls are continually in my hand, Yet I do not forget Your law. Wicked men have laid a snare for me, yet I have not wandered from Your truth. I have inherited Your testimonies forever, for they are the joy

of my heart. Guide my heart to follow Your statutes forever. Amen
Psalm 119:105-112

Confession of Faith

Receive this instruction from the church's confession of beliefs: see appendix 1.

Catechism

Receive this instruction from one of the church's catechisms: see appendix 2.

Scripture Reading

Read a portion of God's word: see appendix 3.

Prayer of Intercession

As you make your requests to God, pray this prayer:

Covenant

Lord Jesus,
Grant me the favour of being led by thee,
under the directions of thy providence
and thy Word.
Grant me thy blessings with bitter things,
to brighten and quicken me,
not to depress and make me lifeless;
Grant me, like Gideon of old, way-tokens,
by removing things that discourage me;
Grant me succour beneath the shadow
of thy sympathy when I am tempted.
Accept my unceasing thanks
that I am not cast off from thy hand
as a darkened star or a rudderless vessel.
Suffer not my life to extend
beyond my usefulness;
Cast me not under the feet of
pride, injustice, riches, worldly greatness,
selfish oppression of men;
Help me to wait patiently, silently upon thee,
not to be enraged or speak unadvisedly.
Let thy mercy follow me while I live,
and give me aid to resign myself to thy will.
Take my heart and hold it in thy hand;
write upon it reverence to thyself with an
inscription that time and eternity cannot erase.
To thy grace and the care of thy covenant
I commit myself, in sickness, and in health,
for thou hast overcome the world,
fulfilled the law,
finished justifying righteousness,
swallowed up death in victory,
and taken all power everywhere.
Mark this covenant with thine own blood

in the court of forgiving mercy;
Attach unto it thy name in which I believe,
for it is sealed by my unworthy mortal hand.
Valley of Vision

Go to God with any other petitions for the Church, the World, or Personal

Benediction

Peace be with you:

Yahweh will keep you from all evil; He will keep your soul. Yahweh will
keep your going out and your coming in From now until forever. *Psalm*
121:7-8

Day 30

Call To Worship

Hear the Lord call you to worship through His word:

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing." And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, "To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be the blessing and the honor and the glory and the might forever and ever." *Revelation 5:11-13*

Adoration

Praise the Lord for He is Good:

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
His the scepter, His the throne.
Alleluia! His the triumph,
His the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood;
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation
has redeemed us by His blood.

Alleluia! Not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now.
Alleluia! He is near us;
faith believes, nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received Him
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget His promise,
"I am with you evermore"?

Alleluia! Bread of heaven,
here on earth our food, our stay.
Alleluia! Here the sinful
flee to You from day to day.
Intercessor, Friend of sinners,
earth's Redeemer, hear our plea
where the songs of all the sinless
sweep across the crystal sea.

William C. Dix

The Words of Life

Hear the Bibles direction for your life:

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. “But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. *Matthew 6:19–21*

Confession of Sin

Confess your sins to God:

The Precious Blood

Blessed Lord Jesus,
Before thy cross I kneel and see
 the heinousness of my sin,
 my iniquity that caused thee to be
 ‘made a curse’,
 the evil that excites the severity
 of divine wrath.
Show me the enormity of my guilt by
 the crown of thorns,
 the pierced hands and feet,
 the bruised body,
 the dying cries.
Thy blood is the blood of incarnate God,
 its worth infinite, its value beyond all thought.
Infinite must be the evil and guilt
 that demands such a price.
Sin is my malady, my monster, my foe, my viper,
 born in my birth,
 alive in my life,
 strong in my character,
 dominating my faculties,
 following me as a shadow,
 intermingling with my every thought,
 my chain that holds me captive in the
 empire of my soul.
Sinner that I am, why should the sun give me light,
 the air supply breath,
 the earth bear my tread,
 its fruits nourish me,
 its creatures subserve my ends?
Yet thy compassions yearn over me,
 thy heart hastens to my rescue,
 thy love endured my curse,
 thy mercy bore my deserved stripes.
Let me walk humbly in the lowest depths
 of humiliation,
 bathed in thy blood,
 tender of conscience,
 triumphing gloriously as an heir of salvation.

Valley of Vision

Assurance of Pardon

Receive this promise of forgiveness from God:

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world. And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. *1 John 2:1–3*

Prayer for Illumination

As you read his word, ask God to enlighten your mind and heart:

Grant, Almighty God, that as you shine on us by your Word, we may not be blind at midday, nor willfully seek darkness, and thus lull our minds asleep; but may we be roused daily by your words, and may we stir up ourselves more and more to fear your name and thus present ourselves and all our pursuits as a sacrifice to you, that you may peaceably rule, and perpetually dwell in us, until you gather us to your celestial habitation, where there is reserved for us eternal rest and glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

John Calvin

Confession of Faith

Receive this instruction from the church's confession of beliefs: see appendix 1.

Catechism

Receive this instruction from one of the church's catechisms: see appendix 2.

Scripture Reading

Read a portion of God's word: see appendix 3.

Prayer of Intercession

As you make your requests to God, pray this prayer:

The Throne

O God of my delight,
Thy throne of grace
 is the pleasure ground of my soul.
Here I obtain mercy in time of need,
 here see the smile of thy reconciled face,
 here joy pleads the name of Jesus,
 here I sharpen the sword of the Spirit,
 anoint the shield of faith,
 put on the helmet of salvation,
 gather manna from thy Word,
 am strengthened for each conflict,
 nerved for the upward race,
 empowered to conquer every foe;
Help me to come to Christ
 as the fountain head of descending blessings,
 as a wide open flood-gate of mercy.
I marvel at my insensate folly, that

with such enriching favours within my reach
I am slow to extend the hand to take them.
Have mercy upon my deadness for thy Name's sake.
Quicken me, stir me, fill me with holy zeal.
Strengthen me that I may cling to thee
and not let thee go.
May thy Spirit within me draw all blessings
from thy hand.
When I advance not, I backslide.
Let me walk humbly because of good omitted
and evil done.
Impress on my mind the shortness of time,
the work to be engaged in,
the account to be rendered,
the nearness of eternity,
the fearful sin of despising thy Spirit.
May I never forget that
thy eye always sees,
thy ear always hears,
thy recording hand always writes.
May I never give thee rest until Christ is
the pulse of my heart;
the spokesman of my lips,
the lamp of my feet.
Valley of Vision

Go to God with any other petitions for the Church, the World, or Personal

Benediction

Peace be with you:

Now to Him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the Gentiles, leading to obedience of faith; to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen.

Romans 16:25–27

Day 31

Call To Worship

Hear the Lord call you to worship through His word:

Whom have I in heaven but You? And besides You, I desire nothing on earth. My flesh and my heart fail, But God is the rock of my heart and my portion forever. But as for me, the nearness of God is my good; I have set Lord Yahweh as my refuge, That I may recount all Your works. *Psalm 73:25–26, 28*

Adoration

Praise the Lord for He is Good:

Hail, You Once Despised Jesus!

Hail, thou once despisèd Jesus!
Hail, Thou Galilean king!
Thou didst suffer to release us;
Thou didst free salvation bring.
Hail, Thou universal Savior,
bearer of our sin and shame!
By Thy merit we find favor;
life is given through Thy name.

Paschal Lamb, by God appointed,
all our sins on Thee were laid;
by almighty Love anointed,
Thou hast full atonement made:
all Thy people are forgiven
through the virtue of Thy blood;
opened is the gate of heaven;
peace is made 'twit man and God.

Jesus, hail, enthroned in glory,
there forever to abide!
All the heav'nly host adore Thee,
seated at Thy Father's side.
There for sinners Thou art pleading;
there Thou dost our place prepare;
ever for us interceding,
till in glory we appear.

Worship, honor, pow'r, and blessing
Thou art worthy to receive;
highest praises, without ceasing,
meet it is for us to give.
Help, ye bright angelic spirits,
bring your sweetest, noblest lays;
help to sing our Savior's merits;
help to chant Immanuel's praise!

John Bakewell

The Words of Life

Hear the Bible's direction for your life:

“Gird up your loins, and keep your lamps lit. “And be like men who are waiting for their master when he returns from the wedding feast, so that they may immediately open the door to him when he comes and knocks. “Blessed are those slaves whom the master will find awake when he comes; truly I say to you, that he will gird himself to serve, and have them recline at the table, and will come up and wait on them. “Whether he comes in the second watch, or even in the third, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. *Luke 12:35–38*

Confession of Sin

Confess your sins to God:

Slef-Noughting

O Lord,
Help me to approach thee
 with becoming conception of thy nature,
 relations and designs.
Thou inhabitest eternity, and
 my life is nothing before thee;
Thou dwellest in the highest heaven and
 this cannot contain thee;
 I live in a house of clay.
Thy power is almighty;
 I am crushed before the moth.
Thy understanding is infinite;
 I know nothing as I ought to know.
Thou canst not behold evil;
 I am vile.
In my ignorance, weakness, fears, depressions,
 may thy Spirit help my infirmities
 with supplies of wisdom, strength and comfort.
Let me faithfully study my character,
 be willing to bring it to light,
 observe myself in my trials,
 judge the reality and degree of my grace,
 consider how I have been ensnared or overcome.
Grant that I may never trust my heart,
 depend upon any past experiences,
 magnify any present resolutions,
 but be strong in the grace of Jesus:
 that I may know how to obtain relief
 from a guilty conscience
 without feeling reconciled to my imperfections.
Sustain me under my trials
 and improve them to me;
 give me grace to rest in thee,
 and assure me of deliverance.
May I always combine thy majesty

with thy mercy,
and connect thy goodness
with thy greatness.
Then shall my heart always rejoice
in praises to thee.
Valley of Vision

Assurance of Pardon

Receive this promise of forgiveness from God:

But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation, and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy places once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? *Hebrews 9:11-14*

Prayer for Illumination

As you read his word, ask God to enlighten your mind and heart:

We hate those who are opposed to your word, but we love Your law. You are our refuge and shield; we will rest in Your truth. Rescue us from evildoers, that I may submit the commandments of my God. Sustain us according to Your word, that we may live; and protect us for you are our hope. Uphold this church that we may be saved, that we may devote ourselves to Your statutes continually. You reject all those who stray from Your statutes, for their deceitfulness is a lie. You remove all the wicked of the earth like dross; we glorify you for Your justice. Guide us in your holy truth that we might trust in you. Amen *Psalm 119:113-120*

Confession of Faith

Receive this instruction from the church's confession of beliefs: see appendix 1.

Catechism

Receive this instruction from one of the church's catechisms: see appendix 2.

Scripture Reading

Read a portion of God's word: see appendix 3.

Prayer of Intercession

As you make your requests to God, pray this prayer:

Joy

O Christ,
All thy ways of mercy tend to and end in
my delight.
Thou didst weep, sorrow, suffer that I might rejoice.

For my joy thou hast sent the Comforter,
multiplied thy promises,
shown me my future happiness,
given me a living fountain.
Thou art preparing joy for me and me for joy;
I pray for joy, wait for joy, long for joy;
give me more than I can hold, desire, or think of.
Measure out to me my times and degrees of joy,
at my work, business, duties.
If I weep at night, give me joy in the morning.
Let me rest in the thought of thy love,
pardon for sin, my title to heaven,
my future unspotted state.
I am an unworthy recipient of thy grace.
I often disesteem thy blood and slight thy love,
but can in repentance draw water
from the wells of thy joyous forgiveness.
Let my heart leap towards the eternal sabbath,
where the work of redemption, sanctification,
preservation, glorification is finished
and perfected for ever,
where thou wilt rejoice over me with joy.
There is no joy like the joy of heaven,
for in that state are no sad divisions,
unchristian quarrels,
contentions, evil designs,
weariness, hunger, cold,
sadness, sin, suffering,
persecutions, toils of duty.
O healthful place where none are sick!
O happy land where all are kings!
O holy assembly where all are priests!
How free a state where none are servants
except to thee!
Bring me speedily to the land of joy.

Valley of Vision

Go to God with any other petitions for the Church, the World, or Personal

Benediction

Peace be with you:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him in love, by predestining us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He graciously bestowed on us in the Beloved. *Ephesians 1:3–6*

Appendix 1

Vail Valley Baptist Church Statement of Faith

Chapter 1 - The Holy Scriptures

1. The Holy Scriptures are the only sufficient, certain, and infallible standard of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience.¹ The light of nature and the works of creation and providence so clearly demonstrate the goodness, wisdom, and power of God that people are left without excuse; however, these demonstrations are not sufficient to give the knowledge of God and his will that is necessary for salvation.² Therefore, the Lord was pleased at different times and in various ways to reveal himself and to declare his will to his church.³ To preserve and propagate the truth better and to establish and comfort the church with greater certainty against the corruption of the flesh and the malice of Satan and the world, the Lord put this revelation completely in writing. Therefore, the Holy Scriptures are absolutely necessary, because God's former ways of revealing his will to his people have now ceased.⁴

¹2 Timothy 3:15–17; Isaiah 8:20; Luke 16:29, 31; Ephesians 2:20. ²Romans 1:19–21; Romans 2:14,15; Psalm 19:1–3. ³Hebrews 1:1. ⁴Proverbs 22:19–21; Romans 15:4; 2 Peter 1:19, 20.

2. The Holy Scriptures, or the Word of God written, consist of all the books of the Old and New Testaments. These are:

THE OLD TESTAMENT: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.

THE NEW TESTAMENT: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Jude, Revelation.

All of these are given by the inspiration of God to be the standard of faith and life.⁵

⁵2 Timothy 3:16.

3. The books commonly called the Apocrypha were not given by divine inspiration and so are not part of the canon or standard of the Scriptures. Therefore, they have no authority for the church of God and are not to be recognized or used in any way different from other human writings.⁶

⁶Luke 24:27, 44; Romans 3:2.

4. The authority of the Holy Scriptures obligates belief in them. This authority does not depend on the testimony of any person or church but on God the author alone, who is truth itself. Therefore, the Scriptures are to be received because they are the Word of God.⁷

⁷2 Peter 1:19–21; 2 Timothy 3:16; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 John 5:9.

5. The testimony of the church of God may stir and persuade us to adopt a high and reverent respect for the Holy Scriptures. Moreover, the heavenliness of the contents, the power of the system of truth, the majesty of the style, the harmony of all the parts, the central focus on giving all glory to God, the full revelation of the only way of salvation, and many other incomparable qualities and complete perfections, all provide abundant evidence that the Scriptures are the Word of God. Even so, our full persuasion and assurance of the infallible truth and divine authority of the Scriptures comes from the internal work of the Holy Spirit bearing witness by and with the Word in our hearts.⁸

⁸John 16:13,14; 1 Corinthians 2:10–12; 1 John 2:20, 27.

6. The whole counsel of God concerning everything essential for his own glory and man's salvation, faith, and life is either explicitly stated or by necessary inference contained in the Holy Scriptures. Nothing is ever to be added to the Scriptures, either by new revelation of the Spirit or by human traditions.⁹

Nevertheless, we acknowledge that the inward illumination of the Spirit of God is necessary for a saving understanding of what is revealed in the Word.¹⁰ We recognize that some circumstances concerning the worship of God and government of the church are common to human actions and organizations and are to be ordered by the light of nature and Christian wisdom, following the general rules of the Word, which must always be observed.¹¹

⁹2 Timothy 3:15–17; Galatians 1:8,9. ¹⁰John 6:45; 1 Corinthians 2:9–12. ¹¹1 Corinthians 11:13, 14; 1 Corinthians 14:26, 40.

7. Some things in Scripture are clearer than others, and some people understand the teachings more clearly than others.¹² However, the things that must be known, believed, and obeyed for salvation are so clearly set forth and explained in one part of Scripture or another that both the educated and uneducated may achieve a sufficient understanding of them by properly using ordinary measures.¹³

¹²2 Peter 3:16. ¹³Psalm 19:7; Psalm 119:130.

8. The Old Testament was written in Hebrew, the native language of the ancient people of God.¹⁴ The New Testament was written in Greek, which at the time it was written was most widely known to the nations. These Testaments were inspired directly by God and by his unique care and providence were kept pure down through the ages. They are therefore true and authoritative^a, so that in all religious controversies the church must make their ultimate appeal to them.¹⁵ All God's people have a right to and a claim on the Scriptures and are commanded in the fear of God to read¹⁶ and search

them.¹⁷ Not all of God's people know these original languages, so the Scriptures are to be translated into the common language of every nation to which they come.¹⁸ In this way the Word of God may dwell richly in all, so that they may worship him in an acceptable manner and through patience and the comfort of the Scriptures may have hope.¹⁹

^a*authentic*

¹⁴Romans 3:2. ¹⁵Isaiah 8:20. ¹⁶Acts 15:15. ¹⁷John 5:39. ¹⁸1 Corinthians 14:6, 9, 11, 12, 24, 28. ¹⁹Colossians 3:16.

9. The infallible rule for interpreting Scripture is the Scripture itself. Therefore, when there is a question about the true and full meaning^c of any part of Scripture (and each passage has only one meaning, not many), it must be understood in light of other passages that speak more clearly.²⁰

^c*sense*

²⁰2 Peter 1:20, 21; Acts 15:15, 16.

10. The supreme judge for deciding all religious controversies and for evaluating all decrees of councils, opinions of ancient writers, human teachings, and individual interpretations^d, and in whose judgment we are to rest, is nothing but the Holy Scripture delivered by the Spirit. In this Scripture our faith finds its final word.²¹

^d*private spirits*

²¹Matthew 22:29, 31, 32; Ephesians 2:20; Acts 28:23.

Chapter 2 - God and the Holy Trinity

1. The Lord our God is one, the only living and true God.¹ He is self-existent² and infinite in being and perfection. His essence cannot be understood by anyone but him.³ He is a perfectly pure spirit.⁴ He is invisible and has no body, parts, or changeable emotions.^a He alone has immortality, dwelling in light that no one can approach.⁵ He is unchangeable,⁶ immense,^{b,7} eternal,⁸ incomprehensible, almighty,⁹ in every way infinite, absolutely holy,¹⁰ perfectly wise, wholly free, completely absolute. He works all things according to the counsel of his own unchangeable and completely righteous will¹¹ for his own glory.¹² He is most loving, gracious, merciful, and patient. He overflows with goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin. He rewards those who seek him diligently.¹³ At the same time, he is perfectly just and terrifying in his judgments.¹⁴ He hates all sin¹⁵ and will certainly not clear the guilty.¹⁶

^a*passions*

^btranscends all space

¹1 Corinthians 8:4, 6; Deuteronomy 6:4. ²Jeremiah 10:10; Isaiah 48:12. ³Exodus 3:14. ⁴John 4:24. ⁵1 Timothy 1:17; Deuteronomy 4:15, 16. ⁶Malachi 3:6. ⁷1 Kings 8:27; Jeremiah 23:23. ⁸Psalms 90:2. ⁹Genesis 17:1. ¹⁰Isaiah 6:3. ¹¹Psalms 115:3; Isaiah 46:10. ¹²Proverbs 16:4; Romans 11:36. ¹³Exodus 34:6, 7; Hebrews 11:6. ¹⁴Nehemiah 9:32, 33. ¹⁵Psalms 5:5, 6. ¹⁶Exodus 34:7; Nahum 1:2, 3.

2. God has all life,¹⁷ glory,¹⁸ goodness,¹⁹ and blessedness in and of himself; he alone is all-sufficient in himself. He does not need any creature he has

made nor does he derive any glory from them.²⁰ Instead, he demonstrates his own glory in them, by them, to them, and upon them. He alone is the source of all being, and everything is from him, through him, and to him.²¹ He has absolute sovereign rule over all creatures, to act through them, for them, or upon them as he pleases.²² In his sight everything is open and visible.²³ His knowledge is infinite and infallible. It does not depend upon any creature, so for him nothing is contingent or uncertain.²⁴ He is absolutely holy in all his plans, in all his works,²⁵ and in all his commands. Angels and human beings owe to him all the worship,²⁶ service, or obedience that creatures owe to the Creator and whatever else he is pleased to require of them.

¹⁷John 5:26. ¹⁸Psalms 148:13. ¹⁹Psalms 119:68. ²⁰Job 22:2, 3. ²¹Romans 11:34–36. ²²Daniel 4:25, 34, 35. ²³Hebrews 4:13. ²⁴Ezekiel 11:5; Acts 15:18. ²⁵Psalms 145:17. ²⁶Revelation 5:12–14.

3. This divine and infinite Being consists of three real persons,^c the Father, the Word or Son, and the Holy Spirit.²⁷ These three have the same substance, power, and eternity, each having the whole divine essence without this essence being divided.²⁸ The Father is not derived from anyone, neither begotten nor proceeding. The Son is eternally begotten of the Father.²⁹ The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son.³⁰ All three are infinite and without beginning and are therefore only one God, who is not to be divided in nature and being. Yet these three are distinguished by several distinctive characteristics and personal relations. This truth of the Trinity is the foundation of all of our fellowship with God and of our comforting dependence on him.

^c*subsistences*, or individual instances of a given essence

²⁷1 John 5:7; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14. ²⁸Exodus 3:14; John 14:11; 1 Corinthians 8:6. ²⁹John 1:14,18. ³⁰John 15:26; Galatians 4:6.

Chapter 3 - God's Decree

1. From all eternity God decreed everything that occurs, without reference to anything outside himself.¹ He did this by the perfectly wise and holy counsel of his own will, freely and unchangeably. Yet God did this in such a way that he is neither the author of sin nor has fellowship with any in their sin.² This decree does not violate the will of the creature or take away the free working or contingency of second causes. On the contrary, these are established by God's decree.³ In this decree God's wisdom is displayed in directing all things, and his power and faithfulness are demonstrated in accomplishing his decree.⁴

¹Isaiah 46:10; Ephesians 1:11; Hebrews 6:17; Romans 9:15, 18. ²James 1:13; 1 John 1:5. ³Acts 4:27, 28; John 19:11. ⁴Numbers 23:19; Ephesians 1:3–5.

2. God knows everything that could happen under any given conditions.⁵ However, his decree of anything is not based on foreseeing it in the future or foreseeing that it would occur under such conditions.⁶

⁵Acts 15:18. ⁶Romans 9:11, 13, 16, 18.

3. By God's decree, and for the demonstration of his glory, some human beings and angels are predestined (or foreordained) to eternal life through Jesus Christ,⁷ to the praise of his glorious grace.⁸ Others are left to live in their sin, leading to their just condemnation, to the praise of his glorious justice.⁹

⁷1 Timothy 5:21; Matthew 25:34. ⁸Ephesians 1:5, 6. ⁹Romans 9:22, 23; Jude 4.

