



TREEOLOGY
THEOLOGY

BENEFITS!



1. Catechizing introduces the Bible's basic theology in the form of a skeleton.



WITHOUT
SKELETON



**Thousands of tendons 900
ligaments
640 muscles**





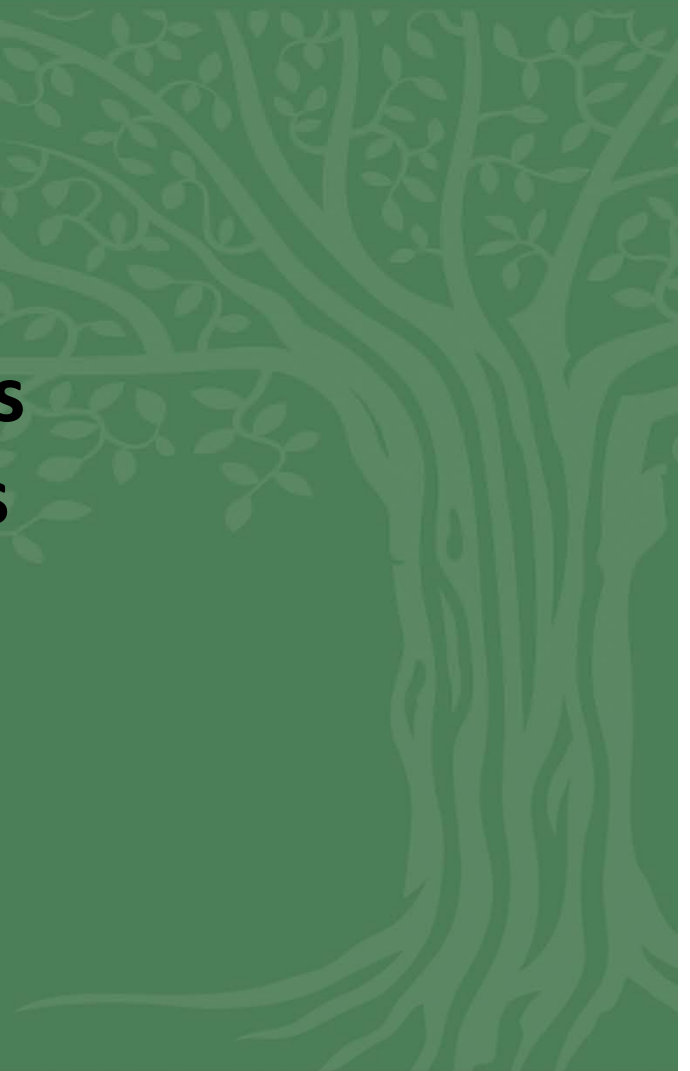
Thousands of tendons 900
ligaments
640 muscles
206 bones



WITHOUT
SKELETON



66 books
1189 chapters
31,102 verses





66 books
1189 chapters
31,102 verses

Catechism



**2. Catechizing defines the
“bones” precisely.**





TREEOLOGY
THEOLOGY



What is the chief end of man?

