

Preface to the Catechism



A Christian's life is largely determined by how much they know God. A person will only serve God inasmuch as they have a strong informational and relational knowledge of him (John 17:3). God says that his people are destroyed for lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6), and that it is not good to be without knowledge (Proverbs 19:2). Indeed, it is the knowledge of the Son of God that makes us to become mature Christians (Ephesians 4:13). As it is only they that do know their God which shall be strong, and do exploits (Daniel 11:32), it is our prayer that you will use this catechism to that end, and spend your life for this one purpose, "that I may know him" (Philippians 3:10).

All knowledge begins with a question. All learning begins with an answer (1 Timothy 1:4). This question-and-answer formatted-catechism is an answer to the question: "How can God's people learn all of the essential doctrines of the Bible?" A highly effective method of teaching the truth of God is in small-group formats, and in a way wherein the student is interacting with the information that they are being taught, to own it for themselves. May this catechism cause you to grow in grace and in knowledge (2 Peter 3:18).

Table of Contents



The Doctrine of God.....	3
The Doctrine of Angels.....	6
The Doctrine of Creation.....	8
The Doctrine of Sin.....	10
The Doctrine of Salvation.....	12
The Doctrine of Christ.....	15
The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit.....	18
The Doctrine of the Bible.....	21
The Doctrine of the Church.....	24
The Doctrine of the End Times.....	27

The Doctrine of God

1 What is God ?

God is **the greatest conceivable being** (Psalm 145:3; Job 36:26). God is a **Spirit** (John 4:24; 1 Timothy 1:17), and there is nothing and no one that can be likened to God (Isaiah 40:25).

2 Does God exist ?

God's existence is **self-evident to mankind** (Romans 1:18-20). Anyone who does not believe in God is willingly ignorant of his existence, and is suppressing the plain truth (2 Peter 3:5; Psalm 14:1).

3 What is the proof for the existence of God ?

God's existence can be proven from the creation and the conscience. The **creation of the world** demands the need for a Creator: just as a building needs a builder, so the creation needs a Creator (Hebrews 3:4). The **conscience of man** demands the need for a moral Law-Giver: mankind has a conscience of right and wrong, which is God's eternal law written on their hearts (Romans 2:14-15), proving there is an objective standard of morality.

4 How many gods are there ?

There is only **one true God** (1 Timothy 2:5). The God of the Bible is the only divine being. He is God alone (Deuteronomy 6:4), and there are no gods beside him (Isaiah 45:5-6; 43:10). There are many falsely so-called gods, but they are not real gods (1 Corinthians 8:5-6).

5 How many persons are in God ?

God exists as **three co-eternal and co-equal persons**: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (1 John 5:7). This is the doctrine of the Trinity. As a triangle has three angles but is one shape, so there is one God who exists as three "persons" (self-conscious individuals); the Father is not the Son (Hebrews 1:1-3), the Son is not the Spirit (John 14:16-17), and the Spirit is not the Father (Romans 8:27), but they are all one and the same God.

6 What is the relationship of the Three Persons of the Trinity to each other ?

The Three Persons of the Trinity are **essentially equal in dignity, but voluntarily different in role**. The First Person of the Trinity, *the Father*, is in authority over the other Two (John 10:29). The Second Person of the Trinity, *the Son*, is eternally begotten of the Father (John 3:16; 1 John 4:9), meaning that he is subordinate to the Father (John 6:47; 5:26-27; 14:28). The Third Person of the Trinity, *the Holy Spirit*, is doubly-subordinate to both the Father and the Son (John 15:26). The chain of command in the Trinity is Father > Son > Spirit (1 Corinthians 11:3).

7 *What are the names of God ?*

God has an indefinite amount of names: **God, Lord, Almighty** (Exodus 6:3), etc. God's covenantal name is **Jehovah**, which means the eternal or self-existent one (Psalm 83:18). This name is most often represented in the OT as "LORD" or "GOD" in uppercase letters. The First Person of the Trinity is exclusively called God the Father, the Second Person is called the Son of God (Jesus), and the Third Person is called the Holy Spirit.

8 *What are the roles of God over the world ?*

God is the **Creator** (Genesis 1:1), because everything was made by him (John 1:3). God is the **Sustainer** (Acts 17:28), because everything is maintained by him (Colossians 1:17). And God is the **Judge** (Genesis 18:25), because everything is accountable to him (Romans 14:12).

9 *What are the two ways in which God has revealed himself to mankind ?*

God has revealed himself to mankind generally and specially. **General revelation** is the means whereby God has revealed his truth in the world—the book of God's *works* (Psalm 19:1-5). **Special revelation** is the means whereby God has revealed his truth in the word—the book of God's *word* (Psalm 19:6-14).

10 *What is the difference between God's perfect will and God's permissive will ?*

God's **perfect will** is his primary desire for his creatures to do righteousness (Romans 12:2). God's **permissive will** is his secondary desire to permit his creatures to do unrighteousness (Genesis 50:20). Nothing happens in the world that God does not directly cause or indirectly allow (Job 12:9).

11 *What are the attributes of God ?*

God's attributes are **the qualities that are true of God**, which are aspects to his nature (Exodus 34:5-6). God's attributes include, but are not limited to, the following: aseity, eternality, immutability, omnibenevolence, omnipotence, omnipresence, and omniscience. God can partially communicate some of his attributes, but others he cannot.

12 *What is the distinction between God's communicable and incommunicable attributes ?*

God's **communicable** attributes are his moral qualities which he can share with his creatures (2 Peter 1:4), such as his holiness (Leviticus 20:7) and mercifulness (Luke 6:36). God's **incommunicable** attributes are his metaphysical qualities which he cannot share with his creatures (Isaiah 42:8), such as his self-existence (1 Corinthians 8:6) and omnipotence (Job 40:9).

13 *What is divine aseity ?*

God's aseity is his being **self-existent and self-sufficient**. As self-existent, God is the uncaused Cause and the uncreated Creator, who exists in and of himself (Exodus 3:14), necessarily (John 5:26; 6:57). As self-sufficient, God is the "blessed God" (Romans 9:5), possessing all good from himself, and having need of nothing (Acts 17:25).

14 *What is divine eternity ?*

God's eternity is his being **everlastingly existent** (Psalm 90:2). God is the "everlasting God" (Isaiah 40:28), who had no beginning and who has no end (Revelation 1:8; 4:8). God exists outside of time (Isaiah 57:15), where each moment is equally present to him (2 Peter 3:8).

15 *What is divine immutability ?*

God's immutability is his being **changeless** (Malachi 3:6). God is the immutable God and never changes (Psalm 102:27; James 1:17). In his nature and character, God will always be the same (Hebrews 13:8).

16 *What is divine omnibenevolence ?*

God's omnibenevolence is his being **all-good** (Psalm 25:8). God is morally perfect, the only one who is essentially good (Mark 10:18; Matthew 5:48; 1 John 1:5). By nature, God is love (1 John 4:8, 16), is holy (Isaiah 6:3), and is just (Deuteronomy 32:4).

17 *What is divine omnipotence ?*

God's omnipotence is his being **all-powerful** (Revelation 19:6). God has universal *sovereignty* as King of kings (1 Timothy 6:15), and universal *ability*, as God Almighty (Revelation 11:17). The sovereignty of God signifies that he has authority over all (Romans 9:19; Psalm 115:3). The ability of God signifies that he has the capacity to do whatever he wills, making nothing hard or impossible for God (Genesis 18:14; Matthew 19:26).

18 *What is divine omnipresence ?*

God's omnipresence is his being **all-present**. God is everywhere at once in his fullness (Psalm 139:7-8), and has no spatial limitations, because he occupies every place at every time (Matthew 6:4, 6, 18). With regard to the world, God is both transcendent (outside of it) and immanent (inside of it) (Jeremiah 23:23-24).