4. These predestined and foreordained angels and people are individually and unchangeably designated, and their number is so certain and definite that it cannot be either increased or decreased.¹⁰

¹⁰2 Timothy 2:19; John 13:18.

5. Those people who are predestined to life were chosen by God before the foundation of the world, according to his eternal and unchangeable purpose and the secret counsel and good pleasure of his will. He chose them in Christ for eternal glory, purely as a result of his free grace and love,¹¹ without anything else about them serving as a condition or cause moving him to do so.¹²

¹¹Ephesians 1:4, 9, 11; Romans 8:30; 2 Timothy 1:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:9. ¹²Romans 9:13, 16; Ephesians 2:5, 12.

6. Just as God has appointed the elect to glory, so he has by the eternal and completely free purpose of his will foreordained all the means.¹³ Therefore, those who are elected, being fallen in Adam, are redeemed by Christ¹⁴ and effectually called to faith in Christ by his Spirit working at the appropriate time. They are justified, adopted, sanctified,¹⁵ and kept by his power through faith to salvation.¹⁶ No one but the elect are redeemed by Christ, or effectually called, justified, adopted, sanctified, and saved.¹⁷

¹³1 Peter 1:2; 2 Thessalonians 2:13. ¹⁴1 Thessalonians 5:9, 10. ¹⁵Romans 8:30; 2 Thessalonians 2:13. ¹⁶1 Peter 1:5. ¹⁷John 10:26; 17:9; 6:64.

7. The doctrine of the high mystery of predestination is to be handled with special prudence and care so that those heeding the will of God revealed in his Word and obeying him may be assured of their eternal election by the certainty of their effectual calling.¹⁸ In this way this doctrine will give reasons for praise,¹⁹ reverence, and admiration of God, as well as humility,²⁰ diligence and rich comfort to all who sincerely obey the gospel.²¹

¹⁸1 Thessalonians 1:4, 5; 2 Peter 1:10. ¹⁹Ephesians 1:6; Romans 11:33. ²⁰Romans 11:5, 6, 20. ²¹Luke 10:20.

Chapter 4 - Creation

1. In the beginning God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit¹ was pleased to create or make the world and all things in it, both visible and invisible, in a six-day period, and all very good.² He did this to manifest the glory of his eternal power, wisdom, and goodness.³

¹John 1:2, 3; Hebrews 1:2; Job 26:13. ²Colossians 1:16; Genesis 1:31. ³Romans 1:20.

2. After God had made all the other creatures, he created humanity. He made them male and female,⁴ with rational and immortal souls,⁵ thereby making them suited to that life lived unto God for which they were created. They were made in the image of God, being endowed with knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness.⁶ They had the law of God written in their hearts⁷ and the power to fulfill it. Even so, they could still transgress the law, because they were left to the liberty of their own will, which was subject to change.⁸

⁴Genesis 1:27. ⁵Genesis 2:7. ⁶Ecclesiastes 7:29; Genesis 1:26. ⁷Romans 2:14, 15. ⁸Genesis 3:6.

3. In addition to the law written in their hearts, they received a command not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.⁹ As long as they obeyed this command, they were happy in their communion with God and had dominion over the creatures.¹⁰

⁹Genesis 2:17; ¹⁰Genesis 1:26, 28.

Chapter 5 - Divine Providence

1. God the good Creator of all things, in his infinite power and wisdom, upholds, directs, arranges, and governs all creatures and things,¹ from the greatest to the least,² by his perfectly wise and holy providence, to the purpose for which they were created. He governs according to his infallible foreknowledge and the free and unchangeable counsel of his own will. His providence leads to the praise of the glory of his wisdom, power, justice, infinite goodness, and mercy.³

¹Hebrews 1:3; Job 38:11; Isaiah 46:10, 11; Psalms 135:6. ²Matthew 10:29–31. ³Ephesians 1:11.

2. All things come to pass unchangeably and certainly in relation to the foreknowledge and decree of God,⁴ who is the first cause. Thus, nothing happens to anyone by chance or outside of God's providence.⁵ Yet by the same providence God arranges all things to occur according to the nature of second causes, either necessarily, freely, or in response to other causes.⁶

⁴Acts 2:23. ⁵Proverbs 16:33. ⁶Genesis 8:22.

3. In his ordinary providence, God makes use of means,⁷ though he is free to work apart from them,⁸ beyond them,⁹ and contrary to them¹⁰ at his pleasure.

⁷Acts 27:31, 44; Isaiah 55:10, 11. ⁸Hosea 1:7. ⁹Romans 4:19–21. ¹⁰Daniel 3:27.

4. The almighty power, unsearchable wisdom, and infinite goodness of God are so thoroughly demonstrated in his providence, that his sovereign plan includes even the first fall and every other sinful action both of angels and humans.¹¹ God's providence over sinful actions does not occur by simple permission. Instead, God most wisely and powerfully limits and in other

ways arranges and governs sinful actions.¹² Through a complex arrangement of methods he governs sinful actions to accomplish his perfectly holy purposes.¹³ Yet he does this in such a way that the sinfulness of their acts arises only from the creatures and not from God. Because God is altogether holy and righteous, he can neither originate nor approve of sin.¹⁴

¹¹Romans 11:32–34; 2 Samuel 24:1, 1 Chronicles 21:1. ¹²2 Kings 19:28; Psalms 76:10. ¹³Genesis 50:20; Isaiah 10:6, 7, 12. ¹⁴Psalms 50:21; 1 John 2:16.

5. The perfectly wise, righteous, and gracious God often allows his own children for a time to experience a variety of temptations and the sinfulness of their own hearts. He does this to chastise them for their former sins or to make them aware of the hidden strength of the corruption and deceitfulness of their hearts so that they may be humbled. He also does this to lead them to a closer and more constant dependence on him to sustain them, to make them more cautious about all future circumstances that may lead to sin, and for other just and holy purposes.¹⁵ So whatever happens to any of his elect happens by his appointment, for his glory, and for their good.¹⁶

¹⁵2 Chronicles 32:25, 26, 31; 2 Corinthians 12:7–9. ¹⁶Romans 8:28.

6. God, as the righteous judge, sometimes blinds and hardens wicked and ungodly people because of their sins.¹⁷ He withholds his grace from them, by which they could have been enlightened in their understanding and had their hearts renewed.¹⁸ Not only that, but sometimes he also takes away the gifts they already had¹⁹ and exposes them to situations that their corrupt natures turn into opportunities for sin.²⁰ Moreover, he gives them over to their own lusts, the temptations of the world, and the power of Satan,²¹ so that they harden themselves in response to the same influences that God uses to soften others.²²

¹⁷Romans 1:24–26, 28; Romans 11:7, 8. ¹⁸Deuteronomy 29:4. ¹⁹Matthew 13:12. ²⁰Deuteronomy 2:30; 2 Kings 8:12, 13. ²¹Psalms 81:11, 12; 2 Thessalonians 2:10–12. ²²Exodus 8:15, 32; Isaiah 6:9, 10; 1 Peter 2:7, 8.

7. The providence of God in a general way includes all creatures, but in a special way it takes care of his church and arranges all things to its good.²³

²³1 Timothy 4:10; Amos 9:8, 9; Isaiah 43:3–5.

Chapter 6 - The Fall of Mankind, and Sin and Its Punishment

1. God created humanity upright and perfect. He gave them a righteous law that would have led to life if they had kept it but threatened death if they broke it.¹ Yet they did not remain for long in this position of honor. Satan used the craftiness of the serpent to seduce Eve, who then seduced Adam. Adam acted without any outside compulsion and deliberately transgressed the law of their creation and the command given to them by eating the forbidden fruit.² God was pleased, in keeping with his wise and holy

counsel, to permit this act, because he had purposed to direct it for his own glory.

¹Genesis 2:16, 17. ²Genesis 3:12, 13; 2 Corinthians 11:3.

2. By this sin our first parents fell from their original righteousness and communion with God. We fell in them, and through this, death came upon all.³ All became dead in sin⁴ and completely defiled in all the capabilities and parts of soul and body.⁵

³Romans 3:23. ⁴Romans 5:12ff. ⁵Titus 1:15; Genesis 6:5; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:10–19.

3. By God's appointment, they were the root and the representatives of the whole human race. Because of this, the guilt of their sin was accounted, and their corrupt nature passed on, to all their offspring who descended from them by ordinary procreation.⁶ Their descendants are now conceived in sin⁷ and are by nature children of wrath,⁸ the servants of sin, and partakers of death⁹ and all other miseries—spiritual, temporal, and eternal—unless the Lord Jesus sets them free.¹⁰

⁶Romans 5:12–19; 1 Corinthians 15:21, 22, 45, 49. ⁷Psalms 51:5; Job 14:4. ⁸Ephesians 2:3. ⁹Romans 6:20; 5:12. ¹⁰Hebrews 2:14, 15; 1 Thessalonians 1:10.

4. All actual transgressions arise from this first corruption.¹¹ By it we are thoroughly biased against, and disabled and antagonistic toward all that is good, and we are completely inclined toward all that is evil.¹²

¹¹James 1:14, 15; Matthew 15:19. ¹²Romans 8:7; Colossians 1:21.

5. During this life, this corruption of nature remains in those who are regenerated.¹³ Even though it is pardoned and put to death through Christ, yet both this corruption of nature and all actions arising from it are truly and actually sin.¹⁴

¹³Romans 7:18,23; Ecclesiastes 7:20; 1 John 1:8. ¹⁴Romans 7:23–25; Galatians 5:17.

Chapter 7 - God's Covenant

1. Though rational creatures are responsible to obey God as their Creator, the distance between God and these creatures is so great that they could never have attained the reward of life except by God's voluntary condescension. He has been pleased to express this through a covenant framework.¹

¹Luke 17:10; Job 35:7, 8.

2. Since humanity brought itself under the curse of the law by its fall, it pleased the Lord to make a covenant of grace.² In this covenant he freely offers to sinners life and salvation through Jesus Christ. On their part he requires faith in him, that they may be saved,³ and promises to give his Holy

Spirit to all who are ordained to eternal life, to make them willing and able to believe.⁴

²Genesis 2:17; Galatians 3:10; Romans 3:20, 21. ³Romans 8:3; Mark 16:15, 16; John 3:16. ⁴Ezekiel 36:26, 27; John 6:44, 45; Psalms 110:3.

3. This covenant is revealed in the gospel. It was revealed first of all to Adam in the promise of salvation through the seed of the woman.⁵ After that, it was revealed step by step until the full revelation of it was completed in the New Testament.⁶ This covenant is based on the eternal covenant transaction between the Father and the Son concerning the redemption of the elect.⁷ Only through the grace of this covenant have those saved from among the descendants of fallen Adam obtained life and blessed immortality. Humanity is now utterly incapable of being accepted by God on the same terms on which Adam was accepted in his state of innocence.⁸

⁵Genesis 3:15. ⁶Hebrews 1:1. ⁷2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 1:2; ⁸Hebrews 11:6, 13; Romans 4:1, 2ff.; Acts 4:12; John 8:56.

Chapter 8 - Christ the Mediator

1. God was pleased, in his eternal purpose, to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, his only begotten Son, according to the covenant made between them, to be the mediator between God and humanity.¹ God chose him to be prophet,² priest,³ and king,⁴ and to be head and savior of the church,⁵ the heir of all things,⁶ and judge of the world.⁷ From all eternity, God gave to the Son a people to be his offspring. In time these people would be redeemed, called, justified, sanctified, and glorified by him.⁸

¹Isaiah 42:1; 1 Peter 1:19, 20. ²Acts 3:22. ³Hebrews 5:5, 6. ⁴Psalms 2:6; Luke 1:33. ⁵Ephesians 1:22, 23. ⁶Hebrews 1:2. ⁷Acts 17:31. ⁸Isaiah 53:10; John 17:6; Romans 8:30.

2. The Son of God, the second person of the Holy Trinity, is truly and eternally God. He is the brightness of the Father's glory, the same in substance and equal with him. He made the world and sustains and governs everything he has made. When the fullness of time came, he took upon himself human nature, with all the essential properties and common weaknesses of it⁹ but without sin.¹⁰ He was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary. The Holy Spirit came down upon her, and the power of the Most High overshadowed her. Thus, he was born of a woman from the tribe of Judah, a descendant of Abraham and David in fulfillment of the Scriptures.¹¹ Two whole, perfect, and distinct natures were inseparably joined together in one person, without converting one into the other or mixing them together to produce a different or blended nature. This person is truly God and truly man, yet one Christ, the only mediator between God and humanity.¹²

⁹John 1:14; Galatians 4:4. ¹⁰Romans 8:3; Hebrews 2:14, 16, 17; Hebrews 4:15. ¹¹Matthew 1:22, 23; Luke 1:27, 31, 35. ¹²Romans 9:5; 1 Timothy 2:5.

3. The Lord Jesus, in his human nature united in this way to the divine in the person of the Son, was sanctified and anointed with the Holy Spirit beyond measure.¹³ He had in himself all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.¹⁴

The Father was pleased to make all fullness dwell in him¹⁵ so that—being holy, harmless, undefiled,¹⁶ and full of grace and truth¹⁷—he was thoroughly qualified to carry out the office of mediator and guarantor.¹⁸ He did not take this office upon himself but was called to it by his Father,¹⁹ who put all power and judgment in his hand and commanded him to carry them out.²⁰

¹³Psalms 45:7; Acts 10:38; John 3:34. ¹⁴Colossians 2:3. ¹⁵Colossians 1:19. ¹⁶Hebrews 7:26. ¹⁷John 1:14. ¹⁸Hebrews 7:22. ¹⁹Hebrews 5:5. ²⁰John 5:22, 27; Matthew 28:18; Acts 2:36.

4. The Lord Jesus most willingly undertook this office.²¹ To discharge it, he was born under the law²² and perfectly fulfilled it. He also experienced the punishment that we deserved and that we should have endured and suffered.²³ He was made sin and a curse for us.²⁴ He endured extremely heavy sorrows in his soul and extremely painful sufferings in his body.²⁵ He was crucified and died and remained in a state of death, yet his body did not decay.²⁶ On the third day he arose from the dead²⁷ with the same body in which he suffered.²⁸ In this body he also ascended into heaven,²⁹ where he sits at the right hand of his Father, interceding.³⁰ He will return to judge men and angels at the end of the age.³¹

²¹Psalms 40:7, 8; Hebrews 10:5–10; John 10:18. ²²Gal 4:4; Matthew 3:15. ²³Galatians 3:13; Isaiah 53:6; 1 Peter 3:18. ²⁴2 Corinthians 5:21. ²⁵Matthew 26:37, 38; Luke 22:44; Matthew 27:46. ²⁶Acts 13:37. ²⁷1 Corinthians 15:3, 4. ²⁸John 20:25, 27. ²⁹Mark 16:19; Acts 1:9–11. ³⁰Romans 8:34; Hebrews 9:24. ³¹Acts 10:42; Romans 14:9, 10; Acts 1:11; 2 Peter 2:4.

5. The Lord Jesus has fully satisfied the justice of God, obtained reconciliation, and purchased an everlasting inheritance in the kingdom of heaven for all those given to him by the Father.³² He has accomplished these things by his perfect obedience and sacrifice of himself, which he once for all offered up to God through the eternal Spirit.³³

³²John 17:2; Hebrews 9:15. ³³Hebrews 9:14; Hebrews 10:14; Romans 3:25, 26.

6. The price of redemption was not actually paid by Christ till after his incarnation. Yet the virtue, efficacy, and benefit of it was imparted to the elect in every age since the beginning of the world, in and by those promises, types, and sacrifices that revealed him and pointed to him as the seed that would bruise the serpent's head³⁴ and the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.³⁵ He is the same yesterday and today and forever.³⁶

³⁴1 Corinthians 4:10; Hebrews 4:2; 1 Peter 1:10, 11. ³⁵Revelation 13:8. ³⁶Hebrews 13:8.

7. In his work of mediation, Christ acts according to both natures, by each nature doing what is appropriate to itself. Even so, because of the unity of the person, that which is appropriate to one nature is sometimes in Scripture attributed to the person under the designation of the other nature.³⁷

³⁷John 3:13; Acts 20:28.

8. To all those for whom Christ has obtained eternal redemption, he certainly and effectually applies and imparts it. He intercedes for them,³⁸ unites them to himself by his Spirit, and reveals to them in and by his Word the mystery of salvation. He persuades them to believe and obey³⁹ and governs their hearts by his Word and Spirit.⁴⁰ He overcomes all their enemies by his almighty power and wisdom,⁴¹ using methods and ways that are perfectly consistent with his wonderful and unsearchable governance. All these things are by free and absolute grace, apart from any condition for obtaining it that is foreseen in them.⁴²

³⁸John 6:37; John 10:15, 16; John 17:9; Romans 5:10. ³⁹John 17:6; Ephesians 1:9; 1 John 5:20. ⁴⁰Romans 8:9, 14. ⁴¹Psalms 110:1; 1 Corinthians 15:25, 26. ⁴²John 3:8; Ephesians 1:8.

9. This office of mediator between God and humanity is appropriate for Christ alone, who is the prophet, priest, and king of the church of God. This office may not be transferred from him to anyone else, either in whole or in part.⁴³

⁴³1 Timothy 2:5.

10. The number and character of these offices is essential. Because we are ignorant, we need his prophetic office.⁴⁴ Because we are alienated from God and imperfect in the best of our service, we need his priestly office to reconcile us and present us to God as acceptable.⁴⁵ Because we are hostile and utterly unable to return to God, and so that we can be rescued and made secure from our spiritual enemies, we need his kingly office to convince, subdue, draw, sustain, deliver, and preserve us for his heavenly kingdom.⁴⁶

⁴⁴John 1:18. ⁴⁵Colossians 1:21; Galatians 5:17. ⁴⁶John 16:8; Psalms 110:3; Luke 1:74, 75.

Chapter 9 - Free Will

1. God has endowed human will with natural liberty and power to act on choices so that it is neither forced nor inherently bound by nature to do good or evil.¹

¹Matthew 17:12; James 1:14; Deuteronomy 30:19.

2. Humanity in the state of innocence had freedom and power to will and to do what was good and well-pleasing to God.² Yet this condition was unstable, so that humanity could fall from it.³

²Ecclesiastes 7:29. ³Genesis 3:6.

3. Humanity, by falling into a state of sin, has completely lost all ability to choose any spiritual good that accompanies salvation.⁴ Thus, people in their natural^a state are absolutely opposed to spiritual good and dead in sin,⁵ so that they cannot convert themselves by their own strength or prepare themselves for conversion.⁶

^awithout the Spirit

⁴Romans 5:6; Romans 8:7. ⁵Ephesians 2:1, 5. ⁶Titus 3:3–5; John 6:44.

4. When God converts sinners and transforms them into the state of grace, he frees them from their natural bondage to sin⁷ and by his grace alone enables them to will and to do freely what is spiritually good.⁸ Yet because of their remaining corruption, they do not perfectly nor exclusively will what is good but also will what is evil.⁹

⁷Colossians 1:13; John 8:36. ⁸Philippians 2:13. ⁹Romans 7:15, 18, 19, 21, 23.

5. Only in the state of glory is the will made perfectly and unchangeably free toward good alone.¹⁰

¹⁰Ephesians 4:13.

Chapter 10 - Effectual Calling

1. In God's appointed and acceptable time, he is pleased to call effectually,¹ by his Word and Spirit, those he has predestined to life. He calls them out of their natural state of sin and death to grace and salvation by Jesus Christ.² He enlightens their minds spiritually and savingly to understand the things of God.³ He takes away their heart of stone and gives them a heart of flesh.⁴ He renews their wills and by his almighty power turns them to good and effectually draws them to Jesus Christ.⁵ Yet he does all this in such a way that they come completely freely, since they are made willing by his grace.⁶

¹Romans 8:30; Romans 11:7; Ephesians 1:10, 11; 2 Thessalonians 2:13, 14. ²Ephesians 2:1–6. ³Acts 26:18; Ephesians 1:17, 18. ⁴Ezekiel 36:26. ⁵Deuteronomy 30:6; Ezekiel 36:27; Ephesians 1:19. ⁶Psalms 110:3; Song of Solomon 1:4.

2. This effectual call flows from God's free and special grace alone, not from anything at all foreseen in those called. Neither does the call arise from any power or action on their part;⁷ they are totally passive in it. They are dead in sins and trespasses until they are made alive and renewed by the Holy Spirit.⁸ By this they are enabled to answer this call and to embrace the grace offered and conveyed in it. This response is enabled by a power that is no less than that which raised Christ from the dead.⁹

⁷2 Timothy 1:9; Ephesians 2:8. ⁸1 Corinthians 2:14; Ephesians 2:5; John 5:25. ⁹Ephesians 1:19, 20.

3. Elect infants dying in infancy are regenerated and saved by Christ through the Spirit,¹⁰ who works when and where and how he pleases.¹¹ The same is true of every elect person who is incapable of being outwardly called by the ministry of the Word.

¹⁰John 3:3, 5, 6. ¹¹John 3:8.

4. Those who are not elected will not and cannot truly come to Christ and therefore cannot be saved, because they are not effectually drawn by the Father.¹² They may even be called by the ministry of the Word and may receive some ordinary working of the Spirit without being saved.¹³ Much less can any be saved who do not receive the Christian religion, no matter

how diligently they live their lives according to the light of nature and the teachings of the religion they profess.¹⁴

¹²John 6:44, 45, 65; 1 John 2:24, 25. ¹³Matthew 22:14; Matthew 13:20, 21; Hebrews 6:4, 5. ¹⁴Acts 4:12; John 4:22; John 17:3.

Chapter 11- Justification

1. Those God effectually calls he also freely justifies.¹ He does this, not by infusing righteousness into them but by pardoning their sins and accounting and accepting them as righteous.² He does this for Christ's sake alone and not for anything produced in them or done by them.³ He does not impute faith itself, the act of believing, or any other gospel obedience to them as their righteousness. Instead, he imputes Christ's active obedience to the whole law and passive obedience in his death as their whole and only righteousness by faith.⁴ This faith is not self-generated; it is the gift of God.⁵

¹Romans 3:24; 8:30. ²Romans 4:5–8; Ephesians 1:7. ³1 Corinthians 1:30, 31; Romans 5:17–19. ⁴Philippians 3:8, 9; Ephesians 2:8–10. ⁵John 1:12; Romans 5:17.

