



**UPPER
HUNTER**
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DEVOTIONAL AID FOR 8 JUNE 2020 – 14 JUNE 2020

Dear church family,

As I mentioned before, the Heidelberg Catechism is structured around our **guilt**, the **grace** of God, and our response in **gratitude**. This week, we continue in the **grace** section of the catechism.

We have seen last week that only a perfectly righteous man who is also God can be our saviour (or mediator). Only a God-man can save us by bearing all our sins that we committed against the holy God. The answer to Question 18 of the catechism names this saviour, Jesus Christ. But after hearing all these truths, how we deserve God's wrath as sinners, how we need a saviour with particular traits, and indeed God has provided that very saviour, etc, another question naturally follows. How do we know this? Question 19 is exactly that. How do we know that God has provided the exact saviour that we need? Answer: We know it because God has revealed to us in the gospel. But, as the answer to Question 19 shows, the gospel is not just a New Testament thing. It is not only revealed when Jesus came. The gospel of a saviour had been revealed ever since the Fall of Adam in the Garden. God has been revealing His gracious plan to save the world well before Jesus was born.

Here I include the questions and answers from Lord's Day 6 and two bible passages for you to meditate on during the week.

Please do not hesitate to contact me (0425 270 854 / tim.wonil.lee@gmail.com) if you'd like to pray with me or for any other needs.

Yours in Christ,

Timothy Lee

<https://www.upperhunterpc.com>

THE HEIDELBERG CATECHISM¹

Lord's Day 6

Q16) **Why must the mediator be a true and righteous man?**

A) Because God's justice requires that human nature, which has sinned, must pay for its sin; but a sinner could never pay for others.

Q17) **Why must he also be true God?**

A) So that, by the power of his divinity, he might bear in his humanity the weight of God's wrath, and earn for us and restore to us righteousness and life.

Q18) **The who is this mediator—true God and at the same time a true and righteous man?**

A) Our Lord Jesus Christ, who was given to us for our complete deliverance and righteousness.

Q19) **How do you come to know this?**

A) The holy gospel tells me.

God himself began to reveal the gospel already in Paradise; later, he proclaimed it by the holy patriarchs and prophets and foreshadowed it by the sacrifices and other ceremonies of the law; and finally he fulfilled it through his own beloved Son.

GENESIS 3:15

[God said to the serpent]

"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

All our miseries can be traced back to the Garden (Paradise) in Genesis 3. There, Adam and Eve failed to trust God and obey Him; instead they listened to the serpent. God pronounced judgment to Adam and Eve and through them to the whole humanity just as He had promised. Yet, we already see a hint of God's gracious plan to save the world. In Genesis 3:15, God was in effect promising that one of Eve's children will crush the serpent's head, inflicting a fatal blow, while the serpent will also wound him. This is what theologians sometimes call 'the proto-evangelion (the first-gospel).' Here we see how God has been gracious towards sinners from the get-go. It has been always God's plan to save the lost humanity through a special Son's epic battle against Satan. Praise God for His wonderful and gracious plan!

JOHN 5:46

[Jesus said] If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me.

Some people think that the Old Testament (especially the first five books that Moses wrote) is about rules we must keep, while the New Testament is all about love. Many Christians more readily accept the New Testament as the Christian Scripture, since it shows Jesus, but they struggle to see how the Old Testament is relevant to them. But, according to Jesus Himself in John 5:46, the Old Testament is about Jesus. Unless we want to say Jesus was wrong here, we must see the Old Testament and the New Testament as one book that shows us our Saviour Jesus. Let us thank God, then, for this marvellous book!

¹ The text of the Catechism is from <https://threeforms.org/heidelberg-catechism/>.