19 *What is divine omniscience ?*

God's omniscience is his being **all-knowing** (Psalm 147:5; Hebrews 4:13). God knows all things (1 John 3:20): all thoughts (Ezekiel 11:5), all events (Acts 15:18), and even all possibilities (1 Corinthians 2:8). He is the "only wise God" (Jude 25; Romans 16:27), who always devises the perfect means to the right ends (Romans 11:33-34).

The Doctrine of Angels

20 What is the meaning of “angel” in the Bible ?

The term “angel” means “**messenger**.” Sometimes the “angel” is a human being who is bringing a message (Revelation 1:20; 2 Corinthians 8:23), and other times it is the divine being, Christ, who is acting as a messenger of the Father (Exodus 3:2; 32:34). However, today the term “angel” is usually reserved to describe purely spiritual beings, which often act as messengers for God.

21 What is an angel ?

Angels are **immortal, spiritual creatures** (Hebrews 1:7). Angels and mankind have different natures (Hebrews 2:14), mankind’s nature being a little lower than the nature of the angels (Psalm 8:5). Angels are stronger (Psalm 103:20; 2 Peter 2:11) and wiser (2 Samuel 14:17, 20) than man.

22 What are the different kinds of angels ?

Angels are organized into **different heavenly orders** which are largely unknown to man (Ephesians 3:10; 6:12; Colossians 2:18), but the highest order of the angels is likely that of the archangels (Jude 9). Examples of angels include **cherubs and seraphs**. *Cherubim* are two-winged, four-faced angels (Ezekiel 1:10; 10:5) that act as guardians of God (Genesis 3:24). *Seraphim* are six-winged angels that act as worshippers of God (Isaiah 6:2). There are an **innumerable amount** of angels (Hebrews 12:22; Revelation 5:11).

23 What is the ministry of angels to believers ?

Angels act as ministers, messengers, and warriors for the elect (Hebrews 1:14; Matthew 18:10). Angels are **ministers** to the saints, preparing things for them and protecting them from danger (Psalm 34:7; 91:11-12). Angels are **messengers** to the saints, witnessing what they do (1 Peter 1:12; 1 Corinthians 11:10) and relaying information to them (Acts 8:26). Additionally, angels are **warriors** for the saints, defending them and fighting for them (Psalm 35:5-6; 2 Kings 19:35).

24 Can man see angels ?

Man can see angels if they **physically manifest themselves**, or if God gives man the ability to see them (2 Kings 6:17). Angels can also **appear in other forms** to man, so that they seem to be normal humans (Hebrews 13:2).

25 What is the difference between the holy angels and the evil angels ?

The holy angels are **the angels of God** that worship and serve God continually (Psalm 103:20; Matthew 25:31), whereas the evil angels are **the angels that fell with Satan** (Jude 6; Revelation 12:3), called devils, or demons. Devils are unclean (Luke 4:33) and evil (Luke 7:21) spirits which serve their leader, Satan (Revelation 12:7).

26 Who is Satan ?

Satan is the **prince of the demons** (John 14:30; 16:11), the **enemy of God and all mankind**. He was once the “anointed cherub,” which fell from his angelic estate (Ezekiel 28:14-16). “Satan” (*adversary*) has many names: “Devil” (*accuser*), “Lucifer” (*light-bearer*), “Tempter” (Matthew 4:2), etc. Satan is likened to a dragon (Revelation 12:9), because of his subtility (Genesis 3:1), and he is likened to a lion (1 Peter 5:8), because of his destructiveness (see Psalm 91:13).

27 How did Satan become evil ?

Satan became evil as a result of his own pride (1 Timothy 3:6) and rebellion against God (Isaiah 14:12-15). Shortly after the creation, Satan sought to be exalted in the place of God, and so fell (Ezekiel 28:17). This event is called the “Fall of Lucifer”

28 What is the purpose of Satan ?

Satan’s purpose is to **undermine the kingdom of God** and establish his own kingdom (Matthew 12:26). He now walks about the earth and goes to and from heaven to accomplish this purpose (Job 1:7). God permits Satan and his demons to do evil in order to accomplish his own greater purposes (Revelation 20:7-8; 1 Kings 22:20-22).

29 What are the three main devices of Satan ?

Satan’s three main devices are **temptation, deception, and persecution** (Genesis 3:1-5; John 8:44). Satan is a tempter which lures people into sin (Matthew 4:1-4; 2 Corinthians 2:11), a deceiver which causes people to believe lies (2 Corinthians 11:14; 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10), and a persecutor which afflicts people to make them cease from serving God (Revelation 2:10; 1 Thessalonians 2:18).

30 What is demonic possession ?

Demonic possession is the act of a **demon taking conscious control over a human or animal body** (Mark 5:2-5, 12-13). A believer in Christ can never be demon possessed, because their bodies are already indwelt by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19; 1 John 4:4), whom the demons cannot fellowship with (2 Corinthians 6:15-16).

31 What will ultimately happen to all of the angels ?

All of the angels will be **judged by the saints** (1 Corinthians 6:3), and the evil angels will be **cast into hell**. Satan and his angels are the ones for whom hell was originally prepared (Matthew 25:41).

The Doctrine of Creation

32 What was God doing before the world was created ?

Before the foundation of the world, God **existed in the fulness of glory** (John 17:5) and **love** (John 17:24) within the three members of the Trinity. Before creation, God also **planned for the redemption** of mankind (Ephesians 1:4; 3:10-11).

33 Who created the world ?

God created everything (Psalm 146:6). All three members of the Trinity were involved in creation (Genesis 1:26): **God the Father** is the initiator of creation, **Jesus Christ** is the agent of creation (Ephesians 3:9; Colossians 1:16), and the **Holy Spirit** is the maker of creation (Job 26:13).

34 Why was the world created ?

God created the world **for his own glory and pleasure** (Proverbs 16:4; Revelation 4:11). God made and maintains the world through his sheer mercy and lovingkindness (Psalm 145:8-10), by himself and for himself (Colossians 1:16-17; Romans 11:36).

35 How was the world created ?

God created the world, all time, space, and matter (Genesis 1:1), **out of nothing**, by his spoken word (Hebrews 11:3). When God spoke, the elements of the world came into being (Genesis 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24).

36 When was the world created ?

The world was created about **6,000 years** ago (ca. 4000 BC); it was created in **six, literal** (Genesis 1:5), 24-hour **days** (Exodus 20:11; 31:17). The creation account of Genesis 1 is historical narrative (Genesis 2:4; 5:1), and there are no gaps in it. The genealogies of scripture (Genesis 5 & 11; Luke 3:23-38) help connect Biblical history to secular history.

37 What is the biblical order of creation ?

The creation of the universe took place over a period of six sequential days:

Day 1 – Universe and Light (Genesis 1:1-5)

Day 4 – Sun, Moon, and Stars (Genesis 1:14-19)

Day 2 – Earth's Atmosphere (Genesis 1:6-8)

Day 5 – Air and Sea Animals (Genesis 1:20-23)

Day 3 – Land, Sea, and Plants (Genesis 1:9-13)

Day 6 – Land Animals and Mankind (Genesis 1:24-31)

38 In what condition did God form the creation ?

God made the creation “**very good**” (Genesis 1:31), meaning that everything was perfectly functional (Psalm 104:24) and moral (Ecclesiastes 7:29). All things were working rightly, and mankind was walking righteously

39 *Who were the first humans ?*

Adam and Eve were the first humans that God created, and from them came the whole human race (Genesis 5:1-2). Adam is the first man (1 Corinthians 15:45) and father of all people, Eve is the mother of all living (Genesis 3:20; 1 Corinthians 11:12).

