



**UPPER  
HUNTER**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## DEVOTIONAL AID FOR 18 MAY 2020 – 24 MAY 2020

Dear church family,

As I mentioned before, the Heidelberg Catechism is structured to teach us about our **guilt**, the **grace** of God, and our response in **gratitude**. Like last week, we continue learning about our guilt before God (Q3–11). If you feel downtrodden by what we go through in these **guilt** weeks, hang in there! The Good News, **grace** is coming!

Here I include the questions and answers from Lord's Day 3 and three 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](mailto: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>

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### THE HEIDELBERG CATECHISM<sup>1</sup>

#### Lord's Day 3

Q6) **Did God create man<sup>2</sup> so wicked and perverse?**

A) No.  
God created man good and in his own image,  
that is, in true righteousness and holiness,  
so that he might  
truly know God his creator,  
love him with all his heart,  
and live with God in eternal happiness,  
for his praise and glory.

Q7) **Then where does man's corrupt human nature come from?**

A) From the fall and disobedience of our first parents,  
Adam and Eve, in Paradise.  
This fall has so poisoned our nature  
that we are all conceived and born in sin.

Q8) **But are we so corrupt that we are totally unable to do any good and inclined toward all evil?**

A) Yes, unless we are born again by the Spirit of God.

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

<sup>2</sup> 'Man' is being used here as a collective noun, meaning people, rather than biological male humans only.

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### GENESIS 1:26–27

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.

*When God made people, He made them in His own image, meaning that we have capacity to know and love God, to love one another, and to rule over the creation as God’s representatives. But the most important aspect of being made in the image of God is that we, human beings, are made in true righteousness. If we remained perfectly righteous, then our love for God, our love for another human being, and our rule over the creation would have been perfect too. But, is that what we see around the world today?*

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### ROMANS 5:12

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.

*This sentence from Romans 5 might seem a little complicated, but basically it tells us that Adam’s sin in the Garden (Genesis 3) infected the whole humanity. We might feel that this is unfair. But the bible teaches us that we, human beings, are more connected to one another than our individualistic culture tends to assume. It teaches us that so long as we are one with Adam, we cannot escape sin and misery. The flipside is pure gospel, however. When we are united to Jesus instead of Adam, we receive all the blessings that is in Christ too.*

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### JOHN 3:3–5

Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

*This is part of the famous conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus. Here Jesus teaches us how being born again is **necessary** to enter the Kingdom of God. At the same time He teaches us how utterly **powerless** we are to enter the Kingdom of God because we cannot make ourselves be born again as much as we cannot give birth to ourselves. Is this how you think about salvation and entering God’s Kingdom?*