

Theology Simply Explained — WSC2 “Only Jesus, Only According to Scripture”

Pastor walks his children through Westminster Shorter Catechism question 2—especially explaining how the Lord has generously given us the way of glorifying Him like Jesus glorifies Him and enjoying Him like Jesus enjoys Him.

Q2. What rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy Him? ***The Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy Him.***

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

The. Catechism question this week is what rule has God given to direct us? How we make glorify and enjoy him. And the answer is the word of god.

Which is contained in the scriptures of the old and new testaments. Is the only rule to direct us how we make glorify? And enjoy him. Now, this is a case in which you need the question. In order to get the fullness of the richness of the answer. Because the answer actually does not.

Uh, Use the same language. Of generosity, it tells us. Uh, that his word. Is the only rule and the way that he has given that word But one of the first things for us to see, is that god has given The rule. To direct us. So we have this wonderful amazing purpose.

To glorify and enjoy him. This purpose that Makes us distinct from the other creatures. That although they were all created to glorify him. None are able to enjoy him, but we being made in his image. Are actually created and subsequently redeemed. In order to Come into the pleasures of god himself that.

Amazing amazing. Truth. That we That have in the first. Answer. But to the catechism, And now, Uh, what help do we have? Then? How can we know how to glorify him in in particular, how can we know to glorify him by enjoying him to come into you? Uh, the joy.

Of our master, the joy of our god, the joy of the lord jesus. Which he came and he spoke that it may be in us. And we would have that joy to the full. And god, and his generosity has given us. A rule to direct us. He has given us and exact measure and guide.

To show us the way and press us. Into that way. And so, the question when it says, what rule has god given? There's a question about generosity. Now, this is important because when we come and we hear the word of god, which is contained in the scriptures, the old new testaments is the only rule to direct us.

One other things that the flashlight are sinful heart, does it chafes against the idea of only rule? So that not what feels spiritual to me. Not the ideas that that i come up with. Not. Those things that please me or give me an emotional or spiritual high. Excuse me.

Not those things that i approve of, not those things that i speak. Only those things that God has spoken. And therefore, when we speak, Whether it's direct ourselves or if god has given us that position, whether as an elder Or as a father or a mother to a child.

Or speaking the truth in love. We need to be directed by. The word of god. Which of course as we just quoted from ephesians 4 and speaking. The truth and love is the reason that christ gave gifts among men apostle's prophets, and evangelists by whom. Of course he wrote The word of god first spoke, and then wrote caused to be inscribed.

Preserved for us, pure and entire in writing. The word of god, but also In addition to apostles prophets in evangelist, he has given pastor teachers. Who are those? Who Faithfully teach the doctrine that is set forth in the scriptures last, we even having the bible Be left to ourselves and all of the perverting and twisting of the bible that can take place.

As we will, especially hear Next. Lord's day morning. Lord willing. When we see that satan himself likes to quote the bible. And so, The word of god. Is the only rule to direct us. And yet, god has Been very generous in giving us. His son first and foremost, as the word, the word made flesh.

And then his son by his spirit. Has given us the scriptures. So that peter Uh, says Of the old testament that it was the spirit of christ. By him, the prophets through whom we were receive the Old Testament. It was the spirit of christ. By whom the old testament was written.

How when christ did not yet? Come? The answer is because christ is not just man, but also god, And so it is his own spirit. In his. Divine nature in the fellowship of the godhead whom god the son, before he added humanity to himself and came for our salvation.

Even then in the old testament. He was by his spirit spirit carrying along the men who spoke from god. So that the words of word of god did not come to us. By the ideas of men, no, man, spoke from himself. No man spoken his own But, Men spoke from god as they were carried along.

By the holy spirit. So there's this Great and generous gift. And god giving us an exact concise precise. Scripture. If you had a ruler that was not straight. And it had measurements on it, that varied it would not be. Very functional, would it? And so you remember the The old answer when the precisionist as they were originally called or the puritan as they were also called, What was asked?

Why do you have to be so precise? In your theology. And each cheerfully answered, because i Serve a precise. God. And if we want to glorify God then, and if we want to enjoy him, we want to be precise. We want to follow his word. That is precise. As well.