40 *How was mankind created ?*

Mankind was created in the **image of God** (Genesis 1:26) with a **free will** (Genesis 2:16-17). Man was made by a special act of God forming him from dust and giving him the breath of life (Genesis 2:7; 3:19; 1 Timothy 2:13), and woman was made from the rib of the man (Genesis 2:22; 1 Corinthians 11:8).

41 *What is the image of God ?*

The image of God is the **representation of God** (Genesis 1:26-28). For all men and women to be made in the image of God means that humans represent God on the earth by **ruling the creation** (Genesis 9:5-6). This implies that humans have a likeness to God in many respects (James 3:9). Mankind is the only creature that is made in God's image.

42 *What makes man different from the animals ?*

Man is a two-part being (spiritual-physical), consisting of both an immaterial **soul/spirit** (Hebrews 4:12) and a material **body** (Ecclesiastes 12:7; 1 Corinthians 6:20). The animals, however, are merely physical beings (Psalm 49:20).

43 *How is the creation sustained and governed ?*

The universe is governed by God's providence, not by chance (Job 12:9-10; Proverbs 16:33). Providence is the **divine ordering of events** in the world to accomplish the will of God (Ephesians 1:11). God works all things together (Romans 8:28) for his own glory (Ephesians 1:5-6).

44 *Where did the different ethnicities come from ?*

All of mankind today descends from one of Noah's sons, Ham, Shem, or Japheth (Genesis 9:18-19; 10:5). Nevertheless, all humans are part of the same human family, and are of the same human race (Acts 17:26).

The **Hamitic** peoples generally migrated to the south and became Africans (Psalm 105:23; Genesis 10:6-7); the **Semitic** peoples generally migrated east and became Middle Easterners and Asians (Genesis 10:22-23); the **Japhetic** peoples generally migrated west and became Europeans (Genesis 10:2-4).

45 *Where did the different languages come from ?*

All human language families originated at the **tower of Babel** (Genesis 11:4). There, God scattered mankind by giving them different languages (Genesis 11:7).

46 *What is the chief purpose of man ?*

The chief purpose of man is to **know** God (Jeremiah 9:24; John 17:3), to **glorify** God (1 Corinthians 10:31; 1 Peter 4:11), and to **enjoy** God forever (Isaiah 58:14; Psalm 73:25-26).

The Doctrine of Sin

47 What is sin ?

Sin is **disobedience to God**, the transgression of the law (1 John 3:4; 5:17). There are two ways in which we sin: by commission and omission. A sin of **commission** is *doing* that which is wrong (“thou shalt not”: James 2:11), whereas a sin of **omission** is *not doing* that which is right (“thou shalt”: James 4:17).

48 How did sin enter into the world ?

Sin entered into the world when **man ate of the forbidden fruit** (Romans 5:12) from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 3:6). This event is called “the Fall of Man.”

49 What was the result of the Fall of Man ?

As a result of the Fall of Man, man’s nature became **sinful** and **mortal** (Romans 7:23-24), and God **cursed the whole creation** (Genesis 3:17-19) with corruption and death (Romans 8:20-21; 5:12).

50 What is mankind’s sinful nature ?

Mankind’s sinful nature is their **naturally inherited tendency to sin** (Psalm 51:5; 58:3). This sinful nature, or, inclination to evil, is called “the flesh” (Romans 8:4-5) and “the old man” (Ephesians 4:22). Since the Fall, all people are by nature wrathful and disobedient (Ephesians 2:2-3), and under the power of Satan (1 John 3:10; Acts 26:18; 2 Corinthians 4:4).

51 Is mankind guilty of the sin of Adam ?

Mankind is **not legally guilty of the personal sin of Adam**, or of any other person (Ezekiel 18:4). Someone can suffer the consequences of their ancestors’ sins (Exodus 20:5), but they cannot be guilty of the sin of their ancestors itself (Deuteronomy 24:16).

52 Are children accountable for their sins ?

Children are only accountable for their sins when they reach **the age of accountability**, which is the age at which a person acquires the knowledge of good and evil (Deuteronomy 1:39; Isaiah 7:15-16). The obtaining of this knowledge is evidenced, like with Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:7-8), by one’s feeling shame and guilt for their sin.

53 How may a person come to know that they are a sinner ?

A person can learn that they are a sinner **by the commandments of God** (Romans 3:20), found internally in their conscience and externally in God’s written law (Romans 2:15; 7:7). The law is perfect and infallible (Romans 7:12), but the conscience can be corrupted (Titus 1:15; 1 Timothy 4:2).

54 Does God cause man to sin ?

God **does not cause man to sin**, because mankind was given a free will (Genesis 2:16-17), and freely chooses to sin of their own accord. God is not the author of sin (1 Corinthians 14:33), and he does not tempt man to sin (James 1:13-15).

55 What are the different ways a person can sin ?

Man can sin in three ways (Matthew 15:19): in **thought** (thinking evil: Proverbs 15:26), in **word** (speaking evil: James 3:8), and in **deed** (acting evil: Proverbs 15:9).

56 Are all sins equal ?

All sins are equally wrong (1 John 5:17; James 2:10-11), but **all sins are not wrong equally**. In the Bible, there are different kinds of sins (John 19:11; 1 John 5:16-17) and different punishments for sins (Matthew 23:14; Luke 12:47-48).

57 What is the difference between an ignorant sin and a willful sin ?

An **ignorant sin** is an iniquity that one does not know is wrong and/or an iniquity which they unintentionally commit (Numbers 15:27-29; Romans 7:15-19), whereas a **willful sin** is an iniquity that the offender knows is wrong, yet intentionally commits (Numbers 15:30-31; Psalm 19:13).

58 What is a sin unto death ?

A sin unto death is **any sin** which is committed in a **willful, continual, and unrepentant** manner (Hebrews 10:26-29), which may result in the physical death of the person committing it (1 John 5:16-17).

59 What are the three agents of temptation ?

The three agents of temptation are the **flesh**, the **world**, and the **devil**; these three enemies work together to tempt mankind to sin (Ephesians 2:1-2). The flesh is the *natural* temptation to sin (Galatians 5:19-21), the world is the *social* temptation to sin (1 John 2:15), and the devil is the *spiritual* temptation to sin (2 Corinthians 2:11).

60 Is it possible for man to be sinlessly perfect ?

It is **impossible** for a man to be **sinlessly perfect**, because of mankind's sin-nature (Romans 7:24-25). No one can achieve sinless perfection in this life (Philippians 3:12-13; Ecclesiastes 7:20; Proverbs 20:9). However, God demands perfection (Genesis 17:1; Matthew 5:48), and we must strive to perfect holiness in our lives (2 Corinthians 7:1).

61 What is the unforgivable sin ?

The unforgivable sin is the **ultimate denial of Christ** (Mark 3:28, 30). If one continues in the sin of unbelief (John 16:9), and finally rejects the clear and revealed truth from the Holy Spirit, they can never be forgiven (Hebrews 6:4-8). It is impossible for a true believer to commit the unforgivable sin (1 Corinthians 12:3).

62 What is the punishment of sin ?

The punishment of sin is **death** (Romans 6:23): spiritual (Romans 7:9), physical (Romans 5:12), and eternal (Revelation 20:14).

The Doctrine of Salvation

63 What is salvation ?

Salvation means **deliverance** (Acts 2:21; cf. Joel 2:32). There are the three kinds of salvation available to the believer in Christ (2 Timothy 2:10; 3:15): **eternal** salvation from condemnation and hell (Acts 16:30-31), **spiritual** salvation from sinfulness and worldliness (Acts 2:40), and **physical** salvation from danger and affliction (Acts 27:31).

