

This Lord's Day begins the treatment of the means of grace, and of the sacraments especially. Read Article 33 of the Belgic Confession at this time, and notice how similar the language is to Lord's Day 25.

A. The means of grace.

1. All the benefits of salvation are in Christ our Savior. We partake of, and enjoy, those blessings by faith. The question now is, how is this faith worked, or where does it come from?

a. The answer is, through the *means of grace*. Means of grace are those means which God has chosen to use to bring to the child of God all the riches of salvation that are in Christ.

b. According to the first answer of the Lord's Day, which are the means of grace?

_____ and _____

c. Who works through these means? _____

d. _____ is the chief or more important means, because faith is _____ through the preaching, and _____ by use of the sacraments.

2. Because this is the only place in the Catechism where preaching is mentioned as a means of grace, we ought to understand clearly the scriptural idea of preaching here.

a. Read Romans 10:10-17. Read the passage again; then answer these questions:

1) In order for a person to be saved he must _____.

2) In order to call on the Lord a man must _____.

3) In order for a man to believe he must _____.

4) In order to hear, there must be a _____.

5) In order for a man to preach he must be _____.

6) In your own words, present the teaching of this passage, keeping in mind also verse 17. _____

b. Read Ephesians 4:8-12 carefully.

1) When Christ ascended into heaven He gave _____ unto men. One of the gifts He gave to His people is the gift of preaching.

2) Of this we read in verse 11. Mention these gifts that were provided for the church: _____, _____, _____, and _____

3) The purposes for which Christ gave the gift of the preaching of the Word of God are given us in verse 12. List these purposes.

a) _____

Lord's Day 25 (cont.)

b) _____

c) _____

3. Today it is very common to try to replace the official preaching of the Word of God with various other things.

a. Mention some of the things that are being substituted. _____

b. Why is this so evil? _____

B. The sacraments in general.

1. Sacraments are signs and seals of the righteousness that is by faith.

a. What is the idea of a sign? _____

b. What is the idea of a seal? _____

2. Both the preaching of the Word and the sacraments point us to the same thing, namely, _____.

3. There are various views as to the number of the sacraments:

a. The Roman Catholic Church teaches that there are seven. From some source, list these seven. _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____.

b. From the Bible, however, we learn that there are but two sacraments, _____ and _____.

4. The Belgic Confession, Article 33, teaches us that God instituted these sacraments in the church on account of our _____.

5. Were there sacraments during Old Testament times? _____ Were there institutions similar to sacraments? _____ What were they? _____

C. True or False.

___ 1. We do not need to hear the preaching of the gospel to be saved.

___ 2. A man must be called and sent by Christ, through the church, if he is truly to be a preacher of the gospel.

___ 3. It doesn't make any difference what a minister says from the pulpit as long as it is true.

___ 4. Preaching is the more important means of grace in the church.

___ 5. Both sacraments present us with Christ crucified, as the only ground of our salvation.

___ 6. It would be proper to have a sacrament administered in the church without a sermon.

___ 7. Marriage is a sacrament because Christ is the Bridegroom of the church.

___ 8. A child of God need not go to church as long as he lives faithfully.

___ 9. A person must hear the voice of Christ in order to be saved.

___ 10. The true preaching of the gospel is one way we may distinguish the true church from the false.