

Heidelberg Catechism Spring 2020 Week 4

God the Father

"The best remedy for affliction is submitting to God's providence. What can't be cured, must be endured." ~CH Spurgeon

Lesson Objective: We will learn about God the Father and how we are to live in light of His providence.

Opening/Review

[Spirit and Truth](#)

"They just teach the Bible". What does that mean? It means that what the pastor is saying agrees with my interpretation of the Bible. Based on whose authority? Ultimately mine.

Notes:

Lesson

26. What do you believe when you say, "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,¹ who likewise upholds, and governs them by His eternal counsel and providence,² is for the sake of Christ, His Son, my God and my Father,³ in whom I so trust as to have no doubt that He will provide me with all things necessary for body and soul;⁴ and further, that whatever evil He sends upon me in this valley of tears, He will turn to my good;⁵ for He is able to do it, being Almighty God,⁶ and willing also, being a faithful Father.⁷

[1] Gen. 1:31; Ps. 33:6; *Col. 1:16; *Heb. 11:3. [2] Ps. 104:2–5; Matt. 10:30; Heb. 1:3; Ps. 115:3; *Acts 17:24–25. [3] Jn. 1:12; Rom. 8:15; Gal. 4:5–7; Eph. 1:5; *Eph. 3:14–16; *Matt. 6:8. [4] Ps. 55:22; Matt. 6:25–26; Lk. 12:22–24; Ps. 90:1–2. [5] Rom. 8:28; *Acts 17:27–28. [6] Rom. 10:12. [7] Matt. 7:9–11; *Num. 23:19.

27. What do you understand by the providence of God?

The almighty, everywhere-present power of God,¹ whereby, as it were by His hand, He still upholds heaven and earth with all creatures,² and so governs them that herbs and grass, rain and drought, fruitful and barren years, meat and drink,³ health and sickness,⁴ riches and poverty,⁵ indeed, all things come not by chance, but by His fatherly hand.

[1] Acts 17:25–26. [2] Heb. 1:3. [3] Jer. 5:24; *Acts 14:17. [4] Jn. 9:3. [5] Prov. 22:2; *Ps. 103:19; Rom. 5:3–5a.

28. What does it profit us to know that God created, and by His providence upholds, all things?

That we may be patient in adversity,¹ thankful in prosperity,² and for what is future have good confidence in our faithful God and Father, that no creature shall separate us from His love,³ since all creatures are so in His hand, that without His will they cannot so much as move.⁴

[1] Rom. 5:3; Jas. 1:3; Job 1:21. [2] Deut. 8:10; 1 Thess. 5:18. [3] Rom. 8:35, 38–39. [4] Job 1:12; Acts 17:25–28; Prov. 21:1; *Ps. 71:7; *2 Cor. 1:10.

Application

Whoever spares the rod hates his son...

The son is pleading for someone to love him enough to draw limits and enforce them. The more outrageous and out of control the behavior the more it proves to the son that absolutely nothing will get someone to love him. ~Douglas Wilson

Notes:

Homework

Memorize Q & A #28

What does it profit us to know that God created, and by His providence upholds, all things?
That we may be patient in adversity, thankful in prosperity, and for what is future have good confidence in our faithful God and Father, that no creature shall separate us from His love, since all creatures are so in His hand, that without His will they cannot so much as move.

Resources

Heidelberg Catechism, 2011 Modern English Version

Valley of Vision

Spirit and Truth A film by Les Lanphere