

Last week We briefly looked at the method of Instruction called **catechism**.

Catechising simply means to instruct in God's Word by the method of questions and answers. We see this method of instruction all through the scripture, a question

asked then an answer given. *Psalms 119:9 How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.*

Today we will see how vital and foundational and trustworthy Gods word is. THE DOCTRINE OF HOLY SCRIPTURE

In fact, we could say that all truth that is revealed is an answer to a question. **This method of teaching** will serve to give us a good framework to understand the whole truth of the bible. To grasp the doctrines and to be able to wisely answer anyone that may ask why we believe.

Last week we looks at The first question in the Westminster catechism – WHAT IS MAN'S CHIEF END? What is most important in our lives. What is our greatest treasure? **Think of the parable of the hidden treasure in a field.** Mat 13:44&45 **Think of the pearl of great value.** A man finds treasure in a field and goes and sells all He has to buy the field – He must have it He sees it as something of great value. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls when He finds it He sets his heart on getting that pearl. He puts all else aside. This is what He has been seeking. **In the same way when we grasp and see Christ Jesus the saviour we are truly convinced of the importance of salvation,** will be willing to give up everything to win Christ, and eternal life.

When Jesus Christ is first in our lives we love and treasure Gods Word. we want to show our love and loyalty unto Him by being doers of His word

What is man's chief end? To glorify God and Enjoy God forever. **We glorify God** when we give ourselves completely to Him, when we surrender all to Him. **'The scriptures are the rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy God.'**

That's my goal to glorify Him every possible way the scripture reveals. Not just do a token, just enough for men to say I've done my duty. but to do the most I can possibly do. **Never to earn Salvation, Salvation is by grace through faith that is clear. But its evidence I'm truly saved when out of love I want to serve the Lord, and bring glory unto His name.**

We follow the example from our Lord and Saviour who said. *"I seek not mine own glory, but the glory of him that sent me."* The Highest goal of my life is to walk in a manner pleasing to the Lord, and love Him more and more.

There is a beautiful story of a sinful woman forgiven in **Lukes Gospel 7:37**. And she stood at his feet behind Him- it is said that Jesus was kneeling at the table with his feet behind him. weeping (possibly with tears of Joy and tears of great sorrow for her sinful ways.) she began to wash His feet with her tears and did wipe his feet with the hair of her head, and anointed them with ointment.. **The Pharisee Simon** who invited Him saw this and said to himself, if this man were a prophet He would know what kind of woman this is, for she is a sinner. - He said Simon I have something to tell you. Speak on master - **Jesus then told the parable** of two men who were in debt and could not pay. One owed 500 and the other owed 50. The master forgave them both. **Which one do you suppose will love the master more?** Simon answered the one forgiven of more. **Jesus said this woman has not stopped washing my feet with her tears** – Simon you gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. -You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil. Her sins which were many are forgiven for she loved much. **But to whom little is forgiven, *the same* loves little."** We realise like this woman; How guilty we were, when we realise we are also forgiven, Gratitude floods our hearts, and we say Lord we love you much we were just like that woman, our sins were many but you have pardoned them all.

When we value and treasure God's glory above all other things; **above money**, above lands and buisness; It shows we truly are putting God first. We should Even put God first when there is a cost involved to us. I read of people who worked in government offices in the UK and USA who's job were to issue marriage certificates. But when they were required to issue a marriage certificate to same sex couples they refused, and this caused them to loose their job and consequently they also lost their income. They chose rather Gods way than the way of the world. The bible says *Proverbs 15:16 Better is a little with the fear of the LORD, Than great treasure with trouble* Is it not better to do things Gods way than to do things the way of the world? Gods way is always better, we should teach our children this truth. I read this quotation by **Charles Bridges**. Parents! do you seek the unwavering and lasting happiness of your children? Then lead them to expect little from the world; everything from God.

We glorify God, by living for God, *“that they which live, should not live to themselves, but unto him who died for them.” 2 Cor. 5:15* The greedy man lives for his money; the epicure lives for pleasure of food and drink. but the one who glorifies God lives for Him alone.

Of course there are many more ways to glorify God **‘The scriptures are the rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy God.’**

The bible is the chief way we hear the voice of God in our lives, not only the chief way but the most reliable way. We find strength to carry on, we find comfort in disappointment. We find **His will and His standard** for everything in Life.

THE HOLY SCRIPTURE is the only sufficient, certain, and infallible rule of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience, although the light of nature, and the works of creation and providence do also show His goodness, wisdom, and the power of God, *yet they are not sufficient to show us either how we should glorify God, or how we may enjoy God, and so are not sufficient to give that knowledge of God, and of his will, that is necessary to salvation. Only in Christ* may we be saved. **And only the Scripture reveals Christ.** There is only **Salvation by faith in Christ** and by hearing Gods Word is faith given. Whatever knowledge men may gain by the Light of nature isn't enough to give Knowledge of Christ. Therefore, the Gospel must be preached that men may be saved. Saving light and conversion can only be recieved by the revealed will of God written in his word.

It has pleased God to give us the Holy Scripture that reveal His will and character to us. Because of the wickedness of satan the word wicked comes from wicker – to twist and plat together - The wicked one twists the truth; **God ensured and provided that His word to be preserved and written down.** Preserved and kept through all the ages. The Old Testament and the New Testament. **All given by divine inspiration of God.** As a Christian we are taught by both testaments. We don't only read the New Testament **All scripture is inspired and it must be received as the Word of God.** Psalm 19:7 *The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; 8 The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;*

The scriptures are our foundation. His way is given is His word.- His *counsel*. He has given His promise and sworn with an oath. Then ***Promises, when confirmed by solemn oath, become covenants, and are regarded as absolutely reliable.***

Hebrews 6:19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil.

