

Lord's Day 5

Heidelberg Catechism

The Second Part – Of Man's Deliverance

Question 12

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?

Answer

God will have His justice satisfied;¹ and therefore we must make this full satisfaction, either by ourselves or by another.²

Question 13

Can we ourselves then make this satisfaction?

Answer

By no means;³ but on the contrary we daily increase our debt.⁴

Question 14

Can there be found anywhere one who is a mere creature, able to satisfy for us?

Answer

None; for, first, God will not punish any other creature for the sin which man hath committed;⁵ and further, no mere creature can sustain the burden of God's eternal wrath against sin, so as to deliver others from it.⁶

Question 15

What sort of a mediator and deliverer then must we seek for?

Answer

For one who is very man,⁷ and perfectly righteous; and yet more powerful than all creatures; that is, one who is also very God.⁸

1 Ex. 20:5

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;

2 Deut. 24:16

The fathers shall not be put to death for the children, neither shall the children be put to death for the fathers: every man shall be put to death for his own sin.

2 Cor. 5:14, 15

For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

3 Job 9:2, 3

I know it is so of a truth: but how should man be just with God? If he will contend with him, he cannot answer him one of a thousand.

Job 15:14-16

What is man, that he should be clean? and he which is born of a woman, that he should be righteous? Behold, he putteth no trust in his saints; yea, the heavens are not clean in his sight. How much more abominable and filthy is man, which drinketh iniquity like water?

4 Matt 6:12

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

Isa. 64:6

But we are all as an unclean thing and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

5 Ezek. 18:20

The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.

6 Rev. 5:3

And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.

Ps. 49:8, 9

(For the redemption of their soul is precious, and it ceaseth forever:) That he should still live for ever, and not see corruption.

7 1 Cor. 15:21

For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

Rom. 8:3

For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

8 Rom. 9:5

Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.

Isa. 7:14

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.