2. Faith that receives and rests on Christ and his righteousness is the only instrument of justification.⁶ Yet it does not occur by itself in the person justified, but it is always accompanied by every other saving grace. It is not a dead faith but works through love.⁷

⁶Romans 3:28. ⁷Galatians 5:6; James 2:17, 22, 26.

3. By his obedience and death, Christ fully paid the debt of all those who are justified. He endured in their place the penalty they deserved. By this sacrifice of himself in his bloodshed on the cross, he legitimately, really, and fully satisfied God's justice on their behalf.⁸ Yet their justification is based entirely on free grace, because he was given by the Father for them, and his obedience and satisfaction were accepted in their place. These things were done freely, not because of anything in them,⁹ so that both the exact justice and the rich grace of God would be glorified in the justification of sinners.¹⁰

⁸Hebrews 10:14; 1 Peter 1:18, 19; Isaiah 53:5, 6. ⁹Romans 8:32; 2 Corinthians 5:21. ¹⁰Romans 3:26; Ephesians 1:6,7; 2:7.

4. From all eternity God decreed to justify all the elect,¹¹ and in the fullness of time Christ died for their sins and rose again for their justification.¹² Nevertheless, they are not justified personally until the Holy Spirit actually applies Christ to them at the proper time.¹³

¹¹Galatians 3:8; 1 Peter 1:2; 1 Timothy 2:6. ¹²Romans 4:25. ¹³Colossians 1:21, 22; Titus 3:4–7.

5. God continues to forgive the sins of those who are justified.¹⁴ Even though they can never fall from a state of justification,¹⁵ they may fall under God's fatherly displeasure because of their sins.¹⁶ In that condition they will not usually have the light of his face restored to them until they humble themselves, confess their sins, plead for pardon, and renew their faith and repentance.¹⁷

¹⁴Matthew 6:12; 1 John 1:7, 9. ¹⁵John 10:28. ¹⁶Psalms 89:31–33. ¹⁷Psalms 32:5; Psalms 51; Matthew 26:75.

6. In all these ways, the justification of believers under the Old Testament was exactly the same as the justification of believers under the New Testament.¹⁸

¹⁸Galatians 3:9; Romans 4:22–24.

Chapter 12 - Adoption

1. God has granted that all those who are justified would receive the grace of adoption, in and for the sake of his only Son Jesus Christ.¹ By this they are counted among the children of God and enjoy the freedom and privileges of that relationship.² They inherit his name,³ receive the spirit of adoption,⁴ have access to the throne of grace with boldness, and are enabled to cry “Abba, Father!”⁵ They are given compassion,⁶ protected,⁷ provided for,⁸ and chastened by him as a father.⁹ Yet they are never cast off¹⁰ but are sealed for the day of redemption¹¹ and inherit the promises as heirs of everlasting salvation.¹²

¹Ephesians 1:5; Galatians 4:4, 5. ²John 1:12; Romans 8:17. ³2 Corinthians 6:18; Revelation 3:12. ⁴Romans 8:15. ⁵Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 2:18. ⁶Psalms 103:13. ⁷Proverbs 14:26. ⁸1 Peter 5:7. ⁹Hebrews 12:6. ¹⁰Isaiah 54:8, 9; Lamentations 3:31. ¹¹Ephesians 4:30. ¹²Hebrews 1:14; 6:12.

Chapter 13 - Sanctification

1. Those who are united to Christ and effectually called and regenerated have a new heart and a new spirit created in them through the power of Christ’s death and resurrection. They are also further sanctified, really and personally,¹ through the same power, by his Word and Spirit dwelling in them.² The dominion of the whole body of sin is destroyed,³ and the various evil desires that arise from it are more and more weakened and put to death.⁴ At the same time, those called and regenerated are more and more enlivened and strengthened in all saving graces⁵ so that they practice true holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.⁶

¹Acts 20:32; Romans 6:5, 6. ²John 17:17; Ephesians 3:16–19; 1 Thessalonians 5:21–23. ³Romans 6:14. ⁴Galatians 5:24. ⁵Colossians 1:11. ⁶2 Corinthians 7:1; Hebrews 12:14.

2. This sanctification extends throughout the whole person,⁷ though it is never completed in this life. Some corruption remains in every part.⁸ From this arises a continual and irreconcilable war, with the desires of the flesh against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh.⁹

⁷1 Thessalonians 5:23. ⁸Romans 7:18, 23. ⁹Galatians 5:17; 1 Peter 2:11.

3. In this war, the remaining corruption may greatly prevail for a time.¹⁰ Yet through the continual supply of strength from the sanctifying Spirit of Christ, the regenerate part overcomes.¹¹ So the saints grow in grace, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. They pursue a heavenly life, in gospel

obedience to all the commands that Christ as Head and King has given them in his Word.¹²

¹⁰Romans 7:23. ¹¹Romans 6:14. ¹²Ephesians 4:15, 16; 2 Corinthians 3:18; 2 Corinthians 7:1.

Chapter 14 - Saving Faith

1. The grace of faith, by which the elect are enabled to believe so that their souls are saved, is the work of the Spirit of Christ in their hearts.¹ Faith is ordinarily produced by the ministry of the Word.² By this same ministry and by the administration of baptism and the Lord's supper, prayer, and other means appointed by God, faith is increased and strengthened.³

¹2 Corinthians 4:13; Ephesians 2:8. ²Romans 10:14, 17. ³Luke 17:5; 1 Peter 2:2; Acts 20:32.

2. By this faith Christians believe to be true everything revealed in the Word, recognizing it as the authority of God himself.⁴ They also perceive that the Word is more excellent than every other writing and everything else in the world,⁵ because it displays the glory of God in his attributes, the excellence of Christ in his nature and offices, and the power and fullness of the Holy Spirit in his activities and operations. So they are enabled to entrust their souls to the truth believed.⁶ They respond differently according to the content of each particular passage—obeying the commands,⁷ trembling at the threatenings,⁸ and embracing the promises of God for this life and the one to come.⁹ But the principal acts of saving faith focus directly on Christ—accepting, receiving, and resting upon him alone for justification, sanctification, and eternal life, by virtue of the covenant of grace.¹⁰

⁴Acts 24:14. ⁵Psalms 27:7–10; Psalms 119:72. ⁶2 Timothy 1:12. ⁷John 14:14. ⁸Isaiah 66:2. ⁹Hebrews 11:13. ¹⁰John 1:12; Acts 16:31; Galatians 2:20; Acts 15:11.

3. This faith may exist in varying degrees so that it may be either weak or strong.¹¹ Yet even in its weakest form, it is different in kind or nature (like all other saving graces) from the faith and common grace of temporary believers.¹² Therefore, faith may often be attacked and weakened, but it gains the victory.¹³ It matures in many to the point that they attain full assurance through Christ,¹⁴ who is both the founder and perfecter of our faith.¹⁵

¹¹Hebrews 5:13, 14; Matthew 6:30; Romans 4:19, 20. ¹²2 Peter 1:1. ¹³Ephesians 6:16; 1 John 5:4, 5. ¹⁴Hebrews 6:11, 12; Colossians 2:2. ¹⁵Hebrews 12:2.

Chapter 15 - Repentance to Life and Salvation

1. Some of the elect are converted after their early years, having lived in the natural^a state for a time and served various evil desires and pleasures. God gives these repentance to life as part of their effectual calling.¹

^awithout the Spirit

¹Titus 3:2–5.

2. There is no one who does good and does not sin.² Even the best may fall into great sins and offenses, through the power and deceitfulness of the corruption in them, along with the strength of temptation. Therefore, God has mercifully provided in the covenant of grace that believers who sin and fall will be renewed through repentance to salvation.³

²Ecclesiastes 7:20. ³Luke 22:31, 32.

3. This saving repentance is a gospel grace⁴ in which those who are made aware by the Holy Spirit of the many evils of their sin, by faith in Christ humble themselves for it with godly sorrow, hatred of it, and self-loathing.⁵ They pray for pardon and strength of grace and determine and endeavor by provisions from the Spirit to live before God in a well-pleasing way in everything.⁶

⁴Zechariah 12:10; Acts 11:18. ⁵Ezekiel 36:31; 2 Corinthians 7:11. ⁶Psalms 119:6, 128.

4. Repentance must continue throughout our lives, because of the body of death and its activities. So it is everyone's duty to repent of each specific, known sin specifically.⁷

⁷Luke 19:8; 1 Timothy 1:13, 15.

5. God has made full provision through Christ in the covenant of grace to preserve believers in their salvation. Thus, although there is no sin so small that it is undeserving of damnation,⁸ yet there is no sin so great that it will bring damnation on those who repent.⁹ This makes the constant preaching of repentance necessary.

⁸Romans 6:23. ⁹Isaiah 1:16–18; 55:7.

Chapter 16 - Good Works

1. Good works are only those works that God has commanded in his holy Word.¹ Works that do not have this warrant are invented by people out of blind zeal or on a pretense of good intentions and are not truly good.²

¹Micah 6:8; Hebrews 13:21. ²Matthew 15:9; Isaiah 29:13.

2. These good works, done in obedience to God's commandments, are the fruit and evidence of a true and living faith.³ Through good works believers express their thankfulness,⁴ strengthen their assurance,⁵ build up their brothers and sisters, adorn the profession of the gospel,⁶ stop the mouths of opponents, and glorify God.⁷ Believers are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works,⁸ so that they bear fruit leading to holiness and have the outcome, eternal life.⁹

³James 2:18, 22. ⁴Psalms 116:12, 13. ⁵1 John 2:3, 5; 2 Peter 1:5–11. ⁶Matthew 5:16. ⁷1 Timothy 6:1; 1 Peter 2:15; Philippians 1:11. ⁸Ephesians 2:10. ⁹Romans 6:22.

3. Their ability to do good works does not arise at all from themselves but entirely from the Spirit of Christ.¹⁰ To enable them to do good works, they

need—in addition to the graces they have already received—an actual influence of the same Holy Spirit to work in them to will and to do his good pleasure.¹¹ Yet this is no reason for them to grow negligent, as if they were not required to perform any duty without a special motion of the Spirit. Instead, they should be diligent to stir up the grace of God that is in them.¹²

¹⁰John 15:4, 5. ¹¹2 Corinthians 3:5; ¹²Philippians 2:13; Philippians 2:12; Hebrews 6:11, 12; Isaiah 64:7.

4. Those who attain the greatest heights of obedience possible in this life are far from being able to merit reward by going beyond duty^a or to do more than God requires. Instead, they fall short of much that is their duty to do.¹³

^a *supererogate*

¹³Job 9:2, 3; Galatians 5:17; Luke 17:10.

5. We cannot, even by our best works, merit pardon of sin or eternal life from God's hand, due to the huge disproportion between our works and the glory to come, and the infinite distance between us and God. By these works we can neither benefit God nor satisfy him for the debt of our former sins.¹⁴ When we have done all we can, we have only done our duty and are unprofitable servants. Since our good works are good, they must proceed from his Spirit;¹⁵ and since they are performed by us, they are defiled and mixed with so much weakness and imperfection that they cannot withstand the severity of God's punishment.¹⁶

¹⁴Romans 3:20; Ephesians 2:8, 9; Romans 4:6. ¹⁵Galatians 5:22, 23. ¹⁶Isaiah 64:6; Psalms 143:2.

6. Nevertheless, believers are accepted through Christ, and thus their good works are also accepted in him.¹⁷ This acceptance does not mean our good works are completely blameless and irreproachable in God's sight. Instead, God views them in his Son, and so he is pleased to accept and reward that which is sincere, even though it is accompanied by many weaknesses and imperfections.¹⁸

¹⁷Ephesians 1:6; 1 Peter 2:5. ¹⁸Matthew 25:21, 23; Hebrews 6:10.

7. Works done by unregenerate people may in themselves be commanded by God and useful to themselves and others.¹⁹ Yet they do not come from a heart purified by faith²⁰ and are not done in a right manner according to the Word²¹ nor with a right goal—the glory of God.²² Therefore, they are sinful and cannot please God. They cannot qualify anyone to receive grace from God,²³ and yet their neglect is even more sinful and displeasing to God.²⁴

¹⁹2 Kings 10:30; 1 Kings 21:27, 29. ²⁰Genesis 4:5; Hebrews 11:4, 6. ²¹1 Corinthians 13:1. ²²Matthew 6:2, 5. ²³Amos 5:21, 22; Romans 9:16; Titus 3:5. ²⁴Job 21:14, 15; Matthew 25:41–43.

Chapter 17 - The Perseverance of the Saints

1. Those God has accepted in the Beloved, effectually called and sanctified by his Spirit, and given the precious faith of his elect can neither totally nor finally fall from a state of grace. They will certainly persevere in grace to the

end and be eternally saved, because the gifts and callings of God are irrevocable. Therefore, he still brings about and nourishes in them faith, repentance, love, joy, hope, and all the graces of the Spirit that lead to immortality.¹ Even though many storms and floods arise and beat against them, yet these things will never be able to move the elect from the foundation and rock to which they are anchored by faith. The felt sight of the light and love of God may be clouded and obscured from them for a time through their unbelief and the temptations of Satan.² Yet God is still the same; they will certainly be kept by the power of God for salvation, where they will enjoy their purchased possession. For they are engraved on the palms of his hands, and their names have been written in the book of life from all eternity.³

¹John 10:28, 29; Philippians 1:6; 2 Timothy 2:19; 1 John 2:19. ²Psalms 89:31, 32; 1 Corinthians 11:32. ³Malachi 3:6.

2. This perseverance of the saints does not depend on their own free will but on the unchangeableness of the decree of election,⁴ which flows from the free and unchangeable love of God the Father. It is based on the efficacy of the merit and intercession of Jesus Christ and union with him,⁵ the oath of God,⁶ the abiding of his Spirit, the seed of God within them,⁷ and the nature of the covenant of grace.⁸ The certainty and infallibility of their perseverance is based on all these things.

⁴Romans 8:30 Romans 9:11, 16. ⁵Romans 5:9, 10; John 14:19. ⁶Hebrews 6:17, 18. ⁷1 John 3:9. ⁸Jeremiah 32:40.

3. They may fall into grievous sins and continue in them for a time, due to the temptation of Satan and the world, the strength of corruption remaining in them, and the neglect of means of their preservation.⁹ In so doing, they incur God's displeasure and grieve his Holy Spirit;¹⁰ their graces and comforts become impaired;¹¹ their hearts are hardened and their consciences wounded;¹² they hurt and scandalize others and bring temporary judgments on themselves.¹³ Nevertheless, they will renew their repentance and be preserved through faith in Christ Jesus to the end.¹⁴

⁹Matthew 26:70, 72, 74. ¹⁰Isaiah 64:5, 9; Ephesians 4:30. ¹¹Psalms 51:10, 12. ¹²Psalms 32:3, 4. ¹³2 Samuel 12:14. ¹⁴Luke 22:32, 61, 62.

Chapter 18 - Assurance of Grace and Salvation

1. Temporary believers and other unregenerate people may deceive themselves in vain with false hopes and fleshly presumptions that they have God's favor and salvation, but their hope will perish.¹ Yet those who truly believe in the Lord Jesus and love him sincerely, endeavoring to walk in all good conscience before him, may be certainly assured in this life that they are in a state of grace. They may rejoice in the hope of the glory of God,² and this hope will never make them ashamed.³

¹Job 8:13, 14; Matthew 7:22, 23. ²1 John 2:3; 3:14, 18, 19, 21, 24; 5:13. ³Romans 5:2, 5.

2. This certainty is not merely an inconclusive or likely persuasion based on a fallible hope. It is an infallible assurance of faith⁴ founded on the blood

and righteousness of Christ revealed in the Gospel.⁵ It is also built on the inward evidence of those graces of the Spirit about which promises are made.⁶ It is further based on the testimony of the Spirit of adoption, witnessing with our spirits that we are the children of God.⁷ As a fruit of this assurance, our hearts are kept both humble and holy.⁸

⁴Hebrews 6:11, 19. ⁵Hebrews 6:17, 18. ⁶2 Peter 1:4, 5, 10, 11. ⁷Romans 8:15, 16. ⁸1 John 3:1–3.

3. This infallible assurance is not such an essential part of faith *that it is always fully experienced alongside faith*, but true believers may wait a long time and struggle with many difficulties before obtaining it.⁹ Yet with the enabling of the Spirit to know the things freely given to them by God, they may attain this assurance using ordinary means appropriately without any extraordinary revelation.¹⁰ Therefore, it is the duty of all to be as diligent as possible to make their calling and election sure. In this way their hearts may be enlarged in peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, in love and thankfulness to God, and in strength and cheerfulness in the duties of obedience. These effects are the natural fruits of this assurance.¹¹ Thus, it does not at all encourage believers to be negligent.¹²

⁹Isaiah 50:10; Psalms 88; 77:1–12. ¹⁰1 John 4:13; Hebrews 6:11, 12. ¹¹Romans 5:1, 2, 5; 14:17; Psalms 119:32. ¹²Romans 6:1, 2; Titus 2:11, 12, 14.

4. True believers may in various ways have the assurance of their salvation shaken, decreased, or temporarily lost. This may happen because they neglect to preserve it¹³ or fall into some specific sin that wounds their conscience and grieves the Spirit.¹⁴ It may happen through some unexpected or forceful temptation¹⁵ or when God withdraws the light of his face and allows even those who fear him to walk in darkness and to have no light.¹⁶ Yet they are never completely lacking the seed of God,¹⁷ the life of faith,¹⁸ love of Christ and the brethren, sincerity of heart, or conscience concerning their duty. Out of these graces, through the work of the Spirit, this assurance may at the proper time be revived.¹⁹ In the meantime, they are kept from utter despair through them.²⁰

¹³Song of Solomon 5:2, 3, 6. ¹⁴Psalms 51:8, 12, 14. ¹⁵Psalms 116:11; 77:7, 8; 31:22; ¹⁶Psalms 30:7. ¹⁷1 John 3:9. ¹⁸Luke 22:32. ¹⁹Psalms 42:5, 11. ²⁰Lamentations 3:26–31.

Chapter 19 - The Law of God

1. God gave Adam a law of comprehensive obedience written in his heart and a specific precept not to eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.¹ By these God obligated him and all his descendants to personal, total, exact, and perpetual obedience.² God promised life if Adam fulfilled it and threatened death if he broke it, and he gave Adam the power and ability to keep it.³

¹Genesis 1:27; Ecclesiastes 7:29. ²Romans 10:5. ³Galatians 3:10, 12.

2. The same law that was first written in the human heart continued to be a perfect rule of righteousness after the fall.⁴ It was delivered by God on Mount Sinai in ten commandments and was written in two tables. The first four commandments contain our duty to God and the other six our duty to humanity.⁵

⁴Romans 2:14, 15. ⁵Deuteronomy 10:4.

3. In addition to this law—usually called the moral law—God was pleased to give the people of Israel ceremonial laws, containing several typological ordinances. In some ways these concerned worship, by prefiguring Christ, his graces, actions, sufferings, and benefits.⁶ In other ways they revealed various instructions about moral duties.⁷ Since all of these ceremonial laws were appointed only until the new order^a arrived, they are now abolished and taken away by Jesus Christ. As the true Messiah and the only law-giver, he was empowered by the Father to do this.⁸

^a*reformation*

⁶Hebrews 10:1; Colossians 2:17. ⁷1 Corinthians 5:7. ⁸Colossians 2:14, 16, 17; Ephesians 2:14, 16.

4. To Israel he also gave various judicial laws, which ceased at the same time their nation ended. These laws no longer obligate anyone as part of that institution. Only their general principles of justice continue to have moral value.⁹

⁹1 Corinthians 9:8–10.

5. The moral law forever requires obedience of everyone, both those who are justified as well as others.¹⁰ This obligation arises not only because of its content but also because of the authority of God the Creator who gave it.¹¹ Nor does Christ in any way dissolve this obligation in the Gospel; instead he greatly strengthens it.¹²

¹⁰Romans 13:8–10; James 2:8, 10–12. ¹¹James 2:10, 11. ¹²Matthew 5:17–19; Romans 3:31.

6. True believers are not under the law as a covenant of works, to be justified or condemned by it.¹³ Yet it is very useful to them and to others as a rule of life that informs them of the will of God and their duty. It directs and obligates them to live according to its precepts. It also exposes the sinful corruptions of their natures, hearts, and lives. As they examine themselves in light of the law, they come to further conviction of, humiliation for, and hatred of sin,¹⁴ along with a clearer view of their need for Christ and the perfection of his obedience. The law is also useful to the regenerate to restrain their corruptions because it forbids sin. The punishment threatened by the law shows them what even their sins deserve and what troubles they may expect in this life due to their sin, even though they are freed from the curse and undiminished severity of it. The promises of the law likewise show them God's approval of obedience and the blessings they may expect when they keep it, even though these blessings are not owed to them by the law as a covenant of works. If people do good and refrain from evil because

the law encourages good and discourages evil, that does not indicate that they are under the law and not under grace.¹⁵

¹³Romans 6:14; Galatians 2:16; Romans 8:1; 10:4. ¹⁴Romans 3:20; 7:7, etc; ¹⁵Romans 6:12–14; 1 Peter 3:8–13.

7. These uses of the law are not contrary to the grace of the Gospel but are in sweet harmony with it,¹⁶ for the Spirit of Christ subdues and enables the human will to do freely and cheerfully what the will of God as revealed in the law requires.¹⁷

¹⁶Galatians 3:21. ¹⁷Ezekiel 36:27.

Chapter 20 - The Gospel and the Extent of Its Grace

1. Because the covenant of works was broken by sin and was unable to confer life, God was pleased to proclaim the promise of Christ, the seed of the woman, as the means of calling the elect and producing in them faith and repentance.¹ In this promise the gospel in its substance was revealed and made effectual for the conversion and salvation of sinners.²

¹Genesis 3:15. ²Revelation 13:8.

2. This promise of Christ and of salvation through him is revealed in the Word of God alone.³ The works of creation and providence, when assisted only by the light of nature, do not reveal Christ or grace through him, even in a general or obscure way.⁴ Much less are those without the revelation of him in the promise or gospel enabled to attain saving faith or repentance by seeing these works of God.⁵

³Romans 1:17. ⁴Romans 10:14,15,17. ⁵Proverbs 29:18; Isaiah 25:7; Isaiah 60:2, 3.

3. The gospel has been revealed to sinners in various times and in different places, along with the promises and precepts describing the obedience it requires. The particular nations and individuals who are granted this revelation are chosen solely according to the sovereign will and good pleasure of God.⁶ This choice does not depend on any promise to those who demonstrate good stewardship of their natural abilities based on common light received apart from the gospel. No one has ever done this nor can anyone do so.⁷ Therefore, in every age the preaching of the gospel to individuals and nations has been granted in widely varying degrees of expansion and contraction, according to the counsel of the will of God.