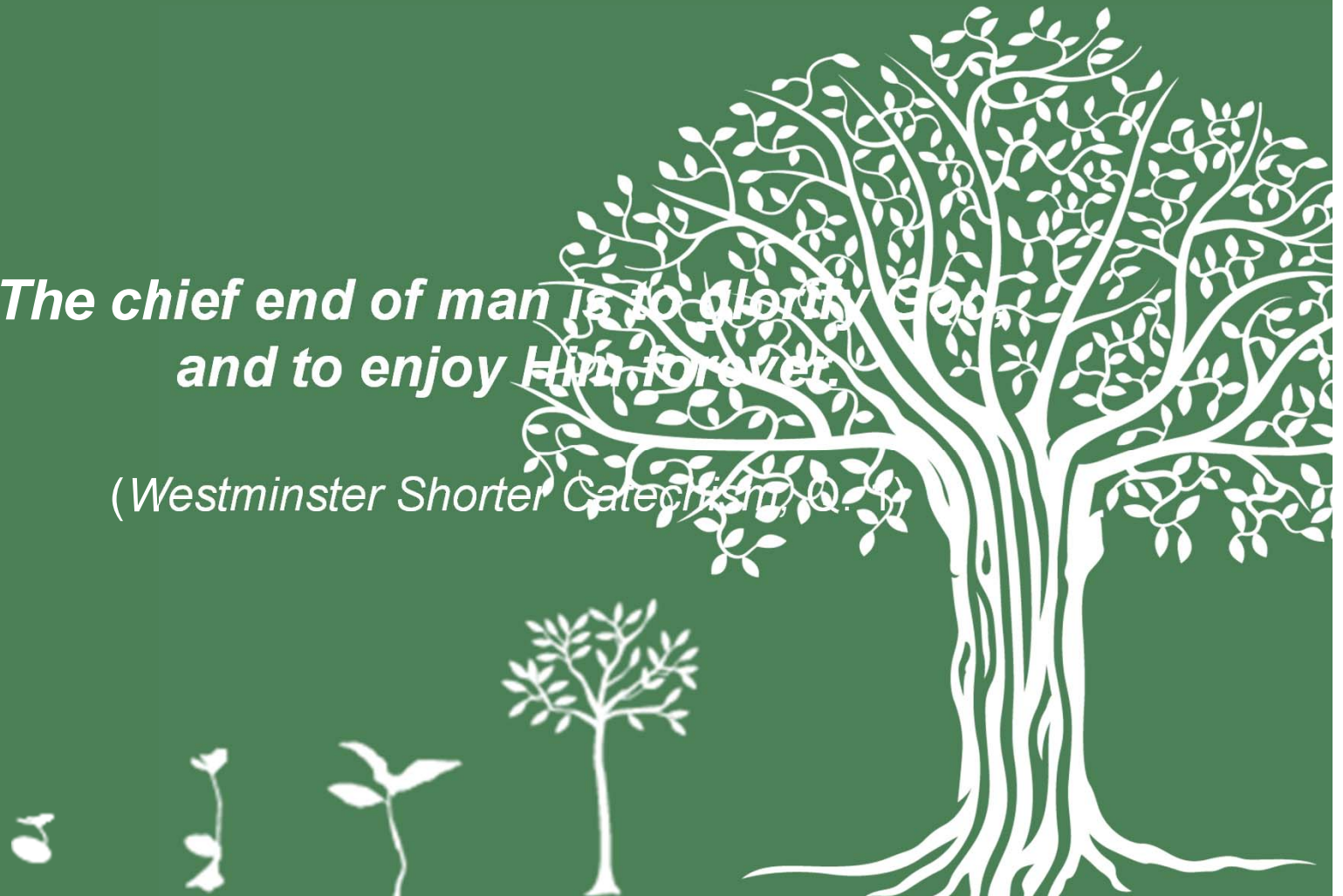
For from Him **[as their origin]** and through Him [as their effectual means] and to Him **[as their ultimate end]** are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen (NASB; Rom. 11:36).

Whether therefore ye eat or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God (KJV; I Cor. 10:31).

Whom have I in heaven but You? And besides You, I desire nothing on earth. My flesh and my heart fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever (NASB; Ps. 73:25-26).

***The chief end of man is to glorify God
and to enjoy Him forever.***

(Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q. 1)