An anchor of the soul. There are men who have hope in what they think is an anchor. There is so much **false teaching** let's just take one of the many -**positive confession**- A lot of this teaching originated in USA and has become very popular. But just because it is popular it doesn't mean it is the truth. Those who are in it say, I'm confessing Gods word. **I'll always be healthy; I'll always have abundance and never be in a state of need.** The thinking is that, if any believer is in need all they have to do is confess and command and decree and all will be well. If it's not well, it must be they have spoken negative words. or they have sin in their lives.

Yet we see the Apostle Paul who said, 'For I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, to be content.' No they say the apostle Paul is wrong to say, I am content even if abased, even if trampled upon even if persecuted. They say that the Apostle Paul didn't have the revelation that they have.

Yet Paul had the greatest revelation possible, to Him was made known the mystery of Salvation hidden in ages passed. Also the apostle Paul knew the Lord, this was His goal. To say he did not would be foolish. **We read how The Apostle-** *'resolved to know nothing among men but Jesus Christ and him crucified'* 1 Cor 2:2. *who declared that 'to [him], to live is Christ'* Phil 1:21. So its folly to say the Apostle didn't have revelation....or that they know the Lord better than Him who penned more than half of the New Testament. These who say this are wrong and mistaken. They claim to have superior faith in God. Knowing your bible is the safest way to be protected from error. **Knowing the teachings and doctrines. are a grid which we place over all we are told, and hear.** When I was at school I did technical drawing as a subject. - very advanced drawings... the examiner would hand out a drawing and say draw this in an isometric view and you have 1 hour.... We would all hand in our drawings - and he would take out a grid. A perfect drawing on a piece of thick tracing paper... place it over our drawing and you would see the mistakes he would take his red pen and mark each mistake... **In the same way knowing Gods word and the foundational doctrines is a grid** we place over whatever we hear and if it contradicts what scripture says if it

doesn't fit with the whole span of scripture we reject the teaching. Even if it sounds very good. Scripture is the plumbline that settles all questions...

A well-taught, well-disciplined Christian has good hope, and is secure against going on the sandbanks of doubt and error, or the hard rocks of despair. When troubled times come, when our conscience agitated, and the heart tossed with terrible storms and conflict. **We learn from David** – Just read psalm 119 Its so full of help. When our hearts melt, and all courage seems to fade. When we droop like a dry plant under the sun. **What do we do?** we cry out like David, **Strengthen me according to your word.** The word quickens. It gives life and continues to give life, it sustains it revives. It preserves and it causes us to grow. **In affliction the Word is my comfort. The word of God is our anchor;** but the anchor needs an anchorage; and Jesus, our forerunner, **takes the anchor and lodges it within the veil,** making it **fast to the rock of ages.** Can you see how secure we are... No man's anchor has an anchorage until he is found in Jesus Christ the Saviour. As A Christian my hope and my confidence is in God's Word. I believe with my whole heart. I receive His word for what it is- **THE WORD OF GOD.** And not the word of man. This must be settled in every believer's heart. God's word is the supreme judge that settles all matters in life with finality.

The Summery of Davids life was, '**Lord you have dealt well with your servant according to your word.**' This is how the Lord deals with us according to His word. David can't be silent He must tell of the goodness of the Lord Your ways Lord are full of mercy. This too must be the summery of our lives 'He has delt well with us according to His word.' We read of His goodness on the pages of Holy Scripture and now we see it on the pages of our life. Your written Word Lord tallies with the book of promise.

Everything we need is provided in Gods word- His commands are exceedingly broad. **Psalms 119:96** *I have seen the consummation of all perfection, But Your commandment is exceedingly broad.*

In His word there is mercy there is salvation there is hope there is liberty. His word corrects us – David said When I thought of your ways I turned my feet unto your testimonies. I made haste and did not delay.

This must be the state of our heart, to always run towards Gods ways. To always honour and value and treasure the word of our great God— suppose a sinner heard Gods voice from heaven, wouldn't they obey it? Yet *"we have a more sure word, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place.* that we receive it with silent awe, bow before it with complete surrender and submission, and yield ourselves completely to its holy influence. We must see the Scripture as our highest treasure and source of authority. Above any earthly book, even good books as good as they are they are not divinely inspired.

If we Don't see scripture as Inspired and Gods word to us, how will we cherish it in our hearts, How will. We be in awe of His word. How will we see holiness stamped upon every sentence. Let us love His word, let us know His Word it is true, His word is very pure, there is great peace in His word. Let us love His commandments like King David above gold, yea above even fine gold.

Whenever we hear Gods Word, or read Gods Word, let us hear it in reverence, it is Gods Word. Remember Cornelious of Caesarea the Centurian a good and a devout man. He sent for one lodging at Simon the tanner's house. When Peter arrived Cornelious said, **'Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God.'** Let us be like Cornelious wanting to hear the things commanded by God. Knowing **it is not the word of men**, but as it is in truth, **the word of God.**

The Bible is the infallible Word of God. Nothing profits and quickens like the reading of scripture. Like meditating upon Scripture. It doesn't matter if you are not highly educated, it doesn't matter if even you have very high education. The Word of God is rich to all, abundantly ministers and quickens people of every tongue and tribe, people in every age. It's never old and powerless. It is always fresh. But it must be read, it must be treasured.

We are considering the necessity of scripture. The only light in this dark world. A reliable plumblineline of sure doctrine. *If we do these things prescribed by the Word we shall never fail... 2Peter 1:10.*