⁶Psalms 147:20; Acts 16:7. ⁷Romans 1:18–32.

4. The gospel is the only outward means of revealing Christ and saving grace, and it is abundantly sufficient for that purpose. Yet to be born again, brought to life or regenerated, those who are dead in trespasses also must have an effectual, irresistible work of the Holy Spirit in every part of their souls to produce in them a new spiritual life.⁸ Without this no other means will bring about their conversion to God.⁹

⁸Psalms 110:3; 1 Corinthians 2:14; Ephesians 1:19, 20. ⁹John 6:44; 2 Corinthians 4:4, 6.

Chapter 21 - Christian Liberty and Liberty of Conscience

1. The liberty Christ has purchased for believers under the gospel is found in their freedom from the guilt of sin, the condemning wrath of God, and the severity and curse of the law.¹ It also includes their deliverance from this present evil age,² bondage to Satan,³ the dominion of sin,⁴ the suffering of afflictions,⁵ the fear and sting of death, the victory of the grave,⁶ and everlasting damnation.⁷ In addition, it includes their free access to God and their obedience to him, not from slavish fear⁸ but from a childlike love and willing mind.⁹

All these liberties were also enjoyed in their essence by believers under the law.¹⁰ But under the New Testament the liberty of Christians is further expanded. They are free from the yoke of the ceremonial law to which the Jewish congregation was subjected; they have greater confidence of access to the throne of grace; and they have a fuller supply of God's free Spirit than believers under the law usually experienced.¹¹

¹Galatians 3:13. ²Galatians 1:4. ³Acts 26:18. ⁴Romans 8:3. ⁵Romans 8:28. ⁶1 Corinthians 15:54–57. ⁷2 Thessalonians 1:10. ⁸Romans 8:15. ⁹Luke 1:73–75; 1 John 4:18. ¹⁰Galatians 3:9, 14. ¹¹John 7:38, 39; Hebrews 10:19–21.

2. God alone is Lord of the conscience,¹² and he has left it free from human doctrines and commandments that are in any way contrary to his word or not contained in it.¹³ So, believing such doctrines, or obeying such commands out of conscience, is a betrayal of true liberty of conscience.¹⁴ Requiring implicit faith or absolute and blind obedience destroys liberty of conscience and reason as well.¹⁵

¹²James 4:12; Romans 14:4. ¹³Acts 4:19, 29; 1 Corinthians 7:23; Matthew 15:9. ¹⁴Colossians 2:20, 22, 23. ¹⁵1 Corinthians 3:5; 2 Corinthians 1:24.

3. Those who use Christian liberty as an excuse to practice any sin or nurture any sinful desire pervert the main objective of the grace of the gospel to their own destruction,¹⁶ and they completely destroy the purpose of Christian liberty. This purpose is that we, having been delivered from the hands of all our enemies, may serve the Lord without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our lives.¹⁷

¹⁶Romans 6:1, 2. ¹⁷Galatians 5:13; 2 Peter 2:18, 21.

Chapter 22 - Religious Worship and the Sabbath Day

1. The light of nature demonstrates that there is a God who has lordship and sovereignty over all. He is just and good and does good to everyone. Therefore, he should be feared, loved, praised, called on, trusted in, and served—with all the heart and all the soul and all the strength.¹ But the acceptable way to worship the true God is instituted by him,² and it is delimited by his own revealed will. Thus, he may not be worshipped according to human imagination or inventions or the suggestions of Satan,

nor through any visible representations, nor in any other way that is not prescribed in the Holy Scriptures.³

¹Jeremiah 10:7; Mark 12:33. ²Deuteronomy 12:32. ³Exodus 20:4–6.

2. Religious worship is to be given to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and to him alone⁴—not to angels, saints, or any other creatures.⁵ Since the fall, worship is not to be given without a mediator⁶ nor through any mediation other than of Christ alone.⁷

⁴Matthew 4:9, 10; John 5:23; Matthew 28:19. ⁵Romans 1:25; Colossians 2:18; Revelation 19:10. ⁶John 14:6. ⁷1 Timothy 2:5.

3. Prayer with thanksgiving is an element of natural worship and so is required by God of everyone.⁸ But to be acceptable, it must be made in the name of the Son,⁹ by the help of the Spirit,¹⁰ according to his will.¹¹ It must be accompanied by understanding, reverence, humility, fervor, faith, love, and perseverance. Prayer with others must be in a language that is understood.¹²

⁸Psalms 95:1–7; 65:2. ⁹John 14:13, 14. ¹⁰Romans 8:26. ¹¹1 John 5:14. ¹²1 Corinthians 14:16, 17.

4. Prayer is to be made for lawful things and for all kinds of people who are alive now or will live later.¹³ But prayer should not be made for the dead¹⁴ nor for those known to have sinned the sin that leads to death.¹⁵

¹³1 Timothy 2:1, 2; 2 Samuel 7:29. ¹⁴2 Samuel 12:21–23. ¹⁵1 John 5:16.

5. The elements of religious worship of God include reading the Scriptures,¹⁶ preaching and hearing the Word of God,¹⁷ teaching and admonishing one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in our hearts to the Lord,¹⁸ as well as the administration of baptism¹⁹ and the Lord's supper.²⁰ They must be performed out of obedience to him, with understanding, faith, reverence, and godly fear. Also, purposeful acts of humbling^a with fasting²¹ and times of thanksgiving should be observed on special occasions in a holy and religious manner.²²

^a*solemn humiliation*

¹⁶1 Timothy 4:13. ¹⁷2 Timothy 4:2; Luke 8:18. ¹⁸Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 5:19. ¹⁹Matthew 28:19, 20. ²⁰1 Corinthians 11:26. ²¹Esther 4:16; Joel 2:12. ²²Exodus 15:1–19, Psalms 107.

6. Under the gospel, neither prayer nor any other part of religious worship is now restricted to or made more acceptable by the place where it is done or toward which it is directed. Instead, God is to be worshipped everywhere in spirit and in truth²³—daily²⁴ in each family²⁵ and privately by each individual.²⁶ Also, more formal^b worship is to be performed in public assemblies, and these must not be carelessly or deliberately neglected or forsaken, when God by his word or providence calls us to them.²⁷

^b*solemn*

²³John 4:21; Malachi 1:11; 1 Timothy 2:8. ²⁴Matthew 6:11; Psalms 55:17. ²⁵Acts 10:2. ²⁶Matthew 6:6. ²⁷Hebrews 10:25; Acts 2:42.

7. It is the law of nature that in general a portion of time specified by God should be set apart for the worship of God. So by his Word, in a positive-moral and perpetual commandment that obligates everyone in every age, he has specifically appointed one day in seven for a sabbath to be kept holy to him.²⁸ From the beginning of the world to the resurrection of Christ the appointed day was the last day of the week. After the resurrection of Christ it was changed to the first day of the week, which is called the Lord's Day.²⁹ This day is to be kept to the end of the age as the Christian Sabbath, since the observance of the last day of the week has been abolished.

²⁸Exodus 20:8. ²⁹1 Corinthians 16:1, 2; Acts 20:7; Revelation 1:10.

Chapter 23 - Lawful Oaths and Vows

1. A lawful oath is an element of religious worship in which a person swearing in truth, righteousness, and judgment solemnly calls God to witness what is sworn¹ and to judge the one swearing according to the truth or falsity of it.²

¹Exodus 20:7; Deuteronomy 10:20; Jeremiah 4:2. ²2 Chronicles 6:22, 23.

2. People should swear by the name of God alone and only with the utmost holy fear and reverence. Therefore to swear an empty or ill-advised oath by that glorious and awe-inspiring name, or to swear at all by anything else, is sinful and to be abhorred.³ Yet in weighty and significant matters, an oath is authorized by the Word of God to confirm truth and end all conflict.⁴ So a lawful oath should be taken when it is required by legitimate authority in such circumstances.⁵

³Matthew 5:34, 37; James 5:12. ⁴Hebrews 6:16; 2 Corinthians 1:23. ⁵Nehemiah 13:25.

3. Whoever takes an oath authorized by the Word of God should consider with due gravity the seriousness of such a weighty act and to affirm nothing in it except what one knows to be true. For the Lord is provoked by ill-advised, false, and empty oaths, and because of them this land mourns.⁶

⁶Leviticus 19:12; Jeremiah 23:10.

4. An oath is to be expressed in the plain and ordinary meaning of the words, without any ambiguity or mental reservation.⁷

⁷Psalms 24:4.

5. A vow must not be made to any creature but to God alone. Vows should be made and performed with the most conscientious care and faithfulness.⁸ However, Roman Catholic monastic vows of perpetual single life,⁹ professed poverty,¹⁰ and obedience to monastic rules, are by no means steps to higher perfection. Instead, they are superstitious and sinful snares in which Christians may not entangle themselves.¹¹

⁸Psalms 76:11; Genesis 28:20–22. ⁹1 Corinthians 7:2, 9. ¹⁰Ephesians 4:28. ¹¹Matthew 19:11.

Chapter 24 - Civil Government

1. God, the supreme Lord and King of the whole world, has ordained civil authorities to be under him and over the people, for his own glory and the public good. For this purpose he has armed them with the power of the sword, to defend and encourage those who do good and to punish evildoers.¹

¹Romans 13:1–4.

2. Christians may lawfully accept and carry out the duties of public office when called to do so. In performing their office they must especially maintain justice and peace,² according to the wholesome laws of each kingdom or other political entity. To carry out these duties they are authorized now under the New Testament to wage war in just and necessary situations.³

²2 Samuel 23:3; Psalms 82:3, 4. ³Luke 3:14.

3. Because civil authorities are established by God for the purposes stated, we should submit in the Lord to them in everything lawful that they require. We should submit not only for fear of punishment but also for the sake of conscience.⁴ We ought to make requests and prayers for kings and everyone in authority, so that under their rule we may live a quiet and peaceful life in all godliness and honesty.⁵

⁴Romans 13:5–7; 1 Peter 2:17. ⁵1 Timothy 2:1, 2.

Chapter 25 - Marriage

1. Marriage is to be between one man and one woman. A man must not have more than one wife nor a woman more than one husband at the same time.¹

¹Genesis 2:24; Malachi 2:15; Matthew 19:5, 6.

2. Marriage was ordained for the mutual help of husband and wife,² for the increase of humanity with legitimate offspring,³ and for the prevention of immorality.⁴

²Genesis 2:18. ³Genesis 1:28. ⁴1 Corinthians 7:2, 9.

3. Everyone who is able to give rational consent may marry.⁵ Yet Christians are to marry in the Lord.⁶ Therefore, those who profess the true religion should not marry unbelievers or idolaters. Nor should the godly be unequally yoked by marrying those who lead evil lives or hold to damnable heresy.⁷

⁵Hebrews 13:4; 1 Timothy 4:3. ⁶1 Corinthians 7:39. ⁷Nehemiah 13:25–27.

4. Marriage should not occur within the degrees of blood relationship or kinship that are forbidden in the Word.⁸ These incestuous marriages can never be made lawful, so that the individuals may live together as husband and wife, by any human law or consent of the parties involved.⁹

⁸Leviticus 18. ⁹Mark 6:18; 1 Corinthians 5:1.

Chapter 26 - The Church

1. The catholic—that is, universal—church may be called invisible with respect to the internal work of the Spirit and truth of grace. It consists of the full number of the elect who have been, are, or will be gathered into one under Christ her head. The church is the spouse, the body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.¹

¹Hebrews 12:23; Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 1:10, 22, 23; Ephesians 5:23, 27, 32

2. All people throughout the world who profess the faith of the gospel and obedience to God through Christ in keeping with the gospel are and may be called visible saints,² as long as they do not destroy their own profession by any foundational errors or unholy living. All local^a congregations ought to be made up of these.³

^a*particular* (rendered “local” throughout this chapter)

²1 Corinthians 1:2; Acts 11:26. ³Romans 1:7; Ephesians 1:20–22.

3. The purest churches under heaven are subject to mixture and error.⁴ Some have degenerated so much that they have ceased to be churches of Christ and have become synagogues of Satan.⁵ Nevertheless, Christ always has had and will have in this world to the very end a kingdom of those who believe in him and profess his name.⁶

⁴1 Corinthians 5; Revelation 2; Revelation 3. ⁵Revelation 18:2; 2 Thessalonians 2:11, 12. ⁶Matthew 16:18; Psalms 72:17; Psalm 102:28; Revelation 12:17.

4. The Lord Jesus Christ is the head of the church. By the Father’s appointment, all authority is conferred on him in a supreme and sovereign manner to call, institute, order and govern the church.^{7,8}

⁷Colossians 1:18; Matthew 28:18–20; Ephesians 4:11, 12. ⁸2 Thessalonians 2:2–9.

5. In exercising the authority entrusted to him, the Lord Jesus, through the ministry of his Word, by his Spirit, calls to himself out of the world those who are given to him by his Father.⁹ They are called so that they will live before him in all the ways of obedience that he prescribes for them in his Word.¹⁰ Those who are called he commands to live together in local^a societies, or churches, for their mutual edification and the fitting conduct of public worship that he requires of them while they are in the world.¹¹

⁹John 10:16; John 12:32. ¹⁰Matthew 28:20. ¹¹Matthew 18:15–20.

6. The members of these churches are saints by calling, visibly displaying and demonstrating in and by their profession and life their obedience to the call of Christ.¹² They willingly agree to live together according to Christ’s

instructions, giving themselves to the Lord and to one another by the will of God, with the stated purpose of following the ordinances of the Gospel.¹³

¹²Romans. 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2. ¹³Acts 2:41, 42; Acts 5:13, 14; 2 Corinthians 9:13.

7. To every church gathered in this way, conforming to Christ's mind as declared in his Word, he has given all power and authority that is in any way necessary to conduct the form of worship and discipline that he has instituted for them to observe. He has also given them commands and rules to use and carry out that power rightly and properly.¹⁴

¹⁴Matthew 18:17, 18; 1 Corinthians 5:4, 5; 1 Corinthians 5:13; 2 Corinthians 2:6–8.

8. A local^a church, gathered and fully organized according to the mind of Christ, consists of officers and members. The officers appointed by Christ are overseers or elders, and deacons. They are to be chosen and set apart by the church called and gathered in this way, for the distinctive purpose of administering ordinances and for carrying out any other power or duty Christ entrusts them with or calls them to. This pattern is to be continued to the end of the age.¹⁵

¹⁵Acts 20:17, 28; Philippians 1:1.

9. Christ has appointed the way to call someone prepared and gifted by the Holy Spirit to the office of overseer or elder in a church. He must be chosen by the collective vote of the church itself.¹⁶ He must then be solemnly set apart by fasting and prayer. The body of elders of the church must lay hands on him if there are any already in place.¹⁷ A deacon must be chosen by the same kind of vote and set apart by prayer and laying on of hands as well.¹⁸

¹⁶Acts 14:23. ¹⁷1 Timothy 4:14. ¹⁸Acts 6:3, 5, 6.

10. The work of pastors is to give constant attention to the service of Christ in his churches in the ministry of the word and prayer. They are to watch over the souls of church members as those who must give an account to Christ.¹⁹ The churches to whom they minister must not only give them all due respect but also must share with them from all their good things according to their ability.²⁰ They must do this so their pastors may have a comfortable living without having to be entangled in secular matters²¹ and so they can show hospitality to others.²² This is required by the law of nature and by the explicit command of our Lord Jesus, who has ordained that those who preach the Gospel should earn their living by the Gospel.²³

¹⁹Acts 6:4; Hebrews 13:17. ²⁰1 Timothy 5:17, 18; Galatians 6:6, 7. ²¹2 Timothy 2:4. ²²1 Timothy 3:2. ²³1 Corinthians 9:6–14.

11. Although overseers or pastors of churches must be engaged in preaching the word as a function of their office, yet the work of preaching the word is not totally restricted to them. Others who are also gifted and prepared by the Holy Spirit for it and approved and called by the church may and should preach.²⁴

²⁴Acts 11:19–21; 1 Peter 4:10, 11.

12. All believers are obligated to join themselves to local^a churches when and where they have the opportunity. Likewise, all who are admitted to the privileges of a church are also subject to the discipline^b and government of it, according to the rule of Christ.²⁵

^b*censures*

²⁵1 Thessalonians 5:14; 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14, 15.

13. Church members who have been offended and have performed their duty concerning the person by which they are offended, should not disrupt any church action or absent themselves from the assemblies of the church or administration of any ordinances because of the offence at any of their fellow members. Instead, they should look to Christ in the further action of the church.²⁶

²⁶Matthew 18:15–17; Ephesians 4:2, 3.

14. Every church and all its members are obligated to pray continually for the good and prosperity of all churches of Christ in every place.²⁷ They must also—at every opportunity within the limits of their stations and callings—exercise their gifts and graces to benefit every church. Also, when churches are raised up by the providence of God, insofar as they enjoy opportunity and favorable circumstances for it, they should have fellowship^c among themselves for their peace, growth in love, and mutual edification.²⁸

^c*communion*, implying formal association

²⁷Ephesians 6:18; Psalms 122:6. ²⁸Romans 16:1, 2; 3 John 8–10.

15. Cases of difficulties or differences—doctrinal or administrative—may arise, touching on the peace, union, and edification of all churches in general or an individual church. Other cases may occur when a member or members of a church are injured in or by disciplinary action that is not in keeping with truth and order. In such cases, it is according to the mind of Christ for many churches having fellowship^c together to meet through their messengers to consider and give their advice concerning the issue in dispute and to report their advice to all the churches concerned.²⁹ Nevertheless, these assembled messengers are not entrusted with any church authority, strictly speaking. Neither do they have any jurisdiction over the churches themselves, to exercise any discipline either over any churches or individuals or to impose their decision on the churches or officers.³⁰

²⁹Acts 15:2, 4, 6, 22, 23, 25. ³⁰2 Corinthians 1:24; 1 John 4:1.

Chapter 27 - The Communion of Saints

1. All saints are united to Jesus Christ their head by his Spirit and by faith, although this does not make them one person with him. They have fellowship in his graces, sufferings, death, resurrection, and glory.¹ Since they are united to one another in love, they have communion in each other's gifts and graces² and are obligated to carry out these duties, both public and

private, in an orderly way to promote their mutual good, both in the inner and outer aspects of their lives.³

¹1 John 1:3; John 1:16; Philippians 3:10; Romans 6:5, 6. ²Ephesians 4:15, 16; 1 Corinthians 12:7; 1 Corinthians 3:21–23. ³1 Thessalonians 5:11, 14; Romans 1:12; 1 John 3:17, 18; Galatians 6:10.

2. Saints by profession are obligated to maintain a holy fellowship and communion in worshiping God and in performing other spiritual services that promote their mutual edification.⁴ They are to aid each other in material things according to their various abilities and needs.⁵ They should especially exercise communion in the relationships they have in their families⁶ and churches.⁷ Yet the rule of the gospel also directs them, as God provides opportunity, to extend their sharing to the whole household of faith, to all those who in every place call upon the name of the Lord Jesus. Nevertheless, their communion with one another as saints does not take away or infringe on the title or individual ownership that people have in their goods and possessions.⁸

⁴Hebrews 10:24, 25; Hebrews 3:12, 13. ⁵Acts 11:29, 30. ⁶Ephesians 6:4. ⁷1 Corinthians 12:14–27. ⁸Acts 5:4; Ephesians 4:28.

Chapter 28 - Baptism and the Lord's Supper

1. Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of positive and sovereign institution. They are appointed by the Lord Jesus the only lawgiver and are to be continued in his church to the end of the age.¹

¹Matthew 28:19, 20; 1 Corinthians 11:26.

2. These holy appointments are to be administered only by those who are qualified and called to administer them, according to the commission of Christ.²

²Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 4:1.

Chapter 29 - Baptism

1. Baptism is an ordinance of the New Testament, ordained by Jesus Christ. To those baptized it is a sign of their fellowship with him in his death and resurrection, of their being grafted into him,¹ of remission of sins,² and of submitting themselves to God through Jesus Christ to live and walk in newness of life.³

¹Romans 6:3–5; Colossians 2:12; Galatians 3:27. ²Mark 1:4; Acts 22:16. ³Romans 6:4.

2. Those who personally profess repentance toward God and faith in and obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ are the only proper subjects of this ordinance.⁴

⁴Mark 16:16; Acts 8:36, 37; Acts 2:41; Acts 8:12; Acts 18:8.

3. The outward element to be used in this ordinance is water, in which the individual is to be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.⁵

⁵Matthew 28:19, 20; Acts 8:38.

4. Immersion, or dipping of the person in water, is necessary for this ordinance to be administered properly.⁶

⁶Matthew 3:16; John 3:23.

Chapter 30 - The Lord's Supper

1. The supper of the Lord Jesus was instituted by him the same night he was betrayed. It is to be observed in his churches to the end of the age as a perpetual remembrance and display of the sacrifice of himself in his death.¹ It is given for the confirmation of the faith of believers in all the benefits of Christ's death, their spiritual nourishment and growth in him, and their further engagement in and to all the duties they owe him. The supper is to be a bond and pledge of their communion with Christ and each other.²

¹1 Corinthians 11:23–26. ²1 Corinthians 10:16, 17, 21.

2. In this ordinance Christ is not offered up to his Father, nor is any real sacrifice made at all for remission of sin of the living or the dead. It is only a memorial of the one offering Christ made of himself on the cross once for all.³ It is also a spiritual offering of the highest possible praise to God for that sacrifice.⁴ Thus, the Roman Catholic sacrifice of the mass (as they call it) is utterly detestable and detracts from Christ's own sacrifice, which is the only propitiation for all the sins of the elect.

³Hebrews 9:25, 26, 28. ⁴1 Corinthians 11:24; Matthew 26:26, 27.

3. In this ordinance the Lord Jesus has appointed his ministers to pray and to bless the elements of bread and wine and in this way to set them apart from a common to a holy use. They are to take and break the bread, take the cup, and give both to the communicants while also participating themselves.⁵

⁵1 Corinthians 11:23–26,

4. Denying the cup to the people, worshipping the elements, lifting them up or carrying them around for adoration, or reserving them for some pretended religious use are all contrary to the nature of this ordinance and to the institution of Christ.⁶

⁶Matthew 26:26–28; 15:9; Exodus 20:4, 5.

5. The outward elements in this ordinance, properly set apart for the use ordained by Christ, have such a relationship to Christ crucified that they are sometimes called—truly though figuratively—by the names of the things they represent, that is, the body and blood of Christ.⁷ However, in substance and nature they still remain truly and only bread and wine, as they were before.⁸

⁷1 Corinthians 11:27. ⁸1 Corinthians 11:26–28.

