



Worship Service: 10am, 160 Paya Lebar Road, Orion@Paya Lebar  
#04-06, Singapore 409022  
Sunday School: 11.45am, Prayer Meeting: 8pm Wednesday  
Pastor Jack Sin at 91160948 and [jacksin710@gmail.com](mailto:jacksin710@gmail.com)  
Elder Loke Tat Luen at [tloke822@gmail.com](mailto:tloke822@gmail.com)

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## THE LORDSHIP OF CHRIST IN OUR LIVES

As we meditate on Phil 2:5-11 on the suffering of our Lord and the teaching of the Lordship of Christ in our lives, let us ponder what it means practically to have Christ as the Lord of our lives. The following thoughts came to mind.

1. Let God be the Lord of our **Thinking**  
Our mental faculties ought to be subject to the word and will of God and let him guard and guide us in what we think to have a healthy mental life .Phi 4;8 and 2 Cor 10;5 speak of that submission to the Lord for the battle field is the mind today as the evil one seeks to corrupt thee mind of the young and old.
2. Lord of our **Hearing**  
Our ears are meant to hear the word of God and in edifying communication with others and not for gossip, tale-bearing and half-truths that are unhelpful. Do we incline our ears to hear the word of God and other edifying messages or conversations?
3. Lord of our **Seeing**  
Our eyes are designed to read God's word and to see where we are going and not for unedifying content, unsound movies and websites. Do we focus our eyes on that which build up our faith in the Lord?
4. Lord of our **Talking**  
Our lips or mouth are created to praise and magnify the Lord in worship and thanksgiving. It is not to spread lies and rumours about others or complain against God. Do we use our lips to comfort exhort encourage and edify others? Let us guard our lips that it will speak no guile.
5. Lord of our **Doing**  
Our actions and demeanour are guided by the teaching of God's word. Hence, our conduct and propriety should be in a manner worthy of His calling. Whatever we do, let us do it all for the glory of God. Do something good for Jesus everyday as one senior pastor had always said.
6. Lord of our **Going**  
Our feetbrings us to many places. Our directions in life are guided by the compass and map of His inspired word. Wherever we go, let us seek to witness and share Christ with our gospel feet to bring honour and glory to the name of Christ our Lord.

Something for us to ponder over prayerfully and act upon.

Jack Sin

## Catechising our Children for the Uninitiated

The task of catechising is perhaps not something that all Christian parents are keen to adopt for their family. After all, we have busy lives and if we have daily family worship and go through the Bible stories, we should leave the teaching of the Bible for Sundays (services and Sunday School) and weeknight Bible studies. However, years ago, catechising the young would be part and parcel of families and the life of the church. It was said that the average child during the reformation had committed part of their Bible and catechism to memory.

### Basis for Catechisms

Catechism is the practice of explaining the teachings of the Bible by the use of questions and answers. A catechism covers the summary of the Christian faith and gives the child a "compass" to help navigate through the Bible. This practice can be seen in Galatians 6:6

"Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things."

The word "taught" in this verse means "To teach by word of mouth" (Liddell and Scott) or "to catechise" (HELPS ministry). Elsewhere the use of some form of catechism amongst Jewish converts was suggested by the Apostle Paul when he noted that they were given a "form of knowledge" Roman 2:20. Later, the same Apostle would commend the converts that they had "obeyed from the heart... form of doctrine which was delivered you." Roman 6:17. Finally, the instruction from Paul to young Timothy was to "Hold fast the form of sound words..." 2 Timothy 1:13.

So what is this "form of knowledge", "form of doctrine" or "form of sound words"? This is unlikely to be the entire canon of the Bible, but a discrete, fixed, limited ("pattern or standard of teaching" Murray, 232) set of lessons ("gospel or sound doctrine" Hendricksen, 205).

The early church, in seeking to evangelise the Jews and heathen, set aside a "catechist" to instruct the "catechumen" the first principles of the Christian faith. So the basis for catechisms is evident, though whether this is through the use of questions and answers is not entirely clear.

### Protestantism & Catechisms

The Reformers and the Puritans were keen to continue that great and good tradition of using catechisms as a means of imparting Bible doctrine to the young. For example, Richard Baxter and his elders in Kidderminster catechised daily the entire (then) village as did Joseph Alleine for Taunton (Beeke). The Erskine brothers also catechised every child in the parish they were serving, including writing their own catechisms and testing their knowledge of the Bible, sermons preached and catechisms (Beeke).

The use of catechisms was also popular amongst the Baptists and Charles Spurgeon republished the Baptist Catechism for the use amongst people who attended the New Park Street Chapel. Spurgeon wrote, *"I am persuaded that the use of a good Catechism in all our families will be a great safeguard against the increasing errors of the times, and therefore I have compiled this little manual from the Westminster Assembly's and*

*Baptist Catechisms, for the use of my own church and congregation. Those who use it in their families or classes must labour to explain the sense; but the words should be carefully learned by heart, for they will be understood better as years pass.”*

Those who adopted catechisms in their churches and communities believed memorising portions of Scripture and the use of catechisms, supplements (not replaces) the sermons preached and sacraments administered. Furthermore in the view of the Puritans, catechising the children is a form of evangelism as the teaching of Scripture becomes both the seed and soil of the Gospel from which the Holy Spirit uses to promote spiritual life and growth.

