

**THE SHORTER CATECHISM
OF THE WESTMINSTER
ASSEMBLY: WITH ANALYSIS
AND SCRIPTURE PROOFS**

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The Shorter Catechism of the Westminster Assembly: With Analysis and Scripture Proofs by
Edwin Hall

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THE
SHORTER CATECHISM

OF THE

Westminster Assembly,

WITH

ANALYSIS AND SCRIPTURE PROOFS.

PREPARED FOR THE COMMITTEE,

BY

EDWIN HALL, D.D.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE little volume now issued by the Presbyterian Publication Committee has been prepared with much care, and at their request, by the Rev. Edwin Hall, D.D. In the Shorter Catechism of the Westminster Assembly, thus proved, sustained, and illustrated by direct appeal to the revealed word of God, we have an admirable compend of true theology. Imperfect as are all human works, of which this is but one, this Catechism, to a rare degree, the more closely it is scrutinized the more it is esteemed for its most singular excellency, pith, wisdom, and Biblical fidelity. Familiarity with the foundations upon which its teachings are built will serve to fortify

the head and heart against the evils of false doctrine.

It is trusted that the present work will be found upon examination to be free from those defects which have been observed in some other efforts of a similar nature, and especially that the fulness of the citations will have diminished the danger of the quotation of irrelevant texts.

THE
SHORTER CATECHISM,
WITH ANALYSIS AND PROOFS FROM THE
SCRIPTURES.

Q. 1. WHAT is the chief end of man?

A. Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

Chief end. The end for which he was made. That in which he may accomplish the design of his being and find his supreme happiness.

That man was made for this end.

Rom. xi. 36: "For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory forever. Amen."

Prov. xvi. 4: "The Lord hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil."

Col. i. 16: "All things were created by him, and for him."

1 Pet. iv. 11: "That God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ; to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

1 Cor. x. 31: "Whether therefore ye eat or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

That in this man shall find his supreme happiness.

Psa. lxxiii. 24-27: "Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory. Whom

have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire besides thee. My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever. For lo, they that are far from thee shall perish."

Q. 2. What rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?

A. The word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him.

The Word of God.

Ps. cxix. 105: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

2 Tim. iii. 16, 17: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

2 Pet. i. 20, 21: "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

Contained in the Old Testament.

Luke xxiv. 44: "And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me."

John v. 39: "Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."

Contained in the New Testament.

1 Thess. ii. 13: "For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word

of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but (as it is in truth) the word of God."

2 Pet. iii. 2: "That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandments of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour."

Eph. ii. 20: "And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner-stone."

2 Pet. iii. 15, 16: "Even as our beloved brother Paul also, according to the wisdom given unto him, hath written unto you; as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other Scriptures, unto their own destruction."

Gal. i. 11, 12: "But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man: for I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ."

1 Cor. ii. 13: "Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth."

The rule of faith.

Acts xvii. 11: "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so."

Isa. viii. 20: "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them."

The rule of life.

2 Pet. i. 19: "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day-star arise in your hearts."

Ps. cxix. 9, 10: "Wherewith shall a young man