6. The doctrine commonly called transubstantiation teaches that the substance of bread and wine is changed into the substance of Christ's body and blood by the consecration of a priest or some other way. This doctrine is hostile not only to Scripture⁹ but also to common sense and reason. It destroys the nature of the ordinance and has been and is the cause of many kinds of superstitions and of gross idolatries.¹⁰

⁹Acts 3:21; Luke 24:6, 39. ¹⁰1 Corinthians 11:24, 25.

7. Worthy recipients who outwardly partake of the visible elements in this ordinance also by faith inwardly receive and feed on Christ crucified and all the benefits of his death. They do so really and truly, yet not physically and bodily but spiritually. The body and blood of Christ are not present bodily or physically in the ordinance but spiritually to the faith of believers, just as the elements themselves are present to their outward senses.¹¹

¹¹1 Corinthians 10:16; 11:23–26.

8. All ignorant and ungodly people are unfit to enjoy communion with Christ and are thus unworthy of the Lord's table. As long as they remain in this condition, they cannot partake of these holy mysteries or be admitted to the Lord's table without committing a great sin against Christ.¹² All those who receive the supper unworthily are guilty of the body and blood of the Lord, eating and drinking judgment on themselves.¹³

¹²2 Corinthians 6:14, 15. ¹³1 Corinthians 11:29; Matthew 7:6.

Chapter 31 - The State of Humanity after Death and the Resurrection of the Dead

1. The bodies of those who have died return to dust and undergo destruction.¹ But their souls neither die nor sleep, because they have an immortal character^a, and immediately return to God who gave them.² The souls of the righteous are then made perfect in holiness and are received into paradise. There they are with Christ and behold the face of God in light and glory while they wait for the full redemption of their bodies.³ The souls of the wicked are thrown into hell, where they remain in torment and utter darkness, reserved for the judgment of the great day.⁴ The Scripture recognizes no place other than these two for souls separated from their bodies.

^a*subsistence*; i.e., souls are not subject to dissolution

¹Genesis 3:19; Acts 13:36. ²Ecclesiastes 12:7. ³Luke 23:43; 2 Corinthians 5:1, 6,8; Philippians 1:23; Hebrews 12:23. ⁴Jude 6, 7; 1 Peter 3:19; Luke 16:23, 24.

2. At the last day, those saints who are found alive will not sleep but will be changed.⁵ All the dead will be raised up with the very same bodies, not different ones,⁶ though they will have different qualities. Their bodies will be united again to their souls forever.⁷

⁵1 Corinthians 15:51, 52; 1 Thessalonians 4:17. ⁶Job 19:26, 27. ⁷1 Corinthians 15:42, 43.

3. The bodies of the unjust will be raised by the power of Christ to dishonor. By his Spirit the bodies of the just will be raised to honor and will be made like Christ's own glorious body.⁸

⁸Acts 24:15; John 5:28, 29; Philippians 3:21.

Chapter 32 - The Last Judgment

1. God has appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by Jesus Christ,¹ to whom all power and judgment is given by the Father. In that day, the apostate angels will be judged.² So also, all people who have lived on the earth will appear before the judgment seat of Christ, to give an account of their thoughts, words, and deeds and to receive a reckoning according to what they have done in the body, whether good or evil.³

¹Acts 17:31; John 5:22, 27. ²1 Corinthians 6:3; Jude 6. ³2 Corinthians 5:10; Ecclesiastes 12:14; Matthew 12:36; Romans 14:10, 12; Matthew 25:32–46.

2. God's purpose for appointing this day is to manifest the glory of his mercy in the eternal salvation of the elect, and of his justice in the eternal damnation of the reprobate, who are wicked and disobedient.⁴ For at that time the righteous will go into everlasting life and receive fullness of joy and glory with everlasting rewards in the presence of the Lord. But the wicked, who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of Jesus Christ, will be thrown into everlasting torments⁵ and punished with everlasting destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his power.⁶

⁴Romans 9:22, 23. ⁵Matthew 25:21, 34; 2 Timothy 4:8. ⁶Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:48; 2 Thessalonians 1:7–10.

3. Christ desires that we be firmly convinced that a day of judgment will come, both to deter everyone from sin⁷ and to comfort the godly more fully in their adversity.⁸ For this reason, he has determined to keep the day secret, to encourage people to shake off any fleshly security and always to be watchful, because they do not know the hour when the Lord will come⁹ and so that they may always be prepared to say, "Come Lord Jesus; come quickly. Amen."¹⁰

⁷2 Corinthians 5:10, 11. ⁸2 Thessalonians 1:5–7. ⁹Mark 13:35–37; Luke 12:35, 36. ¹⁰Revelation 22:20.

Appendix 2

Heidelberg Catechism

LORD'S DAY 1

1. **What is thy only comfort in life and death?** That I with body and soul, both in life and death, am not my own, but belong unto my faithful Savior Jesus Christ; who, with His precious blood, hath fully satisfied for all my sins, and delivered me from all the power of the devil; and so preserves me that without the will of my heavenly Father, not a hair can fall from my head; yea, that all things must be subservient to my salvation, and therefore, by His Holy Spirit, He also assures me of eternal life, and makes me sincerely willing and ready, henceforth, to live unto Him.
2. **How many things are necessary for thee to know, that thou, enjoying this comfort, mayest live and die happily?** Three; the first, how great my sins and miseries are; the second, how I may be delivered from all my sins and miseries; the third, how I shall express my gratitude to God for such deliverance.

The First Part: Of the Misery of Man

LORD'S DAY 2

1. **Whence know thou thy misery?** Out of the law of God.
2. **What doth the law of God require of us?** Christ teaches us that briefly, Matthew 22:37–40, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. This is the first and the great commandment; and the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”
3. **Can thou keep all these things perfectly?** In no wise; for I am prone by nature to hate God and my neighbor.

LORD'S DAY 3

1. **Did God then create man so wicked and perverse?** By no means; but God created man good, and after His own image, in true righteousness and holiness, that he might rightly know God his Creator, heartily love Him and live with Him in eternal happiness to glorify and praise Him.
2. **Whence then proceeds this depravity of human nature?** From the fall and disobedience of our first parents, Adam and Eve, in Paradise; hence our nature is become so corrupt that we are all conceived and born in sin.
3. **Are we then so corrupt that we are wholly incapable of doing any good, and inclined to all wickedness?** Indeed we are, except we are regenerated by the Spirit of God.

LORD'S DAY 4

1. **Doth not God then do injustice to man, by requiring from him in His law that which he cannot perform?** Not at all; for God made man capable of performing it; but man, by the instigation of

the devil, and his own willful disobedience, deprived himself and all his posterity of those divine gifts.

2. **Will God suffer such disobedience and rebellion to go unpunished?** By no means; but is terribly displeased with our original as well as actual sins; and will punish them in His just judgment temporally and eternally, as He hath declared, “Cursed is every one that continue not in all things, which are written in the book of the law, to do them.”
3. **Is not God then also merciful?** God is indeed merciful, but also just; therefore His justice requires that sin which is committed against the most high majesty of God be also punished with extreme, that is, with everlasting punishment of body and soul.

The Second Part: Of Man’s Deliverance

LORD’S DAY 5

1. **Since then, by the righteous judgment of God, we deserve temporal and eternal punishment, is there no way by which we may escape that punishment, and be again received into favor?** God will have His justice satisfied, and therefore we must make this full satisfaction, either by ourselves or by another.
2. **Can we ourselves then make this satisfaction?** By no means; but on the contrary we daily increase our debt.
3. **Can there be found anywhere one, who is a mere creature, able to satisfy for us?** None; for, first, God will not punish any other creature for the sin which man hath committed; and further, no mere creature can sustain the burden of God’s eternal wrath against sin, so as to deliver others from it.
4. **What sort of a mediator and deliverer then must we seek for?** For one who is very man, and perfectly righteous; and yet more powerful than all creatures; that is, one who is also very God.

LORD’S DAY 6

1. **Why must he be very man, and also perfectly righteous?** Because the justice of God requires that the same human nature which hath sinned, should likewise make satisfaction for sin; and one, who is himself a sinner, cannot satisfy for others.
2. **Why must He in one person be also very God?** That He might by the power of His Godhead sustain in His human nature the burden of God’s wrath; and might obtain for, and restore to us, righteousness and life.
3. **Who then is that Mediator, who is in one person both very God, and a real righteous man?** Our Lord Jesus Christ, “who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.”
4. **Whence know thou this?** From the holy gospel, which God Himself first revealed in Paradise; and afterwards published by the patriarchs and prophets, and represented by the sacrifices and other ceremonies of the law; and lastly, has fulfilled it by His only begotten Son.

LORD'S DAY 7

1. **Are all men then, as they perished in Adam, saved by Christ?**
No; only those who are ingrafted into Him, and receive all His benefits, by a true faith.
2. **What is true faith?** True faith is not only a certain knowledge, whereby I hold for truth all that God has revealed to us in His Word, but also an assured confidence, which the Holy Ghost works by the gospel in my heart, that not only to others, but to me also, remission of sin, everlasting righteousness and salvation are freely given by God, merely of grace, only for the sake of Christ's merits.
3. **What is then necessary for a Christian to believe?** All things promised us in the gospel, which the articles of our catholic undoubted Christian faith briefly teach us.
4. **What are these articles?**

I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead; I believe in the Holy Ghost; I believe in the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; The forgiveness of sins; The resurrection of the body; And the life everlasting. Amen.

LORD'S DAY 8

1. **How are these articles divided?** Into three parts; the first is of God the Father and our creation; the second, of God the Son and our redemption; the third, of God the Holy Ghost and our sanctification.
2. **Since there is but one only divine essence, why speak thou of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost?** Because God hath so revealed Himself in His Word, that these three distinct persons are the one only true and eternal God. Of God the Father

LORD'S DAY 9

1. **What believe thou when thou sayest, "I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth?"** That the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (who of nothing made heaven and earth, with all that is in them; who likewise upholds and governs the same by His eternal counsel and providence) is for the sake of Christ His Son, my God and my Father; on whom I rely so entirely, that I have no doubt but He will provide me with all things necessary for soul and body; and further, that He will make whatever evils He sends upon me, in this valley of tears, turn out to my advantage; for He is able to do it, being Almighty God, and willing, being a faithful Father.

LORD'S DAY 10

1. **What does it mean by the providence of God?** The almighty and everywhere present power of God; whereby, as it were by His hand, He upholds and governs heaven, earth, and all creatures; so that herbs and grass, rain and drought, fruitful and barren years, meat and drink, health and sickness, riches and poverty, yea, and all things come, not by chance, but by His fatherly hand.
2. **What advantage is it to us to know that God has created, and by His providence doth still uphold all things?** That we may be patient in adversity; thankful in prosperity; and that in all things, which may hereafter befall us, we place our firm trust in our faithful God and Father, that nothing shall separate us from His love; since all creatures are so in His hand, that without His will they cannot so much as move. Of God the Son

LORD'S DAY 11

1. **Why is the Son of God called Jesus, that is, a Savior?** Because He saves us, and delivers us from our sins; and likewise, because we ought not to seek, neither can find salvation in any other.
2. **Do such then believe in Jesus the only Savior, who seek their salvation and welfare of saints, of themselves, or anywhere else?** They do not; for though they boast of Him in words, yet in deeds they deny Jesus the only deliverer and Savior; for one of these two things must be true, that either Jesus is not a complete Savior or that they, who by a true faith receive this Savior, must find all things in Him necessary to their salvation.

LORD'S DAY 12

1. **Why is He called Christ, that is, anointed?** Because He is ordained of God the Father, and anointed with the Holy Ghost, to be our chief Prophet and Teacher, who has fully revealed to us the secret counsel and will of God concerning our redemption; and to be our only High Priest, who by the one sacrifice of His body, has redeemed us, and makes continual intercession with the Father for us; and also to be our eternal King, who governs us by His word and Spirit, and who defends and preserves us in the enjoyment of that salvation He has purchased for us.
2. **But why are thou called a Christian?** Because I am a member of Christ by faith, and thus am partaker of His anointing; that so I may confess His name, and present myself a living sacrifice of thankfulness to Him; and also that with a free and good conscience I may fight against sin and Satan in this life, and afterwards reign with Him eternally, over all creatures.

LORD'S DAY 13

1. **Why is Christ called the only begotten Son of God, since we are also the children of God?** Because Christ alone is the eternal and natural Son of God; but we are children adopted of God, by grace, for His sake.

2. **Wherefore call Him our Lord?** Because He hath redeemed us, both soul and body, from all our sins, not with gold or silver, but with His precious blood, and hath delivered us from all the power of the devil; and thus hath made us His own property.

LORD'S DAY 14

1. **What is the meaning of these words — “He was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary”?** That God's eternal Son, who is, and continue true and eternal God, took upon Him the very nature of man, of the flesh and blood of the Virgin Mary, by the operation of the Holy Ghost; that He might also be the true seed of David, like unto His brethren in all things, sin excepted.
2. **What profit do we receive by Christ's holy conception and nativity?** That He is our Mediator, and with His innocence and perfect holiness, covers in the sight of God, my sins, wherein I was conceived and brought forth.

LORD'S DAY 15

1. **What do you understand by the words, “He suffered”?** That He, all the time that He lived on earth, but especially at the end of His life, sustained in body and soul the wrath of God against the sins of all mankind; that so by His passion, as the only propitiatory sacrifice, He might redeem our body and soul from everlasting damnation, and obtain for us the favor of God, righteousness and eternal life.
2. **Why did He suffer under Pontius Pilate as judge?** That He, being innocent, and yet condemned by a temporal judge, might thereby free us from the severe judgment of God to which we were exposed.
3. **Is there anything more in His being crucified than if He had died some other death?** Yes, there is; for thereby I am assured, that He took on Him the curse which lay upon me; for the death of the cross was accursed of God.

LORD'S DAY 16

1. **Why was it necessary for Christ to humble Himself even unto death?** Because with respect to the justice and truth of God, satisfaction for our sins could be made no otherwise than by the death of the Son of God.
2. **Why was He also “buried”?** Thereby to prove that He was really dead.
3. **Since then Christ died for us, why must we also die?** Our death is not a satisfaction for our sins, but only an abolishing of sin, and a passage into eternal life.
4. **What further benefit do we receive from the sacrifice and death of Christ on the cross?** That by virtue thereof our old man is crucified, dead and buried with Him; that so the corrupt inclinations of the flesh may no more reign in us, but that we may offer ourselves unto Him a sacrifice of thanksgiving.

5. **Why is there added, “He descended into hell”?** That in my greatest temptations, I may be assured, and wholly comfort myself in this, that my Lord Jesus Christ, by His inexpressible anguish, pains, terrors, and hellish agonies, in which He was plunged during all His sufferings, but especially on the cross, hath delivered me from the anguish and torments of hell.

LORD’S DAY 17

1. **What doth the resurrection of Christ profit us?** First, by His resurrection He has overcome death, that He might make us partakers of that righteousness which He had purchased for us by His death; secondly, we are also by His power raised up to a new life; and lastly, the resurrection of Christ is a sure pledge of our blessed resurrection.

LORD’S DAY 18

1. **How do you understand these words, “He ascended into heaven”?** That Christ, in sight of His disciples, was taken up from earth into heaven; and that He continues there for our interest until He comes again to judge the quick and the dead.
2. **Is not Christ then with us even to the end of the world, as He hath promised?** Christ is very man and very God; with respect to His human nature, He is no more on earth; but with respect to His Godhead, majesty, grace and Spirit, He is at no time absent from us.
3. **But if His human nature is not present, wherever His Godhead is, are not then these two natures in Christ separated from one another?** Not at all, for since the Godhead is illimitable and omnipresent, it must necessarily follow that the same is beyond the limits of the human nature He assumed, and yet is nevertheless in this human nature, and remains personally united to it.
4. **Of what advantage to us is Christ’s ascension into heaven?** First, that He is our Advocate in the presence of His Father in heaven; secondly, that we have our flesh in heaven as a sure pledge that He, as the head, will also take up to Himself, us, His members; thirdly, that He sends us His Spirit as an earnest, by whose power we “seek the things which are above, where Christ sits on the right hand of God,” and not things on earth.

LORD’S DAY 19

1. **Why is it added, “and sits at the right hand of God”?** Because Christ is ascended into heaven for this end, that He might appear as head of His church, by whom the Father governs all things.
2. **What profit is this glory of Christ, our Head, unto us?** First, that by His Holy Spirit He pours out heavenly graces upon us His members; and then that by His power He defends and preserves us against all enemies.
3. **What comfort is it to thee that “Christ shall come again to judge the quick and the dead”?** That in all my sorrows and persecutions, with uplifted head I look for the very same person, who before

offered Himself for my sake to the tribunal of God, and has removed all curse from me, to come as judge from heaven; who shall cast all His and my enemies into everlasting condemnation, but shall translate me with all His chosen ones to Himself, into heavenly joys and glory.

Of the Holy Ghost

LORD'S DAY 20

1. **What do you believe concerning the Holy Ghost?** First, that He is true and coeternal God with the Father and the Son; secondly, that He is also given me, to make me by a true faith, partaker of Christ and all His benefits, that He may comfort me and abide with me for ever.

LORD'S DAY 21

1. **What believe thou concerning the "holy catholic church" of Christ?** That the Son of God from the beginning to the end of the world, gathers, defends, and preserves to Himself by His Spirit and Word, out of the whole human race, a Church chosen to everlasting life, agreeing in true faith; and that I am and forever shall remain, a living member thereof.
2. **What do you understand by "the communion of saints"?** First, that all and everyone who believes, being members of Christ, are in common, partakers of Him, and of all His riches and gifts; secondly, that everyone must know it to be his duty, readily and cheerfully to employ his gifts, for the advantage and salvation of other members.
3. **What believe thou concerning "the forgiveness of sins"?** That God, for the sake of Christ's satisfaction, will no more remember my sins, neither my corrupt nature, against which I have to struggle all my life long; but will graciously impute to me the righteousness of Christ, that I may never be condemned before the tribunal of God.

LORD'S DAY 22

1. **What comfort doth the "resurrection of the body" afford thee?** That not only my soul after this life shall be immediately taken up to Christ its Head; but also, that this my body, being raised by the power of Christ, shall be reunited with my soul, and made like unto the glorious body of Christ.
2. **What comfort do you from the article of "life everlasting"?** That since I now feel in my heart the beginning of eternal joy, after this life I shall inherit perfect salvation, which "eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man" to conceive, and that, to praise God therein forever.

LORD'S DAY 23

1. **But what doth it profit thee now that thou believe all this?** That I am righteous in Christ, before God, and an heir of eternal life.
2. **How are thou righteous before God?** Only by a true faith in Jesus Christ; so that, though my conscience accuse me, that I have grossly transgressed all the commandments of God, and kept none of them, and am still inclined to all evil; notwithstanding, God, without any merit of mine, but only of mere grace, grants and imputes to me the perfect satisfaction, righteousness and holiness of Christ; even so, as if I never had had, nor committed any sin; yea, as if I had fully accomplished all that obedience which Christ has accomplished for me, inasmuch as I embrace such benefit with a believing heart.
3. **Why sayest thou that thou are righteous by faith only?** Not that I am acceptable to God, on account of the worthiness of my faith, but because only the satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ, is my righteousness before God; and that I cannot receive and apply the same to myself any other way than by faith only.

LORD'S DAY 24

1. **But why cannot our good works be the whole or part of our righteousness before God?** Because that the righteousness, which can be approved of before the tribunal of God, must be absolutely perfect, and in all respects conformable to the divine law; and also, that our best works in this life are all imperfect and defiled with sin.
2. **What! Do not our good works merit, which yet God will reward in this and in a future life?** This reward is not of merit, but of grace.
3. **But doth not this doctrine make men careless and profane?** By no means: for it is impossible that those, who are implanted into Christ by a true faith, should not bring forth fruits of thankfulness.
Of the Sacraments

LORD'S DAY 25

1. **Since then we are made partakers of Christ and all His benefits by faith only, whence doth this faith proceed?** From the Holy Ghost, who works faith in our hearts by the preaching of the gospel, and confirms it by the use of the sacraments.
2. **What are the sacraments?** The sacraments are holy visible signs and seals, appointed of God for this end, that by the use thereof He may the more fully declare and seal to us the promise of the gospel, namely, that He grants us freely the remission of sin and life eternal for the sake of that one sacrifice of Christ accomplished on the cross.
3. **Are both Word and sacraments, then, ordained and appointed for this end, that they may direct our faith to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross as the only ground of our salvation?** Yes, indeed, for the Holy Ghost teaches us in the gospel, and assures us by the sacraments, that the whole of our salvation depends upon that one sacrifice of Christ which He offered for us on the cross.

4. **How many sacraments has Christ instituted in the new covenant, or testament?** Two, namely, holy baptism and the holy supper.

Of Holy Baptism

LORD'S DAY 26

1. **How are you admonished and assured by holy baptism that the one sacrifice of Christ upon the cross is of real advantage to thee?** Thus: That Christ appointed this external washing with water, adding thereto this promise, that I am as certainly washed by His blood and Spirit from all the pollution of my soul, that is, from all my sins, as I am washed externally with water, by which the filthiness of the body is commonly washed away.
2. **What is it to be washed with the blood and Spirit of Christ?** It is to receive of God the remission of sins freely, for the sake of Christ's blood which He shed for us by His sacrifice upon the cross; and also to be renewed by the Holy Ghost, and sanctified to be members of Christ, that so we may more and more die unto sin, and lead holy and unblamable lives.
3. **Where has Christ promised us, that He will as certainly wash us by His blood and Spirit, as we are washed with the water of baptism?** In the institution of baptism, which is thus expressed: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost"; "He that believeth and is baptized, shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." This promise is also repeated, where the Scripture calls baptism the washing of regeneration and the washing away of sins.

LORD'S DAY 27

1. **Is then the external baptism with water the washing away of sin itself?** Not at all; for the blood of Jesus Christ only, and the Holy Ghost cleanse us from all sin.
2. **Why then does the Holy Ghost call baptism "the washing of regeneration" and the "washing away of sins"?** God speaks thus not without great cause, to wit, not only thereby to teach us that as the filth of the body is purged away by water, so our sins are removed by the blood and Spirit of Jesus Christ; but especially that by this divine pledge and sign He may assure us that we are spiritually cleansed from our sins as really as we are externally washed with water.