Furthermore, by giving the rising generation of young people a suitable grounding in the Christian Faith, they would be better equipped to give a defence of the Christian faith against error, as well as to teach their own children the ABCs of Christianity.

Let's face it, a good catechism answers the questions that most curious children might ask regarding the Christian faith. In one sense, parents are merely “pre-empting” those questions by asking those questions and answering them first!

### **What Catechism is Not**

After all the benefits of catechisms, it is also important to stress that the use of catechisms, however noble a cause, is not the same as Bible knowledge and should not be viewed as a replacement for the Bible. Any catechism represents a framework or skeleton of a body of knowledge i.e. the Bible. It is similar to lectures in University are mere outlines to the whole body of information and the student is expected to borrow or buy the textbook(s) and read the relevant chapter(s) to supplement what is delivered during the 45-minute long lecture.

### **Some Suggestions for Catechisms**

Thanks to the internet, these days it is relatively easy to obtain a suitable catechism. For very young children, some common catechisms include “Children’s catechism” aka “Catechism for Young Children” (Paedobaptistic) or “A Catechism for Boys and Girls” (Baptistic) for very young children.

For slightly older children, the famous Westminster Short Catechism (Paedobaptistic) or Spurgeon’s Catechism (Baptistic) are easily available online. The Heidelberg Catechism is another historic catechism in the Dutch reformed (Paedobaptistic) tradition, warmer and more devotional than the Westminster’s and Spurgeon’s catechisms.

For those of us who prefer a printed version, so as to pass copies to our children or family and friends, those still in print include:

- “My 1<sup>st</sup> Book of Questions and Answers” by Carine Mackenzie (Christian Focus, 9781857925708),
- the Westminster Shorter Catechism published by The Banner of Truth (9780851512655, with scriptural proofs)
- Christian Focus (9781857922882, with scriptural proofs and very short notes by Roderick Lawson).
- The Heidelberg Catechism is still published, though not in low cost booklet versions, by Banner of Truth (9781848712942) and Reformation Heritage Books (9781601785190).

For our family, our children have gone through the “Catechism for Young Children” when they were very young. They memorized 1-2 of questions and answers through the week and we “test” them on Sunday afternoon between the two services. It did not take long, before they move onto the Westminster Shorter Catechism and we followed the same process. We find grouping certain Q&A together helps with understanding, so for example in the WSC published by Christian Focus, Roderick Lawson helpfully groups Q 4 – 6 under “What God is”.

Another issue we noticed about catechisms is, while our children knew the “words” to the catechism, they sometimes struggle with the “concepts”. Commentaries help though we try not to overcomplicate matters. The brief comments from Roderick Lawson were very helpful and we have gone through that booklet about 2-3 times already.

There are more substantial commentaries for older children (where our children are at) and we are currently using “Bible Truth Explored: The Westminster Shorter Catechism” by Murdo A.N. Macleod (9781910013199). We found his 1-2 page long comments to be very profitable for a Sunday afternoon discussion about the catechism.

As concerned Christian parents, we recognise that memorising the catechism is not to be confused with genuine Christian conversion, so during these discussions we try to challenge our children with the Gospel and their need to come to faith in Jesus Christ.

Dr Jenson Lim

*Lecturer in Cell Biology in the University of Stirling,*

*Currently attending Airdrie Reformed Presbyterian Church.*

## Memory Verse

2 Thess 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means:  
for *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away first,  
and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

## Announcements

1. We welcome Rev Nathan who speaks today on "The Coming of the Anti Christ". (2Thes 2:1-12).
2. Rev Andrew Seet speaks next Sunday on "The Need to Stand Fast". (2Thes 2:13-17)
3. Sunday School and Westminster Confession of Faith classes after Worship Service at 11.45 am till 12.30 pm.
4. **Prayer meeting on Wed 8pm will held in Church.**
5. Sunday messages are recorded on video format. If you are interested to have them, please contact Albert.
6. Those who have a testimony to share may submit to pastor for the weekly.
7. Fide Vitae Resources is having a 20% Christmas Sale from 1 – 24 Dec. Those interested can purchase your books through Angie.
8. Pastor is available for counselling anytime at 91160948 (hp).
9. While Pastor is away on Mission Trip to Bangalore (from Dec 9-16, 2019), you may contact Rev Nathan (hp: 97387097) for pastoral counselling or assistance.



*Pray for the India mission team as they minister at 2 BP churches and 1 Seminary*



*Rejoicing with Eld & Mrs Loke on their daughter's wedding to Chee Meng.*



*Celebrating the birthdays of Joey & Felicia.*