

Heidelberg Catechism

Lord's Day 10

Overview/Purpose

“Intimately connected with the doctrine of the creation of the world, is the subject of the providence of God, which is nothing else than a continuation of the creation; because the government of the world is the preservation of the things created by God. We are not to imagine, therefore, that the creation of the world is like the building of a ship, which the architect as soon as it is completed, commits to the government of some pilot; but we must hold this as a most certain truth, that as nothing could ever have existed except by the creating power of God; so it is impossible that any thing should exist, even for a moment, without his government and preservation. It is for this reason that the scriptures often join the preservation and continual administration of all things with their creation. Hence we cannot have a full and correct knowledge of the creation unless we, at the same time, embrace the doctrine of divine providence, concerning which we must inquire particularly.

- Is there any providence of God?
- What is it?
- What does it profit us?”

“The Commentary of Dr. Zacharias Ursinus on the Heidelberg Catechism”, pg 147.

Method

Following the Trivium, the grammar stage calls for rote memorization. Constant drilling and recitation is absolutely necessary and will require direct parental participation.

Suggested Materials For Parents

See “The Commentary of Dr. Zacharias Ursinus on the Heidelberg Catechism”, pgs 146-164.

Word Definitions

• God	• Almighty	• Everywhere
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• Present	• Power	• Upholds
• Governs	• Heaven	• Earth
• Creatures	• Herbs	• Grass
• Rain	• Drought	• Fruitful
• Barren years	• Meat	• Drink
• Health	• Sickness	• Riches
• Poverty	• Chance	• Fatherly hand
• Advantage	• Patient	• Adversity
• Thankful	• Prosperity	• Befall
• Firm trust	• Faithful	• God and Father
• Separate	• Love	• Creatures
• Will		

Suggested Activities

- Review word definitions
- Memory game to review word definitions and catechism questions
- Spelling test using the words in this catechism lesson
- Memorize key bible verses
- Service projects to reinforce the lessons found in the catechism questions
- Many opportunities for creativity!

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Question 27. What dost thou mean by the providence of God?

Answer. The almighty and everywhere present power of God; [a] whereby, as it were by his hand, he [b] upholds and governs heaven, earth, and all creatures; so that herbs and grass, rain [c] and drought, fruitful [d] and barren years, meat and drink, [e] health and sickness, [f] riches and poverty, yea, and all things [g] come, not by chance, but by his fatherly hand.

Question 28. What advantage is it to us to know that God has created, and by his providence doth still uphold all things?

Answer. That we may be patient in adversity [h]; thankful [i] in prosperity; and that in all things, which may hereafter befall us, we place our firm [j] trust in our faithful God and Father, that nothing shall [k] separate us from his love; since all creatures are so in his hand, that without his will they [l] cannot so much as move.

[a]: Acts 17:25,26,27,28

[b]: Heb. 1:3

[c]: Jer. 5:24

[d]: Acts 14:17

[e]: John 9:3

[f]: Prov. 22:2; Job 1:21

[g]: Mat. 10:29,30; Eph. 1:11

[h]: Rom. 5:3; Psa. 39:9

[i]: Deut. 8:10; 1Thes. 5:18

[j]: Rom. 5:3,4,5,6

[k]: Rom. 8:38,39

[l]: Job 1:12; Job 2:6; Mat. 8:31; Isa. 10:15