Of the Holy Supper of Our Lord Jesus Christ

LORD'S DAY 28

1. **How are thou admonished and assured in the Lord's Supper that thou are a partaker of that one sacrifice of Christ, accomplished on the cross, and of all His benefits?** Thus: That

Christ has commanded me and all believers to eat of this broken bread and to drink of this cup in remembrance of Him, adding these promises: first, that His body was offered and broken on the cross for me, and His blood shed for me, as certainly as I see with my eyes the bread of the Lord broken for me and the cup communicated to me; and further, that He feeds and nourishes my soul to everlasting life, with His crucified body and shed blood, as assuredly as I receive from the hands of the minister, and taste with my mouth the bread and cup of the Lord, as certain signs of the body and blood of Christ.

2. **What is it then to eat the crucified body, and drink the shed blood of Christ?** It is not only to embrace with a believing heart all the sufferings and death of Christ, and thereby to obtain the pardon of sin and life eternal; but also, besides that, to become more and more united to His sacred body, by the Holy Ghost, who dwells both in Christ and in us; so that we, though Christ is in heaven and we on earth, are notwithstanding “flesh of His flesh, and bone of His bone”; and that we live, and are governed forever by one spirit, as members of the same body are by one soul.
3. **Where has Christ promised that He will as certainly feed and nourish believers with His body and blood, as they eat of this broken bread, and drink of this cup?** In the institution of the supper, which is thus expressed: “The Lord Jesus the same night in which He was betrayed took bread: and when He had given thanks, He brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is My body, which is broken for you; this do in remembrance of Me. After the same manner also He took the cup, when He had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in My blood; this do ye, as often as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me. For, as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord’s death till He come.” This promise is repeated by the holy apostle Paul, where he says: “The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? For we, being many, are one bread and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread.”

LORD’S DAY 29

1. **Do then the bread and wine become the very body and blood of Christ?** Not at all; but as the water in baptism is not changed into the blood of Christ, neither is the washing away of sin itself, being only the sign and confirmation thereof appointed of God; so the bread in the Lord’s Supper is not changed into the very body of Christ, though agreeably to the nature and properties of sacraments, it is called the body of Christ Jesus.
2. **Why then doth Christ call the bread His body, and the cup His blood, or the new covenant in His blood; and Paul, the “communion of the body and blood of Christ”?** Christ speaks thus not without great reason, namely, not only thereby to teach us that as bread and wine support this temporal life, so His crucified body and shed blood are the true meat and drink whereby our souls are fed to eternal life; but more especially by these visible signs and pledges to assure us that we are as really partakers of His true body

and blood (by the operation of the Holy Ghost) as we receive by the mouths of our bodies these holy signs in remembrance of Him; and that all His sufferings and obedience are as certainly ours, as if we had in our own persons suffered and made satisfaction for our sins to God.

LORD'S DAY 30

1. **What difference is there between the Lord's Supper and the popish Mass?** The Lord's Supper testifies to us that we have a full pardon of all sin by the only sacrifice of Jesus Christ, which He Himself has once accomplished on the cross; and that we by the Holy Ghost are ingrafted into Christ, who, according to His human nature is now not on earth, but in heaven, at the right hand of God His Father, and will there be worshipped by us—but the Mass teaches that the living and dead have not the pardon of sins through the sufferings of Christ, unless Christ is also daily offered for them by the priests; and further, that Christ is bodily under the form of bread and wine, and therefore is to be worshipped in them; so that the Mass, at bottom, is nothing else than a denial of the one sacrifice and sufferings of Jesus Christ, and an accursed idolatry.
2. **For whom is the Lord's Supper instituted?** For those who are truly sorrowful for their sins, and yet trust that these are forgiven them for the sake of Christ; and that their remaining infirmities are covered by His passion and death; and who also earnestly desire to have their faith more and more strengthened, and their lives more holy; but hypocrites, and such as turn not to God with sincere hearts, eat and drink judgment to themselves.
3. **Are they also to be admitted to this supper, who, by confession and life, declare themselves unbelieving and ungodly?** No; for by this, the covenant of God would be profaned and His wrath kindled against the whole congregation; therefore it is the duty of the Christian church, according to the appointment of Christ and His apostles, to exclude such persons by the keys of the kingdom of heaven till they show amendment of life.

LORD'S DAY 31

1. **What are the keys of the kingdom of heaven?** The preaching of the holy gospel, and Christian discipline, or excommunication out of the Christian church; by these two, the kingdom of heaven is opened to believers and shut against unbelievers.
2. **How is the kingdom of heaven opened and shut by the preaching of the holy gospel?** Thus: when according to the command of Christ it is declared and publicly testified to all and every believer, that, whenever they receive the promise of the gospel by a true faith, all their sins are really forgiven them of God for the sake of Christ's merits; and on the contrary, when it is declared and testified to all unbelievers, and such as do not sincerely repent, that they stand exposed to the wrath of God and eternal condemnation, so long as they are unconverted; according to which testimony of the gospel, God will judge them both in this and in the life to come.

3. **How is the kingdom of heaven shut and opened by Christian discipline?** Thus: when according to the command of Christ, those, who under the name of Christians, maintain doctrines or practices inconsistent therewith, and will not, after having been often brotherly admonished, renounce their errors and wicked course of life, are complained of to the church or to those who are thereunto appointed by the church; and if they despise their admonition, are by them forbidden the use of the sacraments; whereby they are excluded from the Christian church and by God Himself from the kingdom of Christ; and when they promise and show real amendment, are again received as members of Christ and His church.

The Third Part: Of Thankfulness

LORD'S DAY 32

1. **Since then we are delivered from our misery, merely of grace, through Christ, without any merit of ours, why must we still do good works?** Because Christ, having redeemed and delivered us by His blood, also renews us by His Holy Spirit after His own image; that so we may testify, by the whole of our conduct, our gratitude to God for His blessings, and that He may be praised by us; also, that every one may be assured in himself of his faith by the fruits thereof; and that by our godly conversation others may be gained to Christ.
2. **Cannot they then be saved, who, continuing in their wicked and ungrateful lives, are not converted to God?** By no means; for the Holy Scripture declares that no unchaste person, idolator, adulterer, thief, covetous man, drunkard, slanderer, robber, or any such like, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

LORD'S DAY 33

1. **Of how many parts doth the true conversion of man consist?** Of two parts: of the mortification of the old, and the quickening of the new man.
2. **What is the mortification of the old man?** It is a sincere sorrow of heart that we have provoked God by our sins, and more and more to hate and flee from them.
3. **What is the quickening of the new man?** It is a sincere joy of heart in God, through Christ, and with love and delight to live according to the will of God in all good works.
4. **But what are good works?** Only those which proceed from a true faith, are performed according to the law of God, and to His glory; and not such as are founded on our imaginations or the institutions of men.

LORD'S DAY 34

1. **What is the law of God?** God spake all these words (Ex. 20:1–17; Deut. 5:6–21), saying, I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.
 1. Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.
 2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them; for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me; and shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love Me, and keep My commandments.
 3. Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain.
 4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.
 5. Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.
 6. Thou shalt not kill.
 7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
 8. Thou shalt not steal.
 9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
 10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor's.
2. **How are these commandments divided?** Into two tables; the first of which teaches us how we must behave towards God; the second, what duties we owe to our neighbor.
3. **What doth God enjoin in the first commandment?** That I, as sincerely as I desire the salvation of my own soul, avoid and flee from all idolatry, sorcery, soothsaying, superstition, invocation of saints, or any other creatures; and learn rightly to know the only true God; trust in Him alone; with humility and patience submit to Him; expect all good things from Him only; love, fear, and glorify Him with my whole heart; so that I renounce and forsake all creatures, rather than commit even the least thing contrary to His will.
4. **What is idolatry?** Idolatry is, instead of, or besides that one true God who has manifested Himself in His word, to contrive, or have any other object, in which men place their trust.

1. **What doth God require in the second commandment?** That we in no wise represent God by images, nor worship Him in any other way than He has commanded in His Word.
2. **Are images then not at all to be made?** God neither can, nor may be represented by any means. But as to creatures, though they may be represented, yet God forbids to make, or have any resemblance of them, either in order to worship them or to serve God by them.
3. **But may not images be tolerated in the churches as books to the laity?** No, for we must not pretend to be wiser than God, who will have His people taught, not by dumb images, but by the lively preaching of His Word.

LORD'S DAY 36

1. **What is required in the third commandment?** That we, not only by cursing or perjury, but also by rash swearing, must not profane or abuse the name of God; nor by silence or connivance be partakers of these horrible sins in others; and, briefly, that we use the holy name of God no otherwise than with fear and reverence, so that He may be rightly confessed and worshipped by us, and be glorified in all our words and works.
2. **Is then the profaning of God's Name by swearing and cursing so heinous a sin that His wrath is kindled against those who do not endeavor, as much as in them lies, to prevent and forbid such cursing and swearing?** It undoubtedly is, for there is no sin greater or more provoking to God than the profaning of His Name; and therefore He has commanded this sin to be punished with death.

LORD'S DAY 37

1. **May we then swear religiously by the name of God?** Yes, either when the magistrates demand it of the subjects or when necessity requires us thereby to confirm fidelity and truth to the glory of God and the safety of our neighbor; for such an oath is founded on God's Word, and therefore was justly used by the saints, both in the Old and New Testament.
2. **May we also swear by saints or any other creatures?** No; for a lawful oath is calling upon God as the only one who knows the heart, that He will bear witness to the truth and punish me if I swear falsely; which honor is due to no creature.

LORD'S DAY 38

1. **What doth God require in the fourth commandment?** First, that the ministry of the gospel and the schools be maintained; and that I, especially on the Sabbath, that is, on the day of rest, diligently frequent the church of God to hear His word, to use the sacraments, publicly to call upon the Lord, and contribute to the relief of the poor, as becomes a Christian. Secondly, that all the days of my life I cease from my evil works, and yield myself to the Lord, to work by His Holy Spirit in me; and thus begin in this life the eternal Sabbath.

LORD'S DAY 39

1. **What doth God require in the fifth commandment?** That I show all honor, love and fidelity, to my father and mother and all in authority over me, and submit myself to their good instruction and correction, with due obedience; and also patiently bear with their weaknesses and infirmities, since it pleases God to govern us by their hand.

LORD'S DAY 40

1. **What doth God require in the sixth commandment?** That neither in thoughts, nor words, nor gestures, much less in deeds, I dishonor, hate, wound, or kill my neighbor, by myself or by another; but that I lay aside all desire of revenge; also, that I hurt not myself, nor willfully expose myself to any danger. Wherefore also the magistrate is armed with the sword to prevent murder.
2. **But this commandment seems only to speak of murder?** In forbidding murder, God teaches us that He abhors the causes thereof, such as envy, hatred, anger, and desire of revenge; and that He accounts all these as murder.
3. **But is it enough that we do not kill any man in the manner mentioned above?** No, for when God forbids envy, hatred, and anger, He commands us to love our neighbor as ourselves; to show patience, peace, meekness, mercy, and all kindness towards him, and prevent his hurt as much as in us lies; and that we do good, even to our enemies.

LORD'S DAY 41

1. **What doth the seventh commandment teach us?** That all uncleanness is accursed of God; and that therefore we must with all our hearts detest the same, and live chastely and temperately, whether in holy wedlock or in single life.
2. **Doth God forbid in this commandment only adultery and such like gross sins?** Since both our body and soul are temples of the Holy Ghost, He commands us to preserve them pure and holy; therefore, He forbids all unchaste actions, gestures, words, thoughts, desires, and whatever can entice men thereto.

LORD'S DAY 42

1. **What doth God forbid in the eighth commandment?** God forbids not only those thefts and robberies which are punishable by the magistrate; but He comprehends under the name of theft all wicked tricks and devices, whereby we design to appropriate to ourselves the goods which belong to our neighbor; whether it be by force, or under the appearance of right, as by unjust weights, ells, measures, fraudulent merchandise, false coins, usury, or by any other way forbidden by God; as also all covetousness, all abuse and waste of His gifts.

2. **But what doth God require in this commandment?** That I promote the advantage of my neighbor in every instance I can or may, and deal with him as I desire to be dealt with by others; further also that I faithfully labor, so that I may be able to relieve the needy.

LORD'S DAY 43

1. **What is required in the ninth commandment?** That I bear false witness against no man nor falsify any man's words; that I be no backbiter nor slanderer; that I do not judge, nor join in condemning any man rashly or unheard; but that I avoid all sorts of lies and deceit, as the proper works of the devil, unless I would bring down upon me the heavy wrath of God; likewise, that in judgment and all other dealings I love the truth, speak it uprightly and confess it; also that I defend and promote, as much as I am able, the honor and good character of my neighbor.

LORD'S DAY 44

1. **What doth the tenth commandment require of us?** That even the smallest inclination or thought contrary to any of God's commandments never rise in our hearts; but that at all times we hate all sin with our whole heart, and delight in all righteousness.
2. **But can those who are converted to God perfectly keep these commandments?** No, but even the holiest men, while in this life, have only a small beginning of this obedience; yet so, that with a sincere resolution they begin to live, not only according to some, but all the commandments of God.
3. **Why will God then have the ten commandments so strictly preached, since no man in this life can keep them?** First, that all our lifetime we may learn more and more to know our sinful nature, and thus become the more earnest in seeking the remission of sin and righteousness in Christ; likewise, that we constantly endeavor and pray to God for the grace of the Holy Spirit, that we may become more and more conformable to the image of God, till we arrive at the perfection proposed to us in a life to come.

Of Prayer

LORD'S DAY 45

1. **Why is prayer necessary for Christians?** Because it is the chief part of thankfulness which God requires of us; and also, because God will give His grace and Holy Spirit to those only, who with sincere desires continually ask them of Him, and are thankful for them.
2. **What are the requisites of that prayer which is acceptable to God and which He will hear?** First, that we from the heart pray to the one true God only, who hath manifested Himself in His Word, for all things He hath commanded us to ask of Him; secondly, that we rightly and thoroughly know our need and misery, that so we may deeply humble ourselves in the presence of His divine majesty;

thirdly, that we be fully persuaded that He, notwithstanding that we are unworthy of it, will, for the sake of Christ our Lord, certainly hear our prayer, as He has promised us in His Word.

3. **What hath God commanded us to ask of Him?** All things necessary for soul and body, which Christ our Lord has comprised in that prayer He Himself has taught us.
4. **What are the words of that prayer?** Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

LORD'S DAY 46

1. **Why hath Christ commanded us to address God thus: "Our Father"?** That immediately, in the very beginning of our prayer, He might excite in us a childlike reverence for and confidence in God, which are the foundation of our prayer, namely, that God is become our Father in Christ, and will much less deny us what we ask of Him in true faith than our parents will refuse us earthly things.
2. **Why is it here added, "which art in heaven"?** Lest we should form any earthly conceptions of God's heavenly majesty, and that we may expect from His almighty power all things necessary for soul and body.

LORD'S DAY 47

1. **Which is the first petition?** "Hallowed be Thy name"; that is, grant us, first, rightly to know Thee, and to sanctify, glorify and praise Thee in all Thy works, in which Thy power, wisdom, goodness, justice, mercy and truth, are clearly displayed; and further also, that we may so order and direct our whole lives, our thoughts, words and actions, that Thy Name may never be blasphemed, but rather honored and praised on our account.

LORD'S DAY 48

1. **Which is the second petition?** "Thy kingdom come"; that is, rule us so by Thy Word and Spirit, that we may submit ourselves more and more to Thee; preserve and increase Thy church; destroy the works of the devil, and all violence which would exalt itself against Thee; and also, all wicked counsels devised against Thy holy Word; till the full perfection of Thy kingdom take place, wherein Thou shalt be all in all.

LORD'S DAY 49

1. **Which is the third petition?** "Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven"; that is, grant that we and all men may renounce our own will, and without murmuring obey Thy will, which is only good;

that so everyone may attend to and perform the duties of his station and calling as willingly and faithfully as the angels do in heaven.

LORD'S DAY 50

1. **Which is the fourth petition?** "Give us this day our daily bread"; that is, be pleased to provide us with all things necessary for the body, that we may thereby acknowledge Thee to be the only fountain of all good, and that neither our care nor industry, nor even Thy gifts, can profit us without Thy blessing; and therefore that we may withdraw our trust from all creatures and place it alone in Thee.

LORD'S DAY 51

1. **Which is the fifth petition?** "And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors"; that is, be pleased for the sake of Christ's blood, not to impute to us poor sinners our transgressions, nor that depravity which always cleaves to us; even as we feel this evidence of Thy grace in us, that it is our firm resolution from the heart to forgive our neighbor.

LORD'S DAY 52

1. **Which is the sixth petition?** "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil"; that is, since we are so weak in ourselves that we cannot stand a moment; and besides this, since our mortal enemies, the devil, the world, and our own flesh, cease not to assault us, do Thou therefore preserve and strengthen us by the power of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may not be overcome in this spiritual warfare, but constantly and strenuously may resist our foes till at last we obtain a complete victory.
2. **How do you conclude thy prayer?** "For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever"; that is, all these we ask of Thee, because Thou, being our King and almighty, are willing and able to give us all good; and all this we pray for, that thereby not we, but Thy holy Name, may be glorified for ever.
3. **What doth the word "Amen" signify?** "Amen" signifies it shall truly and certainly be, for my prayer is more assuredly heard of God than I feel in my heart that I desire these things of Him.

Spurgeon Catechism

Questions & Answers

1 Q. What is the chief end of man?

A. Man's chief end is to glorify God (1 Cor. 10:31), and to enjoy him for ever (Ps. 73:25-26).

2 Q. What rule has God given to direct us how we may glorify him?

A. The Word of God which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments (Eph. 2:20; 2 Tim. 3:16) is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify God and enjoy him (1 Jn. 1:3).

3 Q. What do the Scriptures principally teach?

A. The Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man (2 Tim. 1:13; Eccl. 12:13).

4 Q. What is God?

A. God is Spirit (Jn. 4:24), infinite (Job 11:7), eternal (Ps. 90:2; 1 Tim. 1:17), and unchangeable (Jas. 1:17) in his being (Exod. 3:14), wisdom, power (Ps. 147:5), holiness (Rev. 4:8), justice, goodness and truth (Exod. 34:6-7).

5 Q. Are there more Gods than one?

A. There is but one only (Deut. 6:4), the living and true God (Jer. 10:10).

6 Q. How many persons are there in the Godhead?

A. There are three persons in the Godhead, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and these three are one God, the same in essence, equal in power and glory (1 Jn. 5:7; Matt. 28:19).

7 Q. What are the decrees of God?

A. The decrees of God are his eternal purpose according to the counsel of his own will, whereby for his own glory he has foreordained whatever comes to pass (Eph. 1:11-12).

8 Q. How does God execute his decrees?

A. God executes his decrees in the works of creation (Rev. 4:11), and providence (Dan. 4:35).

9 Q. What is the work of creation?

A. The work of creation is God's making all things (Gen. 1:1) of nothing, by the Word of his power (Heb. 11:3), in six normal consecutive days (Exod. 20:11), and all very good (Gen. 1:31).

10 Q. How did God create man?

A. God created man, male and female, after his own image (Gen. 1:27), in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness (Col 3:10; Eph. 4:24) with dominion over the creatures (Gen. 1:28).

11 Q. What are God's works of providence?

A. God's works of providence are his most holy (Ps. 145:17), wise, (Isa. 28:29) and powerful (Heb. 1:3), preserving and governing all his creatures, and all their actions (Ps. 103:19; Matt. 10:29).

12 Q. What special act of providence did God exercise toward man in the state wherein he was created?

A. When God had created man, he entered into a covenant of life with him, upon condition of perfect obedience; (Gal. 3:12) forbidding him to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, upon pain of death. (Gen. 2:17)

13 Q. Did our first parents continue in the state wherein they were created?

A. Our first parents being left to the freedom of their own will, fell from the state wherein they were created, by sinning against God, (Eccl. 7:29) by eating the forbidden fruit (Gen. 3:6-8).

14 Q. What is sin?

A. Sin is any want of conformity to, or transgression of the law of God (1 Jn. 3:4).

15 Q. Did all mankind fall in Adam's first transgression?

A. The covenant being made with Adam, not only for himself but for his posterity, all mankind descending from him by ordinary generation, sinned in him, and fell with him in his first transgression (1 Cor. 15:22; Rom. 5:12).

Q. Into what estate did the fall bring mankind?

A. The fall brought mankind into a state of sin and misery (Rom. 5:18).

16 Q. Wherein consists the sinfulness of that state whereinto man fell?

A. The sinfulness of that state whereinto man fell, consists in the guilt of Adam's first sin (Rom. 5:19), the want of original righteousness, (Rom.

3:10) and the corruption of his whole nature, which is commonly called original sin (Eph. 2:1; Ps. 51:5), together with all actual transgressions which proceed from it (Matt. 15:19).

17 Q. What is the misery of that state whereinto man fell?

A. All mankind, by their fall, lost communion with God (Gen. 3:8, 24), are under his wrath and curse (Eph. 2:3; Gal. 3:10), and so made liable to all the miseries in this life, to death itself, and to the pains of hell for ever (Rom. 6:23; Matt. 25:41).

18 Q. Did God leave all mankind to perish in the state of sin and misery?

A. God having, out of his good pleasure from all eternity, elected some to everlasting life (2 Thess. 2:13), did enter into a covenant of grace to deliver them out of the state of sin and misery, and to bring them into a state of salvation by a Redeemer (Rom. 5:21).

19 Q. Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?

A. The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Tim. 2:5), who being the eternal Son of God, became man (Jn. 1:14), and so was and continues to be God and man, in two distinct natures and one person for ever (1 Tim. 3:16; Col. 2:9).

20 Q. How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?

A. Christ, the son of God, became man by taking to himself a true body (Heb. 2:14), and a reasonable soul (Matt. 26:38; Heb. 4:15), being conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit in the Virgin Mary, and born of her (Lk. 1:31, 35), yet without sin (Heb. 7:26).

21 Q. What offices does Christ execute as our Redeemer?

A. Christ as our Redeemer executes the offices of a prophet (Acts 3:22), of a priest (Heb. 5:6), and of a king (Ps. 2:6), both in his state of humiliation and exaltation.

22 Q. How does Christ execute the office of a prophet?

A. Christ executes the office of a prophet, in revealing to us (Jn. 1:18), by his Word (Jn. 20:31), and Spirit (Jn. 14:26), the will of God for our salvation.

23 Q. How does Christ execute the office of a priest?

A. Christ executes the office of a priest, in his once offering up himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice (Heb. 9:28), and to reconcile us to God (Heb. 2:17), and in making continual intercession for us (Heb. 7:25).