64 What makes Christ to be our Saviour ?

Christ is the Saviour of all men (1 Timothy 4:10) because God the Father **chose** Jesus and **sent** him as the Saviour (1 John 4:14); Christ qualifies to be our Saviour because he is divine (Acts 20:28) and he lived a perfectly **righteous life** (1 John 3:5).

65 What did Christ do to obtain our salvation ?

Christ obtained our salvation (Hebrews 9:12) by giving himself for us (Titus 2:14). He **died** on the cross for our sin and **rose** from the dead for our justification (1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Romans 4:25).

66 What is the means of receiving salvation ?

The means of receiving salvation is **faith in Christ** (Acts 16:31; Galatians 2:16). To believe in Jesus means to trust in him, depending wholly upon his merit (Ephesians 1:12-13), resting in what Christ has done to save us (Hebrews 4:3, 10). Salvation is **not of works** at all (Ephesians 2:9; Romans 4:5).

67 Is repentance necessary for salvation ?

Repentance, which is the changing of one's mind (Matthew 21:32), is necessary for salvation. The Lord commands repentance, which is a **change of belief** from having faith in oneself or in another to having faith in Christ (Mark 1:14-15; Acts 17:30). However, one does not need to change their *behaviour* ("repent of sin") to be saved.

68 What are God's grace and mercy ?

God's grace and mercy are his undeserved/unearned kindness and favour toward us (Psalm 103:4; Titus 3:4-5). The **grace of God** is shown in his giving us the good that we *do not* deserve, and the **mercy of God** is shown in his *not* giving us the bad that we *do* deserve (Ephesians 2:4-5).

69 Has salvation always been by faith ?

Salvation has always been by faith in Christ, and all people have been **saved the same way** throughout all of history (Acts 10:43; Habakkuk 2:4; cf. Romans 1:17). Saints before Christ had faith in him (Romans 4:3, 6-7), just as saints after Christ do. The OT believer looked forward to Christ (John 11:27), and the NT believer looks back to him (John 6:40).

70 *Whom does God desire to be saved ?*

God's will is for **all people** to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4). He is not willing that anyone should perish (2 Peter 3:9; Matthew 18:14). God loves the whole world (John 3:16), and desires the salvation of every person, even though ultimately only a few will be saved (Matthew 7:13).

71 *Is Jesus the only way to be saved ?*

Jesus is **the only way of salvation** (John 14:6), and there is no salvation in any other (Acts 4:12). Any person who does not believe in Christ as their Lord and Saviour (Romans 10:9) will ultimately perish in hell (John 8:24; Matthew 11:23-24). Even those who never hear the gospel will be damned (Romans 10:13-14); nevertheless, those who seek the Lord, by faith, with all their heart, will certainly find him (Jeremiah 29:13; Romans 9:32).

72 *What is the meaning of atonement ?*

Atonement is the **substitutionary act of Christ taking the guilt of our sins** upon himself in his death on the cross, to make us at one with God (Romans 5:11). As the sacrifice for our sin (John 1:29), Christ atoned for our wrongdoing, clearing our guilty consciences and records (Hebrews 9:14; 10:22), and cleansing us from our sin through his blood (Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18-19).

73 *What is the meaning of propitiation ?*

Propitiation is the **satisfaction or appeasing of God's wrath** (Romans 5:9) through Christ. The holy wrath that God has against sin (Colossians 3:5-6; Romans 1:18) was laid upon Christ at the cross (1 John 2:2; Isaiah 53:10-11). Christ saves us from the wrath of God (1 Thessalonians 1:10).

74 *What is the meaning of redemption ?*

Redemption is **the making of the payment for our deliverance** by Christ (Romans 3:24). Christ paid the ransom price to release us which were held captive to sin (Romans 6:16-20; 1 Timothy 2:6), and redeems us with his precious blood (1 Peter 1:18-19; 1 Corinthians 6:20).

75 *What is the meaning of justification ?*

Justification is the **legal declaration of God** (Romans 3:26) **that a sinner is innocent/righteous** in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 3:9). This righteousness of faith is *imputed*/counted to those who believe in Christ (Romans 4:9-11), it is not *infused* into them (Romans 4:5).

76 *What is the meaning of regeneration ?*

Regeneration is the **giving of new spiritual life to a sinner** in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). Believers are born of God by the Holy Spirit (John 1:12; 3:3-8), having eternal life (1 John 3:1; 5:1), and a right to all the privileges of the children of God (Romans 8:17). Salvation is a spiritual resurrection from being dead in sin to being alive in Christ (Colossians 2:13; 3:1).

77 *What is the meaning of reconciliation ?*

Reconciliation is **God's restoring of a sinner to himself** by Christ (2 Corinthians 5:18-19). Christ reconciles us who once were enemies of God to be at peace with God through the death of his Son (Romans 5:10; Colossians 1:20-21).

78 What is the meaning of sanctification ?

Sanctification is the **setting apart of a believer** in Christ (1 Corinthians 1:30), and the making of them holy and different from the world (John 17:15-17). Believers are saints (1 Corinthians 1:2; Ephesians 2:19), sanctified in two ways. **Positionally**, a saint is set apart from *the unsaved* (2 Thessalonians 2:13) by a one-time event of faith in Christ (Hebrews 10:10; 1 Corinthians 6:11). **Practically**, a saint is set apart from *the ungodly* (1 Thessalonians 4:3, 6) by a lifelong process of avoiding sin and pursuing holiness in Christ (1 Thessalonians 5:23; Romans 8:13).

79 What is the meaning of election ?

Election is the **divine choosing of a person to obtain eternal salvation** in Christ (1 Peter 1:2; 2 Thessalonians 2:13) from before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4). This election is corporate, not individual—the Father chose Christ to be the Saviour (1 Peter 2:6; Isaiah 42:1), and, therefore, all who are in Christ are the elect of God (Titus 1:1).

80 What is the meaning of glorification ?

Glorification is **God's physical act of resurrecting the body of a believer** in a glorious, new state (Philippians 3:20-21). Every believer has a guaranteed "hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27; 3:4), and will be raised up at the last day (John 6:39-40) to be perfectly conformed to the image of the glorified and risen Son of God (Romans 8:17, 30; 1 John 3:2).

81 Can a person have assurance of their salvation ?

Those who believe in Christ **may have 100% assurance of their own salvation** (2 Timothy 1:12; Romans 8:38-39) by the internal witness of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God infallibly testifies to the spirit of the believer that they are saved (Romans 8:15-16; Galatians 4:6) by means of applying the promises of the Bible to them (1 John 4:13; 5:11-13).

82 Can a person's salvation be lost ?

Salvation can never be lost because Christ secures it once for all (John 6:37; 10:28). **Once saved, a believer is always saved** (1 Peter 1:5). Salvation is based on God's promise of eternal life (1 John 2:25), which cannot be broken (Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18-19). It is given entirely due to God's grace toward us, and not our own works (Romans 11:6). Salvation is a free and eternal gift (Romans 6:23) which can never be taken back (Romans 11:29).

83 Can a believer stop believing in Christ ?

A true believer can **never stop believing in Christ** (1 Corinthians 15:2). A person who professes to believe in Christ, but later does not believe in Christ, never truly believed in him in the first place (1 John 2:19; Matthew 7:22).

84 What is the external evidence of a person's salvation ?

Saving faith will naturally, not automatically, result in the **fruit of good works** (Romans 6:22; Ephesians 2:10). A true believer will generally, though not perfectly, persevere in the faith on the "narrow way" until the end (Matthew 7:14; Colossians 1:23). However, many true believers do commit grievous and even unrepentant sins (like David and Samson), but are nevertheless still saved (2 Timothy 2:13, 19).

