

Heidelberg Catechism

Lord's Day 15

Overview/Purpose

So far, questions starting at Lord's Day 11 have focused on the person of the mediator. We are now drawn to the office of the mediator, specifically his humiliation or merit. Through question 37 we understand what Christ suffered, how he suffered, why he suffered and the fruits of his suffering. Question 38 provides the context of his suffering; although pronounced innocent of any wrongdoing he was still condemned. Question 39 speaks of the meritorious benefit of Christ's death on the cross, who having taken upon himself the curse and having endured the curse for us, are now delivered from the curse.

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 212-219.

Word Definitions

• Accursed	• Assured	• Body
• Condemned	• Cross	• Curse
• Damnation	• Death	• Earth
• Eternal Life	• Everlasting	• Exposed
• Favor	• Free	• God
• Innocent	• Judge	• Judgement
• Lay	• Life	• Live/Lived
• Obtain	• Righteousness	• Severe
• Soul	• Suffered	• Sustained
• Temporal	• Time	• Took
• Understand	• Words	

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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LORD'S DAY 15

Question 37. What dost thou understand by the words, "He suffered"?

Answer. That he, all the time that he lived on earth, but especially at the end of his life, [a] sustained in body and soul, the wrath of God against the sins of all mankind: that so by his passion, as the only [b] propitiatory sacrifice, he might redeem our body and soul from everlasting damnation, and obtain for us the favor of God, righteousness and eternal life.

Question 38. Why did he suffer under Pontius Pilate, as judge?

Answer. That he, being innocent, and yet condemned [c] by a temporal judge, might thereby free us from the severe judgment of God to which we were exposed. [d]

Question 39. Is there anything more in his being crucified, than if he had died some other death?

Answer. Yes [there is]; for thereby I am assured, that he took on him the curse which lay upon me; for the death of the cross was [e] accursed of God.

[a]: 1Pet. 2:24; Isa. 53:12

[b]: 1John 2:2; Rom. 3:25

[c]: Luke 23:14; John 19:4; Psa. 69:4

[d]: Gal. 3:13,14

[e]: Deut. 21:23; Gal. 3:13