24 Q. How does Christ execute the office of a king?

A. Christ executes the office of a king in subduing us to himself, (Ps. 110:3) in ruling and defending us (Matt. 2:6; 1 Cor. 15:25), and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.

25 Q. Wherein did Christ's humiliation consist?

A. Christ's humiliation consisted in his being born, and that in a low condition (Lk. 2:7), made under the law (Gal. 4:4), undergoing the miseries of this life (Isa. 53:3), the wrath of God (Matt. 27:46), and the cursed death of the cross; (Phil. 2:8) in being buried, and continuing under the power of death for a time (Matt. 12:40).

26 Q. Wherein consists Christ's exaltation?

A. Christ's exaltation consists in his rising again from the dead on the third day (1 Cor. 15:4), in ascending up into heaven, and sitting at the right hand of God the Father (Mk. 16:19), and in coming to judge the world at the last day (Acts 17:31).

27 Q. How are we made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ?

A. We are made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ, by the effectual application of it to us (Jn. 1:12) by his Holy Spirit. (Tit. 3:5-6)

28 Q. How does the Spirit apply to us the redemption purchased by Christ?

A. The Spirit applies to us the redemption purchased by Christ, by working faith in us (Eph. 2:8), and by it uniting us to Christ in our effectual calling (Eph. 3:17).

29 Q. What is effectual calling?

A. Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit (2 Tim. 1:9) whereby, convincing us of our sin and misery (Acts 2:37), enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ (Acts 26:18), and renewing our wills (Ezek. 36:26), he does persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ freely offered to us in the gospel (Jn. 6:44-45).

30 Q. What benefits do they who are effectually called, partake of in this life?

A. They who are effectually called, do in this life partake of justification (Rom. 8:30), adoption (Eph. 1:5), sanctification, and the various benefits which in this life do either accompany, or flow from them (1 Cor. 1:30).

31 Q. What is justification?

A. Justification is an act of God's free grace, wherein he pardons all our sins (Rom. 3:24; Eph. 1:7), and accepts us as righteous in his sight (2 Cor. 5:21) only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us (Rom. 5:19), and received by faith alone (Gal. 2:16; Phil. 3:9).

32 Q. What is adoption?

A. Adoption is an act of God's free grace (1 Jn. 3:1), whereby we are received into the number, and have a right to all the privileges of the sons of God (Jn. 1:12; Rom. 8:17).

33 Q. What is sanctification?

A. Sanctification is the work of God's Spirit (2 Thess. 2:13), whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God (Eph. 4:24), and are enabled more and more to die to sin, and live to righteousness (Rom. 6:11).

34 Q. What are the benefits which in this life do either accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification?

A. The benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification (Rom. 5:1-2, 5), are assurance of God's love, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Spirit (Rom. 14:17), increase of grace, perseverance in it to the end (Prov. 4:18; 1 Jn. 5:13; 1 Pet. 1:5).

35 Q. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at their death?

A. The souls of believers are at their death made perfect in holiness (Heb. 12:23 and do immediately pass into glory, (Phil. 1:23; 2 Cor. 5:8; Lk. 23:43), and their bodies, being still united to Christ (1 Thess. 4:14), do rest in their graves (Isa. 57:2) till the resurrection (Job 19:26).

36 Q. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection?

A. At the resurrection, believers being raised up in glory (1 Cor. 15:43), shall be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the day of judgment (Matt. 10:32), and made perfectly blessed both in soul and body in the full enjoying of God (1 Jn. 3:2) to all eternity (1 Thess. 4:17).

37 Q. What shall be done to the wicked at their death?

A. The souls of the wicked shall at their death be cast into the torments of hell (Lk. 16:22-24), and their bodies lie in their graves till the resurrection, and judgement of the great day (Ps. 49:14).

38 Q. What shall be done to the wicked at the day of judgment?

A. At the day of judgment the bodies of the wicked being raised out of their graves, shall be sentenced, together with their souls, to unspeakable torments with the devil and his angels for ever (Dan. 12:2; Jn. 5:28-29; 2 Thess. 1:9; Matt. 25:41).

39 Q. What did God reveal to man for the rule of his obedience?

A. The rule which God first revealed to man for his obedience, is the moral law (Deut. 10:4; Matt. 19:17), which is summarized in the ten commandments.

40 Q. What is the sum of the ten commandments?

A. The sum of the ten commandments is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind; and our neighbor as ourselves (Matt. 22:37-40).

41 Q. Which is the first commandment?

A. The first commandment is, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me."

42 Q. What is required in the first commandment?

A. The first commandment requires us to know (1 Chron. 28:9) and acknowledge God to be the only true God, and our God (Deut. 26:17), and to worship and glorify him accordingly (Matt. 4:10).

43 Q. Which is the second commandment?

A. The second commandment is, "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments."

44 Q. What is required in the second commandment?

A. The second commandment requires the receiving, observing (Deut. 32:46; Matt. 28:20), and keeping pure and entire all such religious worship and ordinances as God has appointed in his Word (Deut. 12:32).

45 Q. What is forbidden in the second commandment?

A. The second commandment forbids the worshipping of God by images, (Deut. 4:15-16) or any other way not appointed in his Word (Col. 2:18).

46 Q. Which is the third commandment?

A. The third commandment is, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that takes his name in vain."

47 Q. What is required in the third commandment?

A. The third commandment requires the holy and reverent use of God's names (Ps. 29:2), titles, attributes (Rev. 15:3-4), ordinances (Eccl. 5:1), Word (Ps. 138:2), and works (Job 36:24; Deut. 28:58-59).

48 Q. Which is the fourth commandment?

A. The fourth commandment is, "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor they cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it."

49 Q. What is required in the fourth commandment?

A. The fourth commandment requires the keeping holy to God such set times as he has appointed in his Word, expressly one whole day in seven, to be a holy Sabbath to himself (Lev. 19:30; Deut. 5:12).

50 Q. How is the Sabbath to be sanctified?

A. The Sabbath is to be sanctified by a holy resting all that day, even from such worldly employments and recreations as are lawful on other days (Lev. 23:3), and spending the whole time in the public and private exercises of God's worship (Ps. 92:1-2; Isa. 58:13-14), except so much as is taken up in the works of necessity and mercy (Matt. 12:11-12).

51 Q. Which is the fifth commandment?

A. The fifth commandment is, "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

52 Q. What is required in the fifth commandment?

A. The fifth commandment requires the preserving the honour, and performing the duties belonging to every one in their various positions and relationships as superiors (Eph. 5:21-22; Eph. 6:1, 5; Rom. 13:1), inferiors (Eph. 6:9), or equals (Rom. 12:10).

53 Q. What is the reason annexed to the fifth commandment?

A. The reason annexed to the fifth commandment is, a promise of long life and prosperity -- as far as it shall serve for God's glory, and their own good -- to all such as keep this commandment (Eph. 6:2-3).

54 Q. Which is the sixth commandment?

A. The sixth commandment is, "Thou shalt not kill."

55 Q. What is forbidden in the sixth commandment?

A. The sixth commandment forbids the taking away of our own life (Acts 16:28), or the life of our neighbor unjustly (Gen. 9:6), or whatever tends to it (Prov. 24:11-12).

56 Q. Which is the seventh commandment?

A. The seventh commandment is, "Thou shalt not commit adultery."

57 Q. What is forbidden in the seventh commandment?

A. The seventh commandment forbids all unchaste thoughts (Matt. 5:28; Col. 4:6), words (Eph. 5:4; 2 Tim. 2:22), and actions (Eph. 5:3).

58 Q. Which is the eighth commandment?

A. The eighth commandment is, "Thou shalt not steal."

59 Q. What is forbidden in the eighth commandment?

A. The eighth commandment forbids whatever does or may unjustly hinder our own (1 Tim. 5:8; Prov. 28:19; Prov. 21:6), or our neighbor's wealth, or outward estate (Eph. 4:28).

60 Q. Which is the ninth commandment?

A. The ninth commandment is, "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor."

61 Q. What is required in the ninth commandment?

A. The ninth commandment requires the maintaining and promoting of truth between man and man (Zech. 8:16), and of our own (1 Pet. 3:16; Acts 25:10), and our neighbor's good name (3 Jn. 1:12), especially in witness-bearing (Prov. 14:5, 25).

62 Q. What is the tenth commandment?

A. The tenth commandment is, "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house; thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, or his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's."

63 Q. What is forbidden in the tenth commandment?

A. The tenth commandment forbids all discontentment with our own estate (1 Cor. 10:10), envying or grieving at the good of our neighbor, (Gal. 5:26) and all inordinate emotions and affections to anything that is his (Col. 3:5).

64 Q. Is any man able perfectly to keep the commandments of God?

A. No mere man, since the fall, is able in his life perfectly to keep the commandments of God (Eccl. 7:20), but does daily break them in thought, (Gen. 8:21) word (Jas. 3:8), and deed (Jas. 3:2).

65 Q. Are all transgressions of the law equally heinous?

A. Some sins in themselves, and by reason of various aggravations, are more heinous in the sight of God than others (Jn. 19:11; 1 Jn. 5:15).

66 Q. What does every sin deserve?

A. Every sin deserves God's wrath and curse, both in this life and that which is to come (Eph. 5:6; Ps. 11:6).

67 Q. How may we escape his wrath and curse due to us for sin?

A. To escape the wrath and curse of God due to us for sin, we must believe in the Lord Jesus Christ (Jn. 3:16), trusting alone to his blood and righteousness. This faith is attended by repentance for the past (Acts 20:21) and leads to holiness in the future.

68 Q. What is faith in Jesus Christ?

A. Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace (Heb. 10:39), whereby we receive (Jn. 1:12), and rest upon him alone for salvation (Phil. 3:9), as he is set forth in the gospel (Isa. 33:22).

69 Q. What is repentance to life?

A. Repentance to life is a saving grace (Acts 11:18), whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sins (Acts 2:37), and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ (Joel 2:13), does with grief and hatred of his sin turn from it to God (Jer. 31:18-19), with full purpose to strive after new obedience (Ps. 119:59).

72 Q. What are the outward means whereby the Holy Spirit communicates to us the benefits of redemption?

A. The outward and ordinary means whereby the Holy Spirit communicates to us the benefits of Christ's redemption, are the Word, by which souls are begotten to spiritual life; Baptism, the Lord's Supper, Prayer, and Meditation, by all which believers are further edified in their most holy faith (Acts 2:41-42; Jas. 1:18).

73 Q. How is the Word made effectual to salvation?

A. The Spirit of God makes the reading, but especially the preaching of the Word, an effectual means of convicting and converting sinners, (Ps.

19:7) and of building them up in holiness and comfort (1 Thess. 1:6), through faith to salvation (Rom. 1:16).

74 Q. How is the Word to be read and heard that it may become effectual to salvation?

A. That the Word may become effectual to salvation, we must attend to it with diligence (Prov. 8:34), preparation (1 Pet. 2:1-2), and prayer (Ps 119:18), receive it with faith (Heb. 4:2), and love (2 Thess. 2:10), lay it up into our hearts (Ps. 119:11), and practice it in our lives (Jas. 1:25).

75 Q. How do Baptism and the Lord's Supper become spiritually helpful?

A. Baptism and the Lord's Supper become spiritually helpful, not from any virtue in them, or in him who does administer them (1 Cor. 3:7; 1 Pet. 3:21), but only by the blessing of Christ (1 Cor. 3:6), and the working of the Spirit in those who by faith receive them (1 Cor. 12:13).

76 Q. What is Baptism?

A. Baptism is an ordinance of the New Testament, instituted by Jesus Christ (Matt. 28:19), to be to the person baptised a sign of his fellowship with him, in his death, and burial, and resurrection (Rom. 6:3; Col. 2:12), of his being ingrafted into him (Gal. 3:27), of remission of sins (Mk. 1:4; Acts 22:16), and of his giving up himself to God through Jesus Christ, to live and walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:4-5).

77 Q. To whom is Baptism to be administered?

A. Baptism is to be administered to all those who actually profess repentance towards God (Acts 2:38; Matt. 3:6; Mk. 16:16; Acts 8:12, 36-37; Acts 10:47-48), and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and to none other.

78 Q. Are the infants of such as are professing to be baptised?

A. The infants of such as are professing believers are not to be baptised, because there is neither command nor example in the Holy Scriptures for their baptism (Exod. 23:13; Prov. 30:6).

79 Q. How is baptism rightly administered?

A. Baptism is rightly administered by immersion, or dipping the whole body of the person in water (Matt. 3:16; Jn. 3:23), in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, according to Christ's institution, and the practice of the apostles (Matt. 28:19-20), and not by sprinkling or pouring of water, or dipping some part of the body, after the tradition of men (Jn. 4:1-2; Acts 8:38-39).

80 Q. What is the duty of such as are rightly baptized?

A. It is the duty of such as are rightly baptized, to give up themselves to some particular and orderly Church of Jesus Christ (Acts 2:47; 9:26; 1 Pet. 2:5), that they may walk in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless (Lk. 1:6).

81 Q. What is the Lord's Supper?

A. The Lord's Supper is an ordinance of the New Testament, instituted by Jesus Christ; wherein, by giving and receiving bread and wine, according to his appointment, his death is shown forth (1 Cor. 11:23-26), and the worthy receivers are, not after a corporeal and carnal manner, but by faith, made partakers of his body and blood, with all his benefits, to their spiritual nourishment, and growth in grace (1 Cor. 10:16).

82 Q. What is required to the worthy receiving of the Lord's Supper?

A. It is required of them who would worthily partake of the Lord's Supper, that they examine themselves of their knowledge to discern the Lord's body (1 Cor. 11:28-29), of their faith to feed upon him (2 Cor. 13:5), of their repentance (1 Cor. 11:31), love (1 Cor. 11:18-20), and new obedience, (1 Cor. 5:8) lest coming unworthily, they eat and drink judgment to themselves (1 Cor. 11:27-29).

83 Q. What is meant by the words, "until he come," which are used by the apostle Paul in reference to the Lord's Supper?

A. They plainly teach us that our Lord Jesus Christ will come a second time; which is the joy and hope of all believers (Acts 1:11 1 Thess. 4:16).

Appendix 3

Robert Murry M'Cheyne Bible Reading Plan

This Bible reading plan will take you through the entire Bible in a year, reading the Old Testament once, and the New Testament and Psalms twice. Each Day you will read from the Old and New Testament.

January

1 Genesis 1; Matthew 1; Ezra 1; Acts 1

2 Genesis 2; Matthew 2; Ezra 2; Acts 2

3 Genesis 3; Matthew 3; Ezra 3; Acts 3

4 Genesis 4; Matthew 4; Ezra 4; Acts 4

5 Genesis 5; Matthew 5; Ezra 5; Acts 5

6 Genesis 6; Matthew 6; Ezra 6; Acts 6

7 Genesis 7; Matthew 7; Ezra 7; Acts 7

8 Genesis 8; Matthew 8; Ezra 8; Acts 8

9 Genesis 9-10; Matthew 9; Ezra 9; Acts 9

10 Genesis 11; Matthew 10; Ezra 10; Acts 10

11 Genesis 12; Matthew 11; Nehemiah 1; Acts 11

12 Genesis 13; Matthew 12; Nehemiah 2; Acts 12

13 Genesis 14; Matthew 13; Nehemiah 3; Acts 13

14 Genesis 15; Matthew 14; Nehemiah 4; Acts 14

15 Genesis 16; Matthew 15; Nehemiah 5; Acts 15

16 Genesis 17; Matthew 16; Nehemiah 6; Acts 16

17 Genesis 18; Matthew 17; Nehemiah 7; Acts 17

18 Genesis 19; Matthew 18; Nehemiah 8; Acts 18

19 Genesis 20; Matthew 19; Nehemiah 9; Acts 19
20 Genesis 21; Matthew 20; Nehemiah 10; Acts 20
21 Genesis 22; Matthew 21; Nehemiah 11; Acts 21
22 Genesis 23; Matthew 22; Nehemiah 12; Acts 22
23 Genesis 24; Matthew 23; Nehemiah 13; Acts 23
24 Genesis 25; Matthew 24; Esther 1; Acts 24
25 Genesis 26; Matthew 25; Esther 2; Acts 25
26 Genesis 27; Matthew 26; Esther 3; Acts 26
27 Genesis 28; Matthew 27; Esther 4; Acts 27
28 Genesis 29; Matthew 28; Esther 5; Acts 28
29 Genesis 30; Mark 1; Esther 6; Romans 1
30 Genesis 31; Mark 2; Esther 7; Romans 2
31 Genesis 32; Mark 3; Esther 8; Romans 3

February

- 1 Genesis 33; Mark 4; Esther 9-10; Romans 4
- 2 Genesis 34; Mark 5; Job 1; Romans 5
- 3 Genesis 35-36; Mark 6; Job 2; Romans 6
- 4 Genesis 37; Mark 7; Job 3; Romans 7
- 5 Genesis 38; Mark 8; Job 4; Romans 8
- 6 Genesis 39; Mark 9; Job 5; Romans 9
- 7 Genesis 40; Mark 10; Job 6; Romans 10
- 8 Genesis 41; Mark 11; Job 7; Romans 11
- 9 Genesis 42; Mark 12; Job 8; Romans 12
- 10 Genesis 43; Mark 13; Job 9; Romans 13
- 11 Genesis 44; Mark 14; Job 10; Romans 14
- 12 Genesis 45; Mark 15; Job 11; Romans 15
- 13 Genesis 46; Mark 16; Job 12; Romans 16
- 14 Genesis 47; Luke 1:1-38; Job 13; 1 Corinthians 1
- 15 Genesis 48; Luke 1:39-80; Job 14; 1 Corinthians 2
- 16 Genesis 49; Luke 2; Job 15; 1 Corinthians 3
- 17 Genesis 50; Luke 3; Job 16-17; 1 Corinthians 4
- 18 Exodus 1; Luke 4; Job 18; 1 Corinthians 5
- 19 Exodus 2; Luke 5; Job 19; 1 Corinthians 6
- 20 Exodus 3; Luke 6; Job 20; 1 Corinthians 7

- 21 Exodus 4; Luke 7; Job 21; 1 Corinthians 8
- 22 Exodus 5; Luke 8; Job 22; 1 Corinthians 9
- 23 Exodus 6; Luke 9; Job 23; 1 Corinthians 10
- 24 Exodus 7; Luke 10; Job 24; 1 Corinthians 11
- 25 Exodus 8; Luke 11; Job 25-26; 1 Corinthians 12
- 26 Exodus 9; Luke 12; Job 27; 1 Corinthians 13
- 27 Exodus 10; Luke 13; Job 28; 1 Corinthians 14
- 28 Exodus 11:1-12:21; Luke 14; Job 29; 1 Corinthians 15

March

- 1 Exodus 12:22-51; Luke 15; Job 30; 1 Corinthians 16
- 2 Exodus 13; Luke 16; Job 31; 2 Corinthians 1
- 3 Exodus 14; Luke 17; Job 32; 2 Corinthians 2
- 4 Exodus 15; Luke 18; Job 33; 2 Corinthians 3
- 5 Exodus 16; Luke 19; Job 34; 2 Corinthians 4
- 6 Exodus 17; Luke 20; Job 35; 2 Corinthians 5
- 7 Exodus 18; Luke 21; Job 36; 2 Corinthians 6
- 8 Exodus 19; Luke 22; Job 37; 2 Corinthians 7
- 9 Exodus 20; Luke 23; Job 38; 2 Corinthians 8
- 10 Exodus 21; Luke 24; Job 39; 2 Corinthians 9
- 11 Exodus 22; John 1; Job 40; 2 Corinthians 10
- 12 Exodus 23; John 2; Job 41; 2 Corinthians 11
- 13 Exodus 24; John 3; Job 42; 2 Corinthians 12
- 14 Exodus 25; John 4; Proverbs 1; 2 Corinthians 13
- 15 Exodus 26; John 5; Proverbs 2; Galatians 1
- 16 Exodus 27; John 6; Proverbs 3; Galatians 2
- 17 Exodus 28; John 7; Proverbs 4; Galatians 3
- 18 Exodus 29; John 8; Proverbs 5; Galatians 4
- 19 Exodus 30; John 9; Proverbs 6; Galatians 5
- 20 Exodus 31; John 10; Proverbs 7; Galatians 6
- 21 Exodus 32; John 11; Proverbs 8; Ephesians 1
- 22 Exodus 33; John 12; Proverbs 9; Ephesians 2

23 Exodus 34; John 13; Proverbs 10; Ephesians 3
24 Exodus 35; John 14; Proverbs 11; Ephesians 4
25 Exodus 36; John 15; Proverbs 12; Ephesians 5
26 Exodus 37; John 16; Proverbs 13; Ephesians 6
27 Exodus 38; John 17; Proverbs 14; Philippians 1
28 Exodus 39; John 18; Proverbs 15; Philippians 2
29 Exodus 40; John 19; Proverbs 16; Philippians 3
30 Leviticus 1; John 20; Proverbs 17; Philippians 4
31 Leviticus 2-3; John 21; Proverbs 18; Colossians 1

April

- 1 Leviticus 4; Psalms 1-2; Proverbs 19; Colossians 2
- 2 Leviticus 5; Psalms 3-4; Proverbs 20; Colossians 3
- 3 Leviticus 6; Psalms 5-6; Proverbs 21; Colossians 4
- 4 Leviticus 7; Psalms 7-8; Proverbs 22; 1 Thessalonians 1
- 5 Leviticus 8; Psalms 9; Proverbs 23; 1 Thessalonians 2
- 6 Leviticus 9; Psalms 10; Proverbs 24; 1 Thessalonians 3
- 7 Leviticus 10; Psalms 11-12; Proverbs 25; 1 Thessalonians 4
- 8 Leviticus 11-12; Psalms 13-14; Proverbs 26; 1 Thessalonians 5
- 9 Leviticus 13; Psalms 15-16; Proverbs 27; 2 Thessalonians 1
- 10 Leviticus 14; Psalms 17; Proverbs 28; 2 Thessalonians 2
- 11 Leviticus 15; Psalms 18; Proverbs 29; 2 Thessalonians 3
- 12 Leviticus 16; Psalms 19; Proverbs 30; 1 Timothy 1
- 13 Leviticus 17; Psalms 20-21; Proverbs 31; 1 Timothy 2
- 14 Leviticus 18; Psalms 22; Ecclesiastes 1; 1 Timothy 3
- 15 Leviticus 19; Psalms 23-24; Ecclesiastes 2; 1 Timothy 4
- 16 Leviticus 20; Psalms 25; Ecclesiastes 3; 1 Timothy 5
- 17 Leviticus 21; Psalms 26-27; Ecclesiastes 4; 1 Timothy 6
- 18 Leviticus 22; Psalms 28-29; Ecclesiastes 5; 2 Timothy 1
- 19 Leviticus 23; Psalms 30; Ecclesiastes 6; 2 Timothy 2
- 20 Leviticus 24; Psalms 31; Ecclesiastes 7; 2 Timothy 3
- 21 Leviticus 25; Psalms 32; Ecclesiastes 8; 2 Timothy 4
- 22 Leviticus 26; Psalms 33; Ecclesiastes 9; Titus 1