And exactly. As we can. So not the idea is of men, not the ideas of devils. Which often occur to men and you can't tell. If it's an idea of a devil, or an idea of the flesh or an idea of the gracious heart, except by the scripture, Which is why christians should never say.

God told me. About something unless they're talking about the bible. If it's consistent with the bible, then it's god. Than god said it in the bible. But there are in our hearts, this mixture of things that which comes By god's grace from our new nature or as a function of our new nature and the holy spirit working in us, And in which case, It is a gracious thought.

But it is not a divine word. The divine word is found only in the bible. But there are also in our hearts and minds those things that come from our flesh. And those things that are suggested by devils. And so, it's quite dreadful that the church has Um, You know, the visible church has many people who will refer to ideas that occur to them.

That may be The spirit's blessed effect on. The new nature. And are therefore produced by the spirit apply in christ to us by the spirit, applying the word to us. But they may also be And almost certainly are to some extent. Ideas that are also from the flesh because we have that inseparable mixture in us.

Until we passed from this life and are made, perfect and holiness, and they may even be Mixed with their holy frog. Suggestions of the devil. Now i got a man can make many errors and god can yet be very merciful and do much good. Uh, through him and to him.

Even in the midst of his making an error but that does not mean that the error was correct. And so, watch out for people who will say, oh, but it had to be god because, and they describe some mercy of god. That was even more merciful because it was over against the blasphemy.

Of saying that what had come out of them instead of what had come out of the bible. Was the word of god, the holy spirit or the word of god. And i say, god told me or god said, or god gave me this idea. You watch out for all those things.

No. The word of god is contained in the scriptures of the old and new testaments. Jesus told his disciples in john 16 that there were many things that remained for him to tell them. But that he would send the spirit of truth and he would tell them the things that remain because the spirit would speak from christ.

And all that belongs to god is christ's and all that is from christ to be from his spirit and he told the apostles this and he fulfilled his word. He fulfilled his promise And when he spent the spirit to do this, the spirit fulfilled, his mission, And that which we have in the bible is complete.

And sufficient. And so the word of god, which is contained in the scriptures. Of now not just the old testament, which is also by the spirit of christ. But also the new testament. Is the only rule? To direct us how we make glorify and enjoy him. And this is most of all Because the scriptures are from jesus.

Jesus is the rule and the guide. This is why. If you. Uh, look at the Scripture proofs. The, the The divines westminster assembly, originally did not want to attach because all of these things are proved by the whole bible in their in its original, each passage in its own original context.

And Each informed by the whole, rest of the bible. And so, yeah, yes. There are particular scriptures that teach each of these doctrines. But they prove These doctrines in their context and in the context of the Bible, as a whole, but parliament, demanded scripture proofs, and so Um, the assembly complied and That one of the scripture proofs given here for the second catechism answer.

As effusions, 220.

One of the scripture proofs given here for the second catechism. Answer is. Ephesians 220. With the foundation. Of the house of god. Being the apostles and prophets with christ himself, being the chief cornerstone. In other words, The household of god is a jesus shaped a jesus limited, a jesus guided house, That's where you figure out.

Uh, the directions. The foundation takes Horizontally and the direction, the structure takes vertically. And so it is from jesus that the apostles and prophets speaking, this, the The truth, the scripture and writing the scripture, the the jesus has promised. Uh, it is from jesus. That the bible comes by means of them and then upon the bible, Is built the rest of the house which is to say upon jesus.

Is built the rest of the house. Which means that glorifying and enjoying god as a redeemed sinner. Now means being conformed to christ in how we glorify God, And excitingly delightedly. That means that. Being conformed to christ. And enjoying god means conforming being conformed to his enjoyment of god.

As jesus says, in one place these things, i speak to you that my joy. Maybe in you. So that we don't just have some sort of hyper amplified fleshly joy. But we have a different sort of joy altogether. The sort of joy that jesus himself has in his humanity.

So, This is a wonderful truth and the truth that we should embrace. Over against many of the pitfalls. That. Present themselves in the current. Situation in the visible church. What rule has god given? To direct us how we make glorify and enjoy him. The answer is the word of god, which is contained in the scriptures of the older new testaments.

Is the only rule to direct us. How we make glorify? And enjoy him.