The Doctrine of Christ

85 Who is Jesus ?

Jesus is the **Christ**, the **eternal Son of God** (Matthew 16:16; John 6:69), fully God and fully man (Colossians 2:9). He is the **Lord** and **Saviour** of the world (2 Peter 1:11; 3:18). Jesus' name means "Jehovah saves" (Matthew 1:21; Luke 2:21), and he is so named because Jesus is the great Jehovah, our God and Saviour (Isaiah 43:10-11).

86 What is the meaning of Christ ?

The titles "**Christ**" (Greek) and "**Messiah**" (Hebrew) (John 1:41) mean "**anointed**." Just as prophets, priests, and kings were usually anointed for their office, so Jesus as Prophet (Acts 3:22), Priest (Hebrews 5:6), and King (Psalm 2:6) was anointed by the Holy Spirit to be the Saviour of the world (Isaiah 61:1; Acts 10:38).

87 Why is Jesus called Lord ?

Jesus is called Lord because he is **the divine ruler of the world**. "Lord" is a title of deity and authority. He is the "Lord Jesus" (Romans 10:9) because of his personal sovereignty over the creation (Psalm 110:1; 1 Corinthians 15:24-25).

88 Is Jesus God ?

Jesus is God, of one essence with the Father and the Spirit (John 10:36; 5:18). Jesus has **divine attributes**, such as eternality (John 1:2; 8:56-59), omniscience (John 16:30; Matthew 9:4), and omnipresence (John 3:14; Matthew 18:20). Jesus bears **divine titles**, such as God, Lord, and Son of God (Hebrews 1:8; John 20:28). And Jesus did **divine actions**: he created the world (John 1:3-4), forgave sins (Mark 2:5-7), and received worship (Matthew 28:9).

89 In what ways is Jesus found in the Old Testament ?

Jesus is found in the OT in three ways: (1) Christ is found **prophetically** in the OT in the prophecies about him (e.g., Isaiah 53; Psalm 22). (2) Christ is found **typologically** in the OT in the things that symbolize him (e.g., the Passover lamb: 1 Corinthians 5:7; the rock at Horeb: 1 Corinthians 10:4), and in the Biblical characters whose lives are types of him (e.g., Joseph, Moses, David, etc.). (3) Christ is found **literally** in the OT in theophanies.

90 What is a theophany ?

A theophany is an **appearance of God in the OT**. Because no one has ever seen God the Father (John 1:18), when men saw "God," they were seeing Christ in a pre-incarnate form. Examples of theophanies include the "man" that Jacob wrestled with (Genesis 32:21-32), the "angel" in the burning bush (Exodus 3:2-6), and the "Son of God" in Nebuchadnezzar's furnace (Daniel 3:25).

91 Is Jesus a human ?

Jesus is a human (1 John 4:1-3), made flesh at his incarnation (John 1:14; Galatians 4:4), at which time he took on a human nature (Philippians 2:6-8). Jesus had **human needs**, such as hunger (Matthew 4:2), thirst (John 19:28), and sleepiness (John 4:6; Matthew 8:24). Jesus

had **human weaknesses**, such as teachability (Luke 2:52), temptability (Hebrews 4:15), and vulnerability (1 Peter 3:18; 4:1; Philippians 2:8).

92 *How was Jesus' human body conceived* ?

Jesus' human body was conceived **by the power of the Holy Spirit** in Mary's womb when she was a virgin (Luke 1:35). Jesus' new human nature was joined/added to his divine nature. Jesus' birth was a **virgin birth** (Matthew 1:23), and he did not inherit a sinful nature, as all other people do.

93 *When and where was Jesus born* ?

Jesus was born in **Bethlehem** (Luke 2:4-7), about 2,000 years ago, in ca. 4 BC. "AD" stands for "Anno Domini" (Latin: *in the year of our Lord*). The era of time before this is called "BC", which stands for "Before Christ."

94 *Why is Jesus called the Son of Man* ?

Jesus is called **the son of man** (Mark 10:45; 14:62) because he is **the Messiah**. Daniel prophesied that the Messiah (the "son of man") would have an everlasting kingdom and be served as God himself (Daniel 7:13-14). The title "son of man" also implies human nature (Psalm 8:4; 144:3), so its use in reference to Christ indicates that Jesus is the perfect man.

95 *Why is Jesus called the Son of David* ?

Jesus is called the Son of David because he is the **descendant of David** (Matthew 1:1) who fulfills the Davidic covenant. God made a covenant with David that he would give him a son that would reign upon his throne forever (2 Samuel 7:14-16), which was Christ (Acts 2:30). As the King of the Jews, Jesus will finally fulfill this prophecy when he returns to reign on the earth (Luke 1:32-33).

96 *Why was Jesus baptized* ?

Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist as a **symbolic and public testimony** of his mission as the suffering Messiah (Matthew 3:15-16). Jesus' baptism symbolized his forthcoming death and resurrection, and also inaugurated his public ministry.

97 *Did Jesus ever sin* ?

Jesus is perfect, and never once committed a sin (1 Peter 2:22; Hebrews 4:15). Jesus fulfilled the whole law, keeping all of the commandments of God (Matthew 5:17-18).

98 *What is the public ministry of Jesus* ?

Jesus' public ministry spanned about 3^{1/2} years (ca. 29AD-33AD). Jesus' ministry was a **teaching** ministry, where he preached the gospel of the kingdom of God (Luke 4:19, 43), and Jesus' ministry was a **miraculous** ministry, where he manifested the power of the kingdom of God (Luke 4:18; 7:22).

99 *How and for whom did Jesus die* ?

Jesus died by **crucifixion** on mount Calvary (Luke 23:33) at the hands of the Roman government under Pontius Pilate (Matthew 27:24-26), by the instigation the Jews (Mark 15:13-14). Christ died substitutionally (Romans 5:8) **for the whole world** (John 6:51), tasting death for every man (Hebrews 2:9; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15).

100 *Where did Jesus' soul go upon death ?*

Jesus' soul went to his Father in **heaven** when he died (Luke 23:46; John 16:10; 14:2-4). Jesus did not go to hell, but he did experience the sufferings of hell on the cross (Matthew 27:46). He finished the work of the atonement at Calvary (John 19:30), and went to paradise immediately after dying (Luke 23:43).

101 *Where was Jesus' body buried ?*

Jesus' body was buried in the **garden tomb** of the wealthy Sanhedrin member, Joseph of Arimathea, near to the place where Jesus was slain, just outside Jerusalem (Matthew 27:57-60).

102 *Did Jesus rise from the dead ?*

Jesus physically **rose from the dead on the third day** after his death, on Sunday morning (1 Corinthians 15:4). The resurrection of Christ is empirically proven by the facts of the empty tomb and the eyewitness testimony to his many and varied resurrection appearances (1 Corinthians 15:5-8). Jesus showed himself to be alive by many "infallible proofs" to several chosen witnesses (Acts 1:3; 10:41).

103 *What is the significance of Jesus' bodily resurrection ?*

The resurrection of Jesus is the divine validation of his claims and ministry (Acts 2:24, 32; 5:30-31), and it is the seal of the atonement (1 Corinthians 15:13-19). By his resurrection, Jesus overcame death, and he opened for us the way of salvation (1 Corinthians 15:55-57). His resurrection guarantees that all believers will one day rise from the dead in like manner (1 John 3:2; 1 Corinthians 15:20).

104 *What did Jesus do after his resurrection ?*

Jesus showed himself to his disciples for 40 days, and then **ascended into heaven** from the mount of Olives (Acts 1:2, 11). He is now seated at the right hand of God the Father in heaven (Mark 16:19), continually interceding in prayer on behalf of the elect (Hebrews 7:25).