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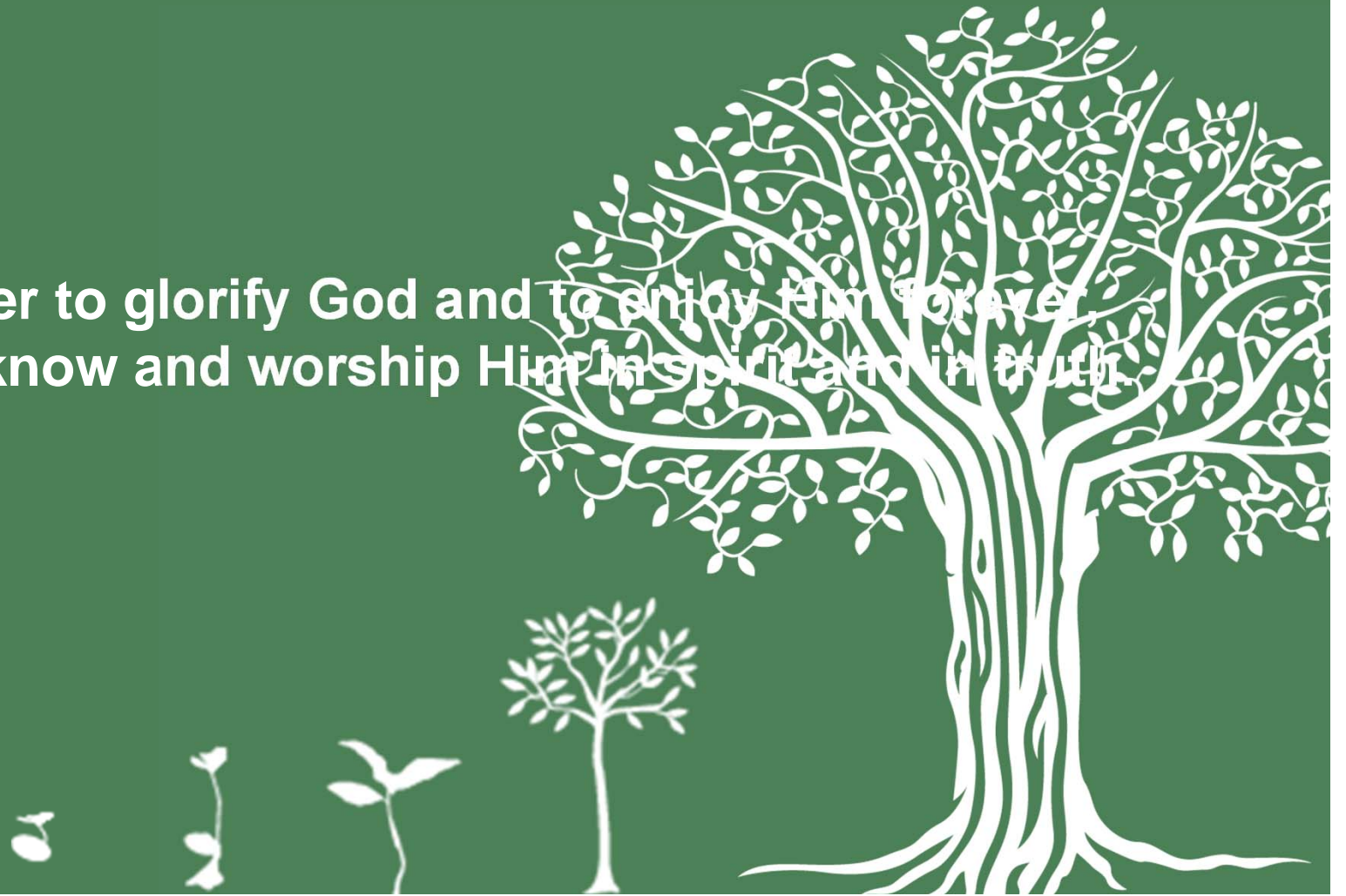
What must I do in order to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever?

... know the God of your father, and serve [**or, worship**] Him with a whole heart and a willing mind ... (NASB; I Chron. 28:9).

In all your ways acknowledge [know] Him ... (NASB; Prov. 3:6).

... the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit [**my innermost being**] and truth [**His revealed will**]; for such people the Father seeks to worship Him (NASB; John 4:23).

**In order to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever,
I must know and worship Him in spirit and in truth.**





