

The Shorter Catechism: For Study Classes (Vol. 1)

by G.I. Williamson

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Lesson 3

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<p>Shorter Catechism, Vol. 1 Chapter 3</p> <p>What do the Scriptures principally teach?</p> <p>© Beverly Schmitt, all rights reserved</p>	<p>The Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.</p>
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<p>Shorter Catechism, Vol. 1 Chapter 3</p> <p>Give scriptural support for what man is to believe concerning God.</p> <p>© Beverly Schmitt, all rights reserved</p>	<p>And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book: but these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name.</p> <p>— John 20:30,31</p>
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<p>Shorter Catechism, Vol. 1 Chapter 3</p> <p>Give scriptural support for what duty God requires of man.</p> <p>© Beverly Schmitt, all rights reserved</p>	<p>He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God. (Micah 6:8)</p>
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What cannot be learned from the Bible?

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- 1) the complete history of the human race
- 2) technical information for the sciences
(e.g., no chemical formulae, etc.)
- 3) not all the information about Jesus' life

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Why was the Bible given?

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- 1) to teach what man is to believe concerning God
- 2) to teach what duty God requires of man.

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Discuss the man that tries to understand the world without God.

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this man does not understand anything
they are in darkness

Such as sit in darkness ... because they
rebelled against the words of God ...
Psalm 107:10,11

... how great is that darkness!
Matthew 6:23

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Can any understand history, geography or any subject apart from God?

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No.

- 1) Everything in the universe is created by God
- 2) The relationship of everything in the universe to God gives that created thing meaning.

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<p>Shorter Catechism, Vol. 1 Chapter 3</p> <p>How does man know the light of God?</p> <p>© Beverly Schmitt, all rights reserved</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) the Holy Spirit regenerates (or saves) the man2) the regenerated man receives & believes God's Word
<p>Shorter Catechism, Vol. 1 Chapter 3</p> <p>What are 2 things that are seen as a result of man beginning knowledge with God?</p> <p>© Beverly Schmitt, all rights reserved</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) The Holy Spirit enables man to believe in the true and living God2) He is able to understand his place in the world. He knows it is his Father's world
<p>Shorter Catechism, Vol. 1 Chapter 3</p> <p>How will a Christian relate to creation?</p> <p>© Beverly Schmitt, all rights reserved</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) he will know that the world is God's creation2) he will seek to understand God's glory in all things (e.g., civics, science, history, algebra, math, grammar, etc.) — this is part of his duty3) he will understand that he must act righteously / uprightly
<p>Shorter Catechism, Vol. 1 Chapter 3</p> <p>Why does the Catechism place great importance on what we are to believe?</p> <p>© Beverly Schmitt, all rights reserved</p>	<p>in order to live a right life, the Christian must have a right faith</p> <p>(see: 2 John 9, John 4:24, Matthew 7:28)</p>

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Why is it important to do what God commands?

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thoughts have consequences
we act on what we think

What doth it profit, my brethren though a man say he hath faith, and have not works ? can faith save him? ... faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone ... [and] as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also
— James 2:14,17,26

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Explain dead orthodoxy.

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dead orthodoxy =

Those that profess & understand the true doctrines of the Bible yet do not live as God requires

a genuine saving faith is one that leads to right practice

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How does the Bible refer to the Law?

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The Ten Commandments (or Decalogue) is referred to as “our schoolmaster”

our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith
(Galatians 3:24)

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Why is the schoolmaster important?

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1) it teaches us our need for Christ, our Saviour

2) it shows us how sinful we really are

For by the law is the knowledge of sin ...
Romans 3:20

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<p>Shorter Catechism, Vol. 1 Chapter 3</p> <p>Why doesn't the Catechism teach the law first & then about faith?</p> <p>© Beverly Schmitt, all rights reserved</p>	<p>1) some might think that the law is more important than Christ (this is false)</p> <p>2) careless readers might suppose that salvation comes by keeping the law (this is false)</p> <p>3) some might think we do not need the law after becoming Christian (this is false)</p>
<p>Shorter Catechism, Vol. 1 Chapter 3</p> <p>Would it be wrong if the Catechism taught the law first & then faith?</p> <p>© Beverly Schmitt, all rights reserved</p>	<p>No. It would not be wrong.</p> <p>God gave the Law before He gave the Saviour.</p> <p>Problem: False impressions & wrong, harmful conclusions could be drawn if the law were taught first.</p>