The Doctrine of The Holy Spirit

105 Who is the Holy Spirit ?

The Holy Spirit is the **Third Person of the Trinity**, not an impersonal force or power. The personhood of the Holy Spirit can be proven from the personal *pronouns* and *names* used with reference to him (“he/his”; “Comforter” John 15:26), the personal *aspects* he has, such as his will (1 Corinthians 12:11) and mind (Romans 8:27), and the personal *activities* he performs: he teaches (John 14:26), reproves (John 16:8), and speaks (John 16:13).

106 Is the Holy Spirit God ?

The **Holy Spirit is God**. He is both the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ (Romans 8:14, 9), and is called both God and Lord (Acts 5:3-4; 2 Corinthians 3:17-18). As God, the Holy Spirit is one of the co-creators of the world (Genesis 1:2), and possesses eternal attributes, such as omnipresence (Psalm 139:7), eternity (Hebrews 9:14), and omniscience (1 Corinthians 2:10-11).

107 What is the ministry of the Holy Spirit to the lost ?

The Holy Spirit **draws sinners** to the Saviour (John 6:44). He awakens the lost to their spiritual need of salvation by graciously reproving them (John 16:8-10), and illuminating them (Hebrews 6:4-5).

108 What is the illumination of the Holy Spirit ?

The Holy Spirit illuminates someone by **revealing and applying of the truth of the word of God** to them (1 Corinthians 2:12-13). The proper understanding, application, and remembrance of scripture is due to the work of the Holy Spirit (1 John 2:27).

109 What is the ministry of the Holy Spirit to the saved ?

The Holy Spirit **applies** the work of Christ to the believer (1 Corinthians 12:3) and **regenerates** them, making them to be “born of the Spirit” (John 3:8; Titus 3:5). He testifies to the spirit of the believer as an **internal witness** to their salvation (1 John 3:24).

110 What is the infilling of the Holy Spirit ?

The infilling of the Holy Spirit is the **Spirit’s empowerment of a person** to accomplish a task in a spiritual and effectual manner (Ephesians 5:18). When he comes “upon” people, he enables and enhances their work for God (Numbers 11:29; Acts 1:8).

111 What is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit ?

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is the **abiding of the Spirit within the body** of the believer as his temple (1 Corinthians 6:19) and eternal habitation (Ephesians 2:22). This indwelling happens at the moment of true conversion (Romans 8:8, 11), and can never be lost (John 14:26).

112 *What is the baptism of the Holy Spirit ?*

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is the Spirit's act of **spiritually immersing** and **uniting** the believer to Christ and his church (1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 4:3-5). All believers are "baptized" *spiritually* by dying and rising in their spirits with Christ (Romans 6:3-5; Matthew 3:11) before they are baptized *symbolically* by water. This promise of being spiritually unified with all believers was fulfilled from the day of Pentecost, and onward (Acts 1:5; 2:1-4).

113 *What is the seal of the Holy Spirit ?*

The seal of the Holy Spirit is the Spirit's act to **authenticate and secure the salvation of a believer**. This "seal" proves the genuineness of their conversion (Ephesians 1:13), and assures the eternity of their salvation (Ephesians 1:14; 4:30).

114 *What is the intercession of the Holy Spirit ?*

The Holy Spirit helps the saints to pray, and he also **personally prays for them**. The Spirit provides assistance to the saints in the making of their own requests (Jude 20), and he makes his own prayers to the Father on their behalf (Romans 8:26-27).

115 *Did the OT believers possess the Holy Spirit ?*

An OT believer had **the infilling of the Spirit** available to them (Judges 15:14), but not the indwelling. The indwelling of the Spirit is automatic and permanent, but the infilling must be sought continually (Luke 11:13).

116 *What are the Biblical symbols of the Holy Spirit and their meaning ?*

The Spirit of God is likened to **wind/breath**, because he is invisible and sovereign (John 3:8; 20:22). He is likened to a **dove**, because he is holy and harmless (John 1:32). And he is likened to **oil**, because he is powerful and empowering (1 Samuel 16:13).

117 *What are the gifts of the Spirit ?*

The gifts of the Spirit are the **special abilities the Holy Spirit gives to believers** for the purpose of edifying others (1 Corinthians 12:7). The Spirit also endows men with the abilities necessary for a spiritual office that they are called to in the church (Ephesians 4:11; 1 Corinthians 12:11).

118 *Are all of the gifts of the Spirit still available today ?*

Not all of the gifts of the Spirit are available today. The **prophetic** (prophecy, tongues) and **miraculous** (healing, miracles) sign gifts **have ceased** (1 Corinthians 13:8-10). Their purpose of validating the divine authority of the NT has been fulfilled, and, therefore, they are no longer given (Hebrews 2:4).

119 *What was the gift of tongues ?*

The gift of speaking in tongues was the **ability to spontaneously speak in a foreign language** which one had not learned (see Acts 2:4-11). "Tongues" were not unintelligible rambling or ecstatic utterances—the persons speaking in tongues knew what they themselves were saying (1 Corinthians 14:2, 4). The gift of tongues was an *evangelistic* gift to be used in spreading the gospel to those of other languages, not a *personal* gift intended to be used in preaching or praying in the church (1 Corinthians 14:22).

120 What was the gift of prophecy ?

Prophecy is man's forth-telling of God's message, **directly speaking God's words** by inspiration of the Spirit of God (2 Peter 1:20-21). A prophet never contradicted previous revelation, and always spoke infallibly when prophesying (Deuteronomy 18:20-22).

121 What was the gift of miracles ?

The gift of the working of miracles was the **ability to perform miracles** by the power of the Spirit (Galatians 3:5). God can perform miracles any time he wants (Luke 1:37), but the gift of miracles was the divine endowment upon a man to be a miracle-worker (Acts 8:6; 19:11).

122 What does it mean to vex the Holy Spirit ?

Vexing the Spirit (Isaiah 63:10) happens when **the Holy Spirit's will for the lives of his people** which he indwells or is present among **is frustrated** (Genesis 6:3). We "grieve" the Holy Spirit when we do that which displeases him (Ephesians 4:30), and we "quench" him when we do not yield to his will (1 Thessalonians 5:19).

123 What is the meaning of walking in the Spirit ?

Walking in the Spirit means **behaving in such a way as the Holy Spirit would lead us to behave**, i.e., in holiness and righteousness (Galatians 5:16). It is contrastable with walking in the flesh, or obeying our carnal desires (Romans 8:6-8). Believers should always strive to walk in the Spirit (Galatians 5:25).

The Doctrine of the Bible

124 *What is the Bible ?*

The Bible is the **word of God** (1 Thessalonians 2:13); it is the only book that has God as its ultimate author. The word “Bible” means book, and it is “holy” (2 Timothy 3:15; Romans 1:2) because it is different from every other book (Ecclesiastes 12:9-13)

125 *What does the Bible primarily and principally teach ?*

The Bible is primarily a **book which tells man about God**. The scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man (Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:11).

126 *What are the two parts of the Bible ?*

The first part of the Bible is the **Old Testament**, and the second part of the Bible is the **New Testament**. They are so called because they were written when the Old Covenant or New Covenant was in effect, and because they contain the Old Covenant (2 Corinthians 3:14) and New Covenant, respectively.

127 *What is a covenant ?*

A covenant is an **agreement made with promise**, and is a synonym of the word “testament”. There are two main covenants in the Bible made by God with his people: the Old Covenant, ministered by Moses (Exodus 19:5-6), and the New Covenant, ministered by Christ (Hebrews 8:8-13).

