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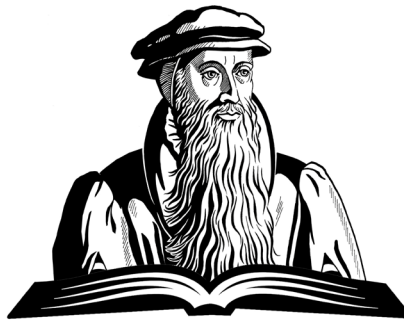
by Rev. Jonathan Mattull

Adult Study Guide

for Lecture #43

Understanding Our Sin

Catechism Questions 82, 83, & 84



The John Knox Institute
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Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide

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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the Authorized King James Version.

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34. The Ten Commandments: Love for God's Name—*Questions 53–56*
35. The Ten Commandments: A Day for Holy Love—*Questions 57–59*
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37. The Ten Commandments: Love within Our Relationships—*Questions 63–66*
38. The Ten Commandments: Love for Life—*Questions 67–69*
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41. The Ten Commandments - Love for the Truth—*Questions 76 thru 78*
42. The Ten Commandments - Love from Within—*Questions 79 thru 81*
43. Understanding Our Sin—*Questions 82 thru 84*
44. Escaping God's Wrath and Curse: Saving Faith—*Questions 85 and 86*
45. Escaping God's Wrath and Curse: Repentance unto Life—*Question 87*
46. Escaping God's Wrath and Curse: Means of Grace—*Question 88*
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ADULT STUDY GUIDE

for Lecture #43

Understanding Our Sin

Memorization

Question 82: *Is any man able perfectly to keep the commandments of God?*

Answer: *No mere man since the fall is able in this life perfectly to keep the commandments of God, but doth daily break them in thought, word, and deed.*

Question 83: *Are all transgressions of the law equally heinous?*

Answer: *Some sins in themselves, and by reason of several aggravations, are more heinous in the sight of God than others.*

Question 84: *What doth every sin deserve?*

Answer: *Every sin deserveth God's wrath and curse, both in this life, and that which is to come.*

Lecture Structure

1. Introduction: serious questions about sin.
2. The breaking of God's commandments.
3. Sin, and the degrees of evil.
4. Sin, and its just punishment.
5. Applications.

Literal Study

1. Define these words as they are used in this lecture:

a) Mere man _____

b) Heinous _____

c) Aggravations _____

2. Summarize the main teachings from the answers to Questions 82, 83, & 84.

Lecture Checkup

1. The Catechism says “no mere man, since the fall is able in this life perfectly to keep the commandments of God.” What does “no mere man” imply? Who does it point to?

2. What does “no mere man since the fall” also tell us about everyone else who has ever lived? What does the Bible say about that?

3. How much has original sin corrupted us? How does it affect our thoughts, words, and actions? Is this only true of the unconverted? Or are believers also corrupted this way?

4. For the believer, what will happen to this sinful corruption in heaven?

5. Are all sins equally ugly and hateful in God’s sight? What does the Bible tell us about this?

6. What makes some sins more repulsive to God than other sins?

7. List the four ways that some sins are more heinous than others, according to the *Larger Catechism* .

8. How is it that every sin deserves God’s wrath and curse?

9. Regarding every sin deserving God’s wrath and curse, why does it say, “*both in this life, and the life to come*”?

10. What are the three horrifying ways that unconverted sinners will experience God’s wrath in the end of the world? What three Bible passages prove this?

Further Studies

1. How can you prove that there has never been any mere man who attained perfection in this life?

2. How do we explain the text in 1 John 3:9, “Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God”? Are believers perfect in this life?

3. God himself testifies concerning Job that he was “a perfect and an upright man” (Job 1:8). Hezekiah also pleads to the Lord about his own perfection when he was sick (2 Kings 20:3). And the Apostle Paul asserts himself and other Christians to be perfect (Philippians 3:15). Explain the seeming contradiction that sinless perfection is not attainable in this life.

Practical Application

1. Did this lecture help you to see that the sinful condition of fallen mankind is true for you as well? Did you see that you also deserve God’s wrath and curse as a sinner? We hope you will examine yourself in the light of God’s Word. May the weight of these things make us see how evil sin is, make us detest all sin, and cause us to flee to God in Christ.

2. What a blessed truth it is to know that God has made a way of escape from the wrath and curse we all deserve! Do you know the way, the truth, and the life, which is Jesus Christ? Have you embraced Christ as your Lord, as your only Savior from the wrath to come?

Project Ideas

There have been heretics in the past who taught that the perfection of believers was possible in this life. Find out who those men were and show the danger of this teaching. Also, you might show how their heretical claims were answered by faithful Christian creeds, confessions, and even the *Westminster Shorter Catechism*.