23 Leviticus 27; Psalms 34; Ecclesiastes 10; Titus 2

24 Numbers 1; Psalms 35; Ecclesiastes 11; Titus 3

25 Numbers 2; Psalms 36; Ecclesiastes 12; Philemon

26 Numbers 3; Psalms 37; Song of Solomon 1; Hebrews 1

27 Numbers 4; Psalms 38; Song of Solomon 2; Hebrews 2

28 Numbers 5; Psalms 39; Song of Solomon 3; Hebrews 3

29 Numbers 6; Psalms 40-41; Song of Solomon 4; Hebrews 4

30 Numbers 7; Psalms 42-43; Song of Solomon 5; Hebrews 5

May

- 1 Numbers 8; Psalms 44; Song of Solomon 6; Hebrews 6
- 2 Numbers 9; Psalms 45; Song of Solomon 7; Hebrews 7
- 3 Numbers 10; Psalms 46-47; Song of Solomon 8; Hebrews 8
- 4 Numbers 11; Psalms 48; Isaiah 1; Hebrews 9
- 5 Numbers 12-13; Psalms 49; Isaiah 2; Hebrews 10
- 6 Numbers 14; Psalms 50; Isaiah 3-4; Hebrews 11
- 7 Numbers 15; Psalms 51; Isaiah 5; Hebrews 12
- 8 Numbers 16; Psalms 52-54; Isaiah 6; Hebrews 13
- 9 Numbers 17-18; Psalms 55; Isaiah 7; James 1
- 10 Numbers 19; Psalms 56-57; Isaiah 8:1-9:7; James 2
- 11 Numbers 20; Psalms 58-59; Isaiah 9:8-10:4; James 3
- 12 Numbers 21; Psalms 60-61; Isaiah 10:5-34; James 4
- 13 Numbers 22; Psalms 62-63; Isaiah 11-12; James 5
- 14 Numbers 23; Psalms 64-65; Isaiah 13; 1 Peter 1
- 15 Numbers 24; Psalms 66-67; Isaiah 14; 1 Peter 2
- 16 Numbers 25; Psalms 68; Isaiah 15; 1 Peter 3
- 17 Numbers 26; Psalms 69; Isaiah 16; 1 Peter 4
- 18 Numbers 27; Psalms 70-71; Isaiah 17-18; 1 Peter 5
- 19 Numbers 28; Psalms 72; Isaiah 19-20; 2 Peter 1
- 20 Numbers 29; Psalms 73; Isaiah 21; 2 Peter 2
- 21 Numbers 30; Psalms 74; Isaiah 22; 2 Peter 3
- 22 Numbers 31; Psalms 75-76; Isaiah 23; 1 John 1

23 Numbers 32; Psalms 77; Isaiah 24; 1 John 2

24 Numbers 33; Psalms 78:1-37; Isaiah 25; 1 John 3

25 Numbers 34; Psalms 78:38-72; Isaiah 26; 1 John 4

26 Numbers 35; Psalms 79; Isaiah 27; 1 John 5

27 Numbers 36; Psalms 80; Isaiah 28; 2 John 1

28 Deuteronomy 1; Psalms 81-82; Isaiah 29; 3 John 1

29 Deuteronomy 2; Psalms 83-84; Isaiah 30; Jude

30 Deuteronomy 3; Psalms 85; Isaiah 31; Revelations 1

31 Deuteronomy 4; Psalms 86-87; Isaiah 32; Revelations 2

June

- 1 Deuteronomy 5; Psalms 88; Isaiah 33; Revelations 3
- 2 Deuteronomy 6; Psalms 89; Isaiah 34; Revelations 4
- 3 Deuteronomy 7; Psalms 90; Isaiah 35; Revelations 5
- 4 Deuteronomy 8; Psalms 91; Isaiah 36; Revelations 6
- 5 Deuteronomy 9; Psalms 92-93; Isaiah 37; Revelations 7
- 6 Deuteronomy 10; Psalms 94; Isaiah 38; Revelations 8
- 7 Deuteronomy 11; Psalms 95-96; Isaiah 39; Revelations 9
- 8 Deuteronomy 12; Psalms 97-98; Isaiah 40; Revelations 10
- 9 Deuteronomy 13-14; Psalms 99-101; Isaiah 41; Revelations 11
- 10 Deuteronomy 15; Psalms 102; Isaiah 42; Revelations 12
- 11 Deuteronomy 16; Psalms 103; Isaiah 43; Revelations 13
- 12 Deuteronomy 17; Psalms 104; Isaiah 44; Revelations 14
- 13 Deuteronomy 18; Psalms 105; Isaiah 45; Revelations 15
- 14 Deuteronomy 19; Psalms 106; Isaiah 46; Revelations 16
- 15 Deuteronomy 20; Psalms 107; Isaiah 47; Revelations 17
- 16 Deuteronomy 21; Psalms 108-109; Isaiah 48; Revelations 18
- 17 Deuteronomy 22; Psalms 110-111; Isaiah 49; Revelations 19
- 18 Deuteronomy 23; Psalms 112-113; Isaiah 50; Revelations 20
- 19 Deuteronomy 24; Psalms 114-115; Isaiah 51; Revelations 21
- 20 Deuteronomy 25; Psalms 116; Isaiah 52; Revelations 22
- 21 Deuteronomy 26; Psalms 117-118; Isaiah 53; Matthew 1

22 Deuteronomy 27:1-28:19; Psalms 119:1-24 Isaiah 54; Matthew

3

23 Deuteronomy 28:20-68; Psalms 119:25-48; Isaiah 55; Matthew

3

24 Deuteronomy 29; Psalms 119:49-72; Isaiah 56; Matthew 4

25 Deuteronomy 30; Psalms 119:73-96; Isaiah 57; Matthew 5

26 Deuteronomy 31; Psalms 119:97-120; Isaiah 58; Matthew 6

27 Deuteronomy 32; Psalms 119:121-144; Isaiah 59; Matthew 7

28 Deuteronomy 33-34; Psalms 119:145-176; Isaiah 60; Matthew

8

29 Joshua 1; Psalms 120-122; Isaiah 61; Matthew 9

30 Joshua 2; Psalms 123-125; Isaiah 62; Matthew 10

July

- 1 Joshua 3; Psalms 126-128; Isaiah 63; Matthew 11
- 2 Joshua 4; Psalms 129-131; Isaiah 64; Matthew 12
- 3 Joshua 5:1-6:5; Psalms 132-134; Isaiah 65; Matthew 13
- 4 Joshua 6:6-27; Psalms 135-136; Isaiah 66; Matthew 14
- 5 Joshua 7; Psalms 137-138; Jeremiah 1; Matthew 15
- 6 Joshua 8; Psalms 139; Jeremiah 2; Matthew 16
- 7 Joshua 9; Psalms 140-141; Jeremiah 3; Matthew 17
- 8 Joshua 10; Psalms 142-143; Jeremiah 4; Matthew 18
- 9 Joshua 11; Psalms 144; Jeremiah 5; Matthew 19
- 10 Joshua 12-13; Psalms 145; Jeremiah 6; Matthew 20
- 11 Joshua 14-15; Psalms 146-147; Jeremiah 7; Matthew 21
- 12 Joshua 16-17; Psalms 148; Jeremiah 8; Matthew 22
- 13 Joshua 18-19; Psalms 149-150; Jeremiah 9; Matthew 23
- 14 Joshua 20-21; Acts 1; Jeremiah 10; Matthew 24
- 15 Joshua 22; Acts 2; Jeremiah 11; Matthew 25
- 16 Joshua 23; Acts 3; Jeremiah 12; Matthew 26
- 17 Joshua 24; Acts 4; Jeremiah 13; Matthew 27
- 18 Judges 1; Acts 5; Jeremiah 14; Matthew 28
- 19 Judges 2; Acts 6; Jeremiah 15; Mark 1
- 20 Judges 3; Acts 7; Jeremiah 16; Mark 2
- 21 Judges 4; Acts 8; Jeremiah 17; Mark 3
- 22 Judges 5; Acts 9; Jeremiah 18; Mark 4

23 Judges 6; Acts 10; Jeremiah 19; Mark 5

24 Judges 7; Acts 11; Jeremiah 20; Mark 6

25 Judges 8; Acts 12; Jeremiah 21; Mark 7

26 Judges 9; Acts 13; Jeremiah 22; Mark 8

27 Judges 10:1-11:11; Acts 14; Jeremiah 23; Mark 9

28 Judges 11:12-40; Acts 15; Jeremiah 24; Mark 10

29 Judges 12; Acts 16; Jeremiah 25; Mark 11

30 Judges 13; Acts 17; Jeremiah 26; Mark 12

31 Judges 14; Acts 18; Jeremiah 27; Mark 13

August

- 1 Judges 15; Acts 19; Jeremiah 28; Mark 14
- 2 Judges 16; Acts 20; Jeremiah 29; Mark 15
- 3 Judges 17; Acts 21; Jeremiah 30-31; Mark 16
- 4 Judges 18; Acts 22; Jeremiah 32; Psalms 1-2
- 5 Judges 19; Acts 23; Jeremiah 33; Psalms 3-4
- 6 Judges 20; Acts 24; Jeremiah 34; Psalms 5-6
- 7 Judges 21; Acts 25; Jeremiah 35; Psalms 7-8
- 8 Ruth 1; Acts 26; Jeremiah 36,45; Psalms 9
- 9 Ruth 2; Acts 27; Jeremiah 37; Psalms 10
- 10 Ruth 3-4; Acts 28; Jeremiah 38; Psalms 11-12
- 11 1 Samuel 1; Romans 1; Jeremiah 39; Psalms 13-14
- 12 1 Samuel 2; Romans 2; Jeremiah 40; Psalms 15-16
- 13 1 Samuel 3; Romans 3; Jeremiah 41; Psalms 17
- 14 1 Samuel 4; Romans 4; Jeremiah 42; Psalms 18
- 15 1 Samuel 5-6; Romans 5; Jeremiah 43; Psalms 19
- 16 1 Samuel 7-8; Romans 6; Jeremiah 44; Psalms 20-21
- 17 1 Samuel 9; Romans 7; Jeremiah 46; Psalms 22
- 18 1 Samuel 10; Romans 8; Jeremiah 47; Psalms 23-24
- 19 1 Samuel 11; Romans 9; Jeremiah 48; Psalms 25
- 20 1 Samuel 12; Romans 10; Jeremiah 49; Psalms 26-27
- 21 1 Samuel 13; Romans 11; Jeremiah 50; Psalms 28-29
- 22 1 Samuel 14; Romans 12; Jeremiah 51; Psalms 30

23 1 Samuel 15; Romans 13; Jeremiah 52; Psalms 31

24 1 Samuel 16; Romans 14; Lamentations 1; Psalms 32

25 1 Samuel 17; Romans 15; Lamentations 2; Psalms 33

26 1 Samuel 18; Romans 16; La 3; Psalms 34

27 1 Samuel 19; 1 Corinthians 1; Lamentations 4; Psalms 35

28 1 Samuel 20; 1 Corinthians 2; Lamentations 5; Psalms 36

29 1 Samuel 21-22; 1 Corinthians 3; Ezekiel 1; Psalms 37

30 1 Samuel 23; 1 Corinthians 4; Ezekiel 2; Psalms 38

31 1 Samuel 24; 1 Corinthians 5; Ezekiel 3; Psalms 39

September

- 1 1 Samuel 25; 1 Corinthians 6; Ezekiel 4; Psalms 40-41
- 2 1 Samuel 26; 1 Corinthians 7; Ezekiel 5; Psalms 42-43
- 3 1 Samuel 27; 1 Corinthians 8; Ezekiel 6; Psalms 44
- 4 1 Samuel 28; 1 Corinthians 9; Ezekiel 7; Psalms 45
- 5 1 Samuel 29-30; 1 Corinthians 10; Ezekiel 8; Psalms 46-47
- 6 1 Samuel 31; 1 Corinthians 11; Ezekiel 9; Psalms 48
- 7 2 Samuel 1; 1 Corinthians 12; Ezekiel 10; Psalms 49
- 8 2 Samuel 2; 1 Corinthians 13; Ezekiel 11; Psalms 50
- 9 2 Samuel 3; 1 Corinthians 14; Ezekiel 12; Psalms 51
- 10 2 Samuel 4-5; 1 Corinthians 15; Ezekiel 13; Psalms 52-54
- 11 2 Samuel 6; 1 Corinthians 16; Ezekiel 14; Psalms 55
- 12 2 Samuel 7; 2 Corinthians 1; Ezekiel 15; Psalms 56-57
- 13 2 Samuel 8-9; 2 Corinthians 2; Ezekiel 16; Psalms 58-59
- 14 2 Samuel 10; 2 Corinthians 3; Ezekiel 17; Psalms 60-61
- 15 2 Samuel 11; 2 Corinthians 4; Ezekiel 18; Psalms 62-63
- 16 2 Samuel 12; 2 Corinthians 5; Ezekiel 19; Psalms 64-65
- 17 2 Samuel 13; 2 Corinthians 6; Ezekiel 20; Psalms 66-67
- 18 2 Samuel 14; 2 Corinthians 7; Ezekiel 21; Psalms 68
- 19 2 Samuel 15; 2 Corinthians 8; Ezekiel 22; Psalms 69
- 20 2 Samuel 16; 2 Corinthians 9; Ezekiel 23; Psalms 70-71
- 21 2 Samuel 17; 2 Corinthians 10; Ezekiel 24; Psalms 72
- 22 2 Samuel 18; 2 Corinthians 11; Ezekiel 25; Psalms 73

23 2 Samuel 19; 2 Corinthians 12; Ezekiel 26; Psalms 74

24 2 Samuel 20; 2 Corinthians 13; Ezekiel 27; Psalms 75-76

25 2 Samuel 21; Galatians 1; Ezekiel 28; Psalms 77

26 2 Samuel 22; Galatians 2; Ezekiel 29; Psalms 78:1-37

27 2 Samuel 23; Galatians 3; Ezekiel 30; Psalms 78:38-72

28 2 Samuel 24; Galatians 4; Ezekiel 31; Psalms 79

29 1 Kings 1; Galatians 5; Ezekiel 32; Psalms 80

30 1 Kings 2; Galatians 6; Ezekiel 33; Psalms 81-82

October

- 1 1 Kings 3; Ephesians 1; Ezekiel 34; Psalms 83-84
- 2 1 Kings 4-5; Ephesians 2; Ezekiel 35; Psalms 85
- 3 1 Kings 6; Ephesians 3; Ezekiel 36; Psalms 86
- 4 1 Kings 7; Ephesians 4; Ezekiel 37; Psalms 87-88
- 5 1 Kings 8; Ephesians 5; Ezekiel 38; Psalms 89
- 6 1 Kings 9; Ephesians 6; Ezekiel 39; Psalms 90
- 7 1 Kings 10; Philippians 1; Ezekiel 40; Psalms 91
- 8 1 Kings 11; Philippians 2; Ezekiel 41; Psalms 92-93
- 9 1 Kings 12; Philippians 3; Ezekiel 42; Psalms 94
- 10 1 Kings 13; Philippians 4; Ezekiel 43; Psalms 95-96
- 11 1 Kings 14; Colossians 1; Ezekiel 44; Psalms 97-98
- 12 1 Kings 15; Colossians 2; Ezekiel 45; Psalms 99-101
- 13 1 Kings 16; Colossians 3; Ezekiel 46; Psalms 102
- 14 1 Kings 17; Colossians 4; Ezekiel 47; Psalms 103
- 15 1 Kings 18; 1 Thessalonians 1; Ezekiel 48; Psalms 104
- 16 1 Kings 19; 1 Thessalonians 2; Deuteronomy 1; Psalms 105
- 17 1 Kings 20; 1 Thessalonians 3; Deuteronomy 2; Psalms 106
- 18 1 Kings 21; 1 Thessalonians 4; Deuteronomy 3; Psalms 107
- 19 1 Kings 22; 1 Thessalonians 5; Deuteronomy 4; Psalms 108-
109
- 20 2 Kings 1; 2 Thessalonians 1; Deuteronomy 5; Psalms 110-111
- 21 2 Kings 2; 2 Thessalonians 2; Deuteronomy 6; Psalms 112-113

22 2 Kings 3; 2 Thessalonians 3; Deuteronomy 7; Psalms 114-115

23 2 Kings 4; 1 Timothy 1; Deuteronomy 8; Psalms 116

24 2 Kings 5; 1 Timothy 2; Deuteronomy 9; Psalms 117-118

25 2 Kings 6; 1 Timothy 3; Deuteronomy 10; Psalms 119:1-24

26 2 Kings 7; 1 Timothy 4; Deuteronomy 11; Psalms 119:25-48

27 2 Kings 8; 1 Timothy 5; Deuteronomy 12; Psalms 119:49-72

28 2 Kings 9; 1 Timothy 6; Hosea 1; Psalms 119:73-96

29 2 Kings 10; 2 Timothy 1; Hosea 2; Psalms 119:97-120

30 2 Kings 11-12; 2 Timothy 2; Hosea 3-4; Psalms 119:121-144

31 2 Kings 13; 2 Timothy 3; Hosea 5-6; Psalms 119:145-176

November

1 2 Kings 14; 2 Timothy 4; Hosea 7; Psalms 120-122

2 2 Kings 15; Titus 1; Hosea 8; Psalms 123-125

3 2 Kings 16; Titus 2; Hosea 9; Psalms 126-128

4 2 Kings 17; Titus 3; Hosea 10; Psalms 129-131

5 2 Kings 18; Philemon; Hosea 11; Psalms 132-134

6 2 Kings 19; Hebrews1; Hosea 12; Psalms 135-136

7 2 Kings 20; Hebrews2; Hosea 13; Psalms 137-138

8 2 Kings 21; Hebrews3; Hosea 14; Psalms 139

9 2 Kings 22; Hebrews4; Joel 1; Psalms 140-141

10 2 Kings 23; Hebrews5; Joel 2; Psalms 142

11 2 Kings 24; Hebrews6; Joel 3; Psalms 143

12 2 Kings 25; Hebrews7; Amos 1; Psalms 144

13 1 Chronicles 1-2; Hebrews8; Amos 2; Psalms 145

14 1 Chronicles 3-4; Hebrews9; Amos 3; Psalms 146-147

15 1 Chronicles 5-6; Hebrews10; Amos 4; Psalms 148-150

16 1 Chronicles 7-8; Hebrews11; Amos 5; Luke 1:1-38

17 1 Chronicles 9-10; Hebrews12; Amos 6; Luke 1:39-80

18 1 Chronicles 11-12; Hebrews13; Amos 7; Luke 2

19 1 Chronicles 13-14; James 1; Amos 8; Luke 3

20 1 Chronicles 15; James 2; Amos 9; Luke 4

21 1 Chronicles 16; James 3; Obadiah; Luke 5

22 1 Chronicles 17; James 4; Jonah 1; Luke 6

23 1 Chronicles 18; James 5; Jonah 2; Luke 7

24 1 Chronicles 19-20; 1 Peter 1; Jonah 3; Luke 8

25 1 Chronicles 21; 1 Peter 2; Jonah 4; Luke 9

26 1 Chronicles 22; 1 Peter 3; Micah 1; Luke 10

27 1 Chronicles 23; 1 Peter 4; Micah 2; Luke 11

28 1 Chronicles 24-25; 1 Peter 5; Micah 3; Luke 12

29 1 Chronicles 26-27; 2 Peter 1; Micah 4; Luke 13

30 1 Chronicles 28; 2 Peter 2; Micah 5; Luke 14

December

- 1 1 Chronicles 29; 2 Peter 3; Micah 6; Luke 15
- 2 2 Chronicles 1; 1 John 1; Micah 7; Luke 16
- 3 2 Chronicles 2; 1 John 2; Nah 1; Luke 17
- 4 2 Chronicles 3-4; 1 John 3; Nah 2; Luke 18
- 5 2 Chronicles 5:1-6:11; 1 John 4; Nah 3; Luke 19
- 6 2 Chronicles 6:12-42; 1 John 5; Habakkuk 1; Luke 20
- 7 2 Chronicles 7; 2 John 1; Habakkuk 2; Luke 21
- 8 2 Chronicles 8; 3 John 1; Habakkuk 3; Luke 22
- 9 2 Chronicles 9; Jude; Zephaniah 1; Luke 23
- 10 2 Chronicles 10; Revelations 1; Zephaniah 2; Luke 24
- 11 2 Chronicles 11-12; Revelations 2; Zephaniah 3; John 1
- 12 2 Chronicles 13; Revelations 3; Hag 1; John 2
- 13 2 Chronicles 14-15; Revelations 4; Hag 2; John 3
- 14 2 Chronicles 16; Revelations 5; Zachariah 1; John 4
- 15 2 Chronicles 17; Revelations 6; Zachariah 2; John 5
- 16 2 Chronicles 18; Revelations 7; Zachariah 3; John 6
- 17 2 Chronicles 19-20; Revelations 8; Zachariah 4; John 7
- 18 2 Chronicles 21; Revelations 9; Zachariah 5; John 8
- 19 2 Chronicles 22-23; Revelations 10; Zachariah 6; John 9
- 20 2 Chronicles 24; Revelations 11; Zachariah 7; John 10
- 21 2 Chronicles 25; Revelations 12; Zachariah 8; John 11
- 22 2 Chronicles 26; Revelations 13; Zachariah 9; John 12

23 2 Chronicles 27-28; Revelations 14; Zachariah 10; John 13

24 2 Chronicles 29; Revelations 15; Zachariah 11; John 14

25 2 Chronicles 30; Revelations 16; Zachariah 12:1-13:1; John 15

26 2 Chronicles 31; Revelations 17; Zachariah 13:2-9; John 16

27 2 Chronicles 32; Revelations 18; Zachariah 14; John 17

28 2 Chronicles 33; Revelations 19; Malachi 1; John 18

29 2 Chronicles 34; Revelations 20; Malachi 2; John 19

30 2 Chronicles 35; Revelations 21; Malachi 3; John 20

31 2 Chronicles 36; Revelations 22; Malachi 4; John 21

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