128 *Are the Old Testament laws still relevant to Christians today ?*

Christians are **not obligated to keep the OT ceremonial laws**. The provisional *ceremonial* laws (clean vs. unclean) have been done away (Hebrews 9:9-11; 7:12), but the eternal *moral* laws (right vs. wrong) are still in effect (Matthew 5:18). The ceremonial ordinances, such as sacrificial laws, ritual laws, dietary laws, and holy day laws, have been fulfilled in the NT (Colossians 2:16-17), and have been abolished (Ephesians 2:15; Hebrews 8:13).

129 *Are there any lost or extra books of the Bible ?*

There are **66 books** in the Bible. There are no lost or extra books of the Bible, because the Bible is **complete**, and should never be added to or taken from (Deuteronomy 4:2; Proverbs 30:6). All other books beside the 66 are not true scripture (2 Thessalonians 2:2).

130 *When was the Bible written ?*

The Bible was written **between 1500BC** (Genesis) **and 100AD** (Revelation). The OT was written from 1500BC-400BC, and the NT was written in the 1st century AD.

131 Who wrote the Bible ?

God used men as his instruments to write the Bible (2 Samuel 23:2) by guiding them to write what he desired them to write (2 Peter 1:20-21). Every book of the Bible was written by a man who was either a **prophet** or an **apostle** of God (2 Peter 3:2; Ephesians 2:20), or a man who was supported by a prophet or an apostle.

132 What are the main divisions of the Old and New Testaments ?

OT: **Law** (Genesis-Deuteronomy), **History** (Joshua-Esther), **Wisdom** (Job-Song of Solomon), and **Prophecy** (*Major prophets*: Isaiah-Daniel; *Minor prophets*: Hosea-Malachi).

NT: **History** (*gospels*: Matthew-John; *church history*: Acts), **Paul's Letters** (*letters to churches*: Romans-2 Thessalonians; *letters to individuals*: 1 Timothy-Philemon), and **General Letters** (Hebrews-Revelation).

133 What is the meaning of Biblical Inspiration ?

The inspiration of the scriptures is the teaching that **the Bible is God's word**, written by divine guidance (2 Timothy 3:16-17). The term inspiration literally means "God-breathed".

134 What is the meaning of Biblical Inerrancy ?

The inerrancy of the scriptures is the teaching that there are **no errors in the Bible** at all (Psalm 119:160). The scripture is truth (John 17:17) and so it cannot contradict itself (John 10:36). The apparent "contradictions" or "errors" in the Bible are not really errors, but are simply misunderstandings on the part of the interpreter (Matthew 22:29).

135 What is the meaning of Biblical Preservation ?

The preservation of the scriptures is the teaching that **God has providentially maintained the scriptures throughout history** (Psalm 12:6-7). God has preserved his word *completely* to every word (Matthew 5:18; 24:35), *generationally* to every era (Isaiah 59:21; Psalm 119:89-90), and *eternally* to never be destroyed (Isaiah 40:8; 1 Peter 1:23-25).

136 What is the meaning of Biblical Sufficiency ?

The sufficiency of the scriptures is the teaching that **the Bible is all that a believer needs** for their faith (what to believe) and practice (how to behave) (2 Peter 1:3-4; Psalm 19:7-9).

137 In what languages was the Bible originally written ?

The Bible was originally written in **Hebrew** (OT), **Greek** (NT), and in some parts, **Aramaic** (Daniel 2:4-7:28; and Ezra 4:8-6:8; 7:12-26; as well as a few Aramaic words in the NT, such as "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani": Matthew 27:46).

138 *How was the Bible transmitted from the original languages into our modern languages ?*

The Bible was transmitted to us through the **faithful laying up** (Deuteronomy 31:26) and **copying out of the biblical manuscripts** (Proverbs 25:1). The original text of the Hebrew and Greek Bible has been reconstructed from these thousands of existing copies, and many accurate translations have been made into modern languages.

139 *What is the best English translation of the Bible ?*

The **King James Version (KJV)** is the most faithful and accurate Bible translation in English. All modern English versions are unfaithful to the original text and are highly inaccurate, with numerous textual edits (see Revelation 22:18-19). Most modern Bible versions omit many verses (e.g., Acts 8:37; 1 John 5:7), and mistranslate others (e.g., 1 Corinthians 1:18; John 3:36).

140 *How does God communicate with man today ?*

God communicates with man today **through his word** (Hebrews 1:1-2) and **through the leadings of his Spirit** (Hebrews 3:7). We can recognize a truth to be taught by the Holy Spirit when it is in accordance with the scriptures (John 16:13-15).

The Doctrine of The Church

141 *What is a church ?*

A church is a **congregation of believers** in Christ (cf. Psalm 22:22 with Hebrews 2:12), the “assembling of ourselves together” (Hebrews 10:25). A church is not a specific place, but a special people (Matthew 18:20).

142 *What is the purpose of church ?*

The purpose of church is the **furthering of the Great Commission** by congregating to worship God (Ephesians 3:21; Psalm 107:31-32). At church, we learn from God’s word, fellowship with God’s people, and serve in God’s work (Acts 2:42).

143 *What is the Great Commission ?*

The Great Commission is the **final command** which Jesus gave to his disciples before ascending up into heaven (Matthew 28:18-20). It has three parts: **Evangelism**, **Baptism**, and **Discipleship**. The mission of the church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ (Ephesians 1:10; 4:13) by the preaching of the gospel (Mark 16:15; Matthew 24:14).

144 *What are the three marks of a true church ?*

A true church will teach the true *way* to God through the **right gospel** (Romans 16:17-18), will use the true *word* of God from the **right Bible** (2 Timothy 4:2; Titus 1:9), and will do the true *works* of God in the **right ministry** (Ephesians 4:12; Revelation 2:4-5).

145 *What is a Baptist ?*

A Baptist is a **Bible-believing Christian** who is set apart from most other Christian denominations by their Biblical view on **salvation** and **baptism**. A Biblical Baptist follows in the religious tradition of John the Baptist (Luke 3:3), the Lord Jesus Christ, and his disciples.

146 *What is the difference between a denominational church and an independent church ?*

A **denominational** church is under the authority of a larger organization, and is accountable doctrinally and financially to it. An **independent** church is autonomous and under its own local leadership. Churches should be independently ruled by local leaders (Hebrews 13:7, 17; 1 Corinthians 12:28).

147 *What is the difference between the local church and the universal church ?*

The **local church** is a group of professing believers who meet in a particular physical location (e.g., Jerusalem: Acts 9:31; Galatia: 1 Corinthians 16:1; Asia: Revelation 1:4), but the **universal church** is the group of all true believers (Hebrews 12:23) who are part of the collective body of Christ (Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 4:4). Nevertheless, there are still many local “churches” (or, congregations) on earth (1 Corinthians 11:16; 14:33).

148 What is the priesthood of all believers ?

The priesthood of all believers is the teaching that **all Christians are “priests”** in Christ (1 Peter 2:5, 9-10). Believers have direct access to God the Father through Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:18; 3:12), without the need of any other mediator (1 Timothy 2:5).

149 What are some biblical analogies to the church ?

The church belongs to Jesus (Romans 16:16). It is the **building** of Christ (1 Corinthians 3:9, 16), the **body** of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:27) and the **bride** of Christ (Ephesians 5:25-27).

150 What is the ordinance of baptism ?

Baptism is the **symbolic act of immersing a believer** in water to symbolically represent their union with Christ (Galatians 3:27) in his death and resurrection (Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12). Baptism expresses one’s willingness to follow in the steps of Christ (1 Peter 2:21), to walk in newness of life (Romans 6:4).

151 How is baptism to be administered ?

Baptism is for **believers** (Matthew 28:19; Acts 8:36-37, 12); it is not for babies or unbelievers. Baptism is by **immersion** (Matthew 3:16; John 3:23; Acts 8:38-39); it is not by sprinkling, pouring, or effusion. Baptism is a **sign** of one’s faith (Mark 16:16; Luke 7:29); it does not save the soul or cleanse from sin.

