

Sunday, May 24, 2015
Did You Know?

The Heidelberg Catechism

Dear City on a Hill Family,

I hope that you have been thoroughly enjoying the reading of the Westminster Shorter Catechism (WSC). One of the reasons why we incorporated this into our service is because we believe that every Sunday is an opportunity to teach and equip our community to experience and live out the truth of the gospel daily. A wonderful thing about understanding the WSC is that this is not only beneficial for us, but it is also beneficial in educating our children and evangelizing to those who are not part of the faith. I pray that this time has been fruitful in reminding you of the truth of God. It took us almost 1.5 years to go through the whole catechism together, and today, we are reading the last truth statement of the WSC. Although we're coming to an end with the WSC, we certainly don't want to abandon this practice. So, next Sunday, we'll be introducing the Heidelberg Catechism.

The Heidelberg Catechism was written in Heidelberg, Germany "at the request of Elector Frederick III, ruler of the most influential German province, the Palatinate, from 1559 to 1576. This pious Christian prince commissioned twenty-eight year old Zacharius Ursinus, professor of theology at the Heidelberg University, and twenty-six year old Caspar Olevianus, and Frederick's court preacher, to prepare a catechism for instructing the youth and for guiding pastors and teachers." Through Ursinus, Olevianus, and with the help of many others, the catechism was completed. "The Heidelberg Catechism was adopted by [the church leaders] in Heidelberg and published in German and Latin with a preface by Frederick III, dated January 19, 1563." "The Catechism was soon divided into fifty-two sections, so that a section of the Catechism could be explained to the churches each Sunday of the year." Since then, "the Heidelberg Catechism has been translated into many languages and is the most influential and the most generally accepted of the several catechisms of Reformation times."

The Catechism summarizes the major teachings of Holy Scripture in one hundred and twenty-nine memorable questions and answers. Simple, yet profound, as well as concise and sufficient, the Catechism has been appreciated by young and old alike as one of the most clear, helpful, and comforting guides into all the spiritual treasures of the gospel. The Heidelberg Catechism will help us discover just how powerful the gospel really is, and "*how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ*" (Eph. 3:18).

Pastor Woohyun

(Source: <http://www.wts.edu/resources/creeds/heidelberg.html>)