152 What is the ordinance of the Lord’s Supper ?

The Lord’s Supper, or Communion, is the **symbolic remembrance of the sacrifice of Christ** through corporately eating bread and drinking juice (1 Corinthians 10:16), which represent Christ’s broken body and shed blood (Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

153 How is the Lord’s Supper to be administered ?

The Lord’s Supper is **commemorative** (taken in remembrance), not literal (1 Corinthians 11:24-25). The Lord’s Supper is **corporate** (taken in church), not individual (1 Corinthians 10:17). And the Lord’s Supper is **celebratory** (taken in thankfulness), not sorrowful (1 Corinthians 11:28-29).

154 Who is the head of the church ?

Jesus is the head of the church (Colossians 1:18; 2:10, 19), the one in charge of each local congregation of believers and of all believers collectively. The headship of Christ is ensured by the **supremacy of the scriptures** (1 Timothy 3:15; Ephesians 2:20) and the **plurality of elders** (Titus 1:5). The Bible is the first and final authority in the church, from which church doctrine and practice is both determined and instituted through a board of several local leaders (Acts 14:23).

155 What is church discipline ?

Church discipline is the act of **excommunicating/disfellowshipping a church member** for grievous or unrepentant sin (1 Corinthians 5:11-13; Matthew 18:15-17). The goal of church discipline is corrective (1 Corinthians 5:5; 2 Thessalonians 3:15), and is intended to restore an offending member (2 Corinthians 2:6-8).

156 *What are the three main church offices ?*

The three main church offices are the office of the **evangelist** (a call to full-time evangelizing: 2 Timothy 4:5), **elder** (a call to full-time pastoring: 1 Timothy 3:1-7), and **deacon** (a call to full-time serving: 1 Timothy 3:8-13). However, churches may appoint other workers in other offices as they are led by God so to do (e.g., teacher, helper, etc.).

157 *Are there apostles and prophets today ?*

Today, there are no true apostles (2 Corinthians 11:13-15; Revelation 2:2) or true prophets (Hebrews 1:1-2). An apostle was a divinely chosen **witness of Christ's resurrection** (Acts 1:22). Paul was the last apostle (1 Corinthians 15:8). The last prophets ceased after the completion of the last book of the Bible (1 Corinthians 13:8). The latter times will have many false prophets (Matthew 24:11, 24).

158 *What is the meaning of ordination ?*

Ordination is the congregational practice of **publicly consenting to the divine call of God** upon a person's life to a given ministry (Acts 13:2-4). This is done ceremoniously by a symbolic laying on of hands (1 Timothy 4:14; 5:22). A man is ordained by God for a work before he is approved by a congregation.

159 *Why do Christian churches regularly meet on Sunday ?*

Sunday is the time to celebrate **the Lord's Day**, on which Jesus rose from the dead (Revelation 1:10). NT believers all assembled on the first day of the week for church services (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2). Biblical churches follow in this apostolic tradition, though the specific day one devotes to God is not an inherently moral matter (Romans 14:5-6).

The Doctrine of the End Times

160 What happens when a person dies ?

When a human being dies, their body “sleeps” in anticipation of the resurrection (Job 14:12; 1 Thessalonians 4:14), but their soul is in a **conscious state** in either heaven or hell (Ecclesiastes 12:7). There is no purgatory for believers after death (Matthew 25:46).

161 What happens to a believer at death ?

At death, a believer’s soul departs from their body and **goes directly to heaven** (2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23). Heaven is a **place of happiness and comfort** (Revelation 7:15-17); it is sinless (Revelation 21:27), painless (Revelation 21:4), and restful (Revelation 14:13).

162 What happens to an unbeliever at death ?

At death, an unbeliever’s soul departs from their body and **goes directly to hell** (Luke 16:19-24). There is no hope for salvation after death (Hebrews 9:27). Hell is a **place of sorrow and torment**; it is sinful (Revelation 22:15), painful (Mark 9:44), and restless (Revelation 14:11).

163 What is the Tribulation ?

The Tribulation is the **7-year period** (Daniel 9:27) in which there will be **worldwide calamities and catastrophes**, such as war, famine, and pestilence (Matthew 24:7-8). In the middle of this 7-year period, the antichrist will begin to persecute and kill the saints (Matthew 24:9-10, 21-22) as God pours out his wrath upon the world.

164 Who is the antichrist ?

The antichrist is the **man of sin** who will come to worldwide power and prominence before Christ returns (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4). He will both oppose the true Christ and exalt himself to be Christ, claiming to be the saviour of the world. The antichrist (“the beast”: Revelation 13:2-4) will force all to worship his image and receive his mark (number: “666”) in their right hand or forehead (Revelation 13:15-17).

165 What is the rapture ?

The rapture is the **catching away** of the believers from the earth to Christ by **the resurrection** (1 Thessalonians 4:17), which is an event that occurs simultaneously with the second coming of Christ (2 Thessalonians 2:1).

166 When will the second coming of Christ happen ?

No man knows the day or the hour of the second coming (Matthew 24:36), but it will happen immediately **after the great tribulation** (Matthew 24:29-31). That is, the second coming will be a post-tribulational event (2 Thessalonians 2:2-3).

167 *How many resurrections will there be* ?

There will be two resurrections. The **first resurrection** is the special resurrection of all the saved throughout history, living and dead, which happens at the second coming of the Lord (Revelation 20:5-6). The **second resurrection** is the final resurrection (Revelation 20:12-15), which is the general resurrection of all the unsaved throughout history (Daniel 12:2; Acts 24:15; John 5:27-29).

168 *What is the Millennium* ?

The millennium is the literal **1000-year** period in which **Christ** will physically **reign** upon this earth (Revelation 20:6). During the millennium, the devil will be bound in the bottomless pit (Revelation 20:3-4), and there will be a major reversal of the effects of the curse on the world (Isaiah 11:4-9).

169 *What is the Judgment Seat of Christ* ?

The judgment seat of Christ is the **judgment of the saved**, at the start of the millennium (Revelation 11:18), where Jesus will give rewards to his servants according to their works (Revelation 22:12; 2 Corinthians 5:10). Jesus will not judge the sins of the saved (John 5:24; Romans 8:1), but their works, to determine their level of eternal reward (1 Corinthians 3:12-15).

170 *What is the battle of Armageddon* ?

The battle of Armageddon is the **final battle** between **Satan** and the kingdoms of this world with **Christ** and his kingdom, which will take place at the end of the millennium (Revelation 20:7-9). The Devil will be defeated and cast into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:10), and then this world will be destroyed by fire (2 Peter 3:7).

171 *What is the Great White Throne Judgment* ?

The great white throne judgment is **judgment day**, at which the unsaved will receive their due everlasting punishment from Christ (Romans 2:5, 16; 2 Peter 2:9), and depart into the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:11-13).

172 *What is the Lake of Fire* ?

The lake of fire is the second death of both body and soul (Matthew 10:28), the **destination of the damned** whose names are not in the book of life (Revelation 20:14-15). In the lake of fire, the eternal punishment of the damned will be meted out upon them after they are cast into it in their newly-resurrected bodies (John 5:29).

173 *What is the New Heaven and the New Earth* ?

The new heaven and the new earth are the **resurrected creation**, after they have been destroyed by fire at the final judgment (2 Peter 3:12-13). They will be **the original creation perfectly remade**, as it was created to be in the first place, with nothing evil or sinful (Revelation 21:1, 4-5). The **capital city of heaven**, the New Jerusalem, will join with the new earth, and be the permanent city of the redeemed (Revelation 21:2).