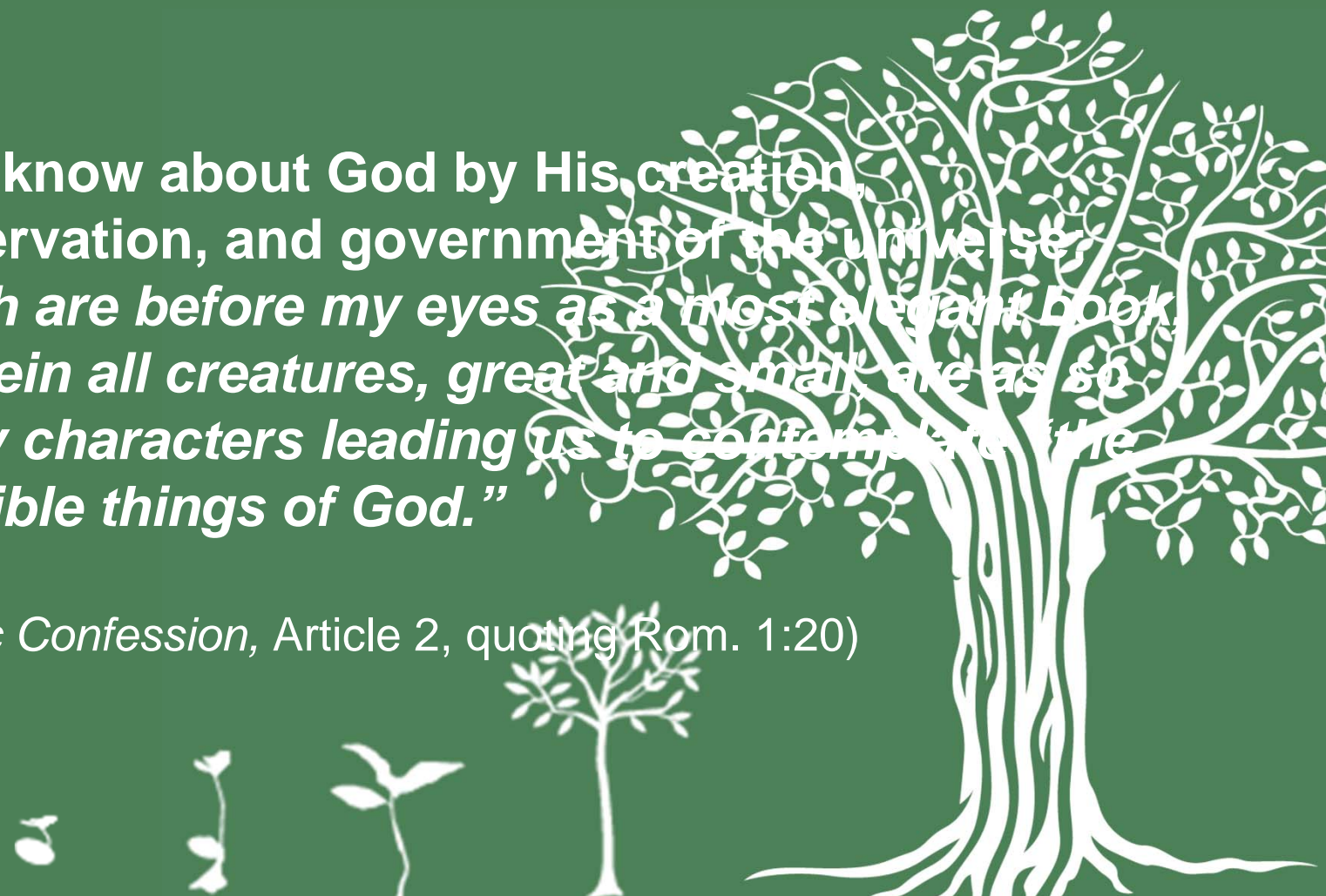
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How can I know about God?

By His creation: The heavens are telling the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the works of His hands. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night reveals knowledge (NASB; Ps. 19:1-2).

By His preservation: The eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food in due time. You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing (NASB; Ps. 145:15-16).

By His government: Who is wise? Let him give heed to these things [**see Psalm 107:1-42**], and consider the lovingkindnesses of the LORD (NASB; Ps. 107:43).



**I can know about God by His creation,
preservation, and government of the universe,
*which are before my eyes as a most elegant book,
wherein all creatures, great and small, are as so
many characters leading us to contemplate the
invisible things of God.***

(Belgic Confession, Article 2, quoting Rom. 1:20)



4

How can I know about God most completely?

But He said, “You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!” . . . Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed. . . (Ex. 33:20; 34:6-7).

How blessed are those who observe His testimonies, who seek Him with all their heart (NASB; Ps. 119:2).

[Observing His testimonies is to seek and find Him.]

Search the scriptures . . . they are they which testify of me (KJV; John 5:39).

**I can know about God most completely by
the holy scriptures**





5

What are the holy scriptures?

... the gospel of God, which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures (NASB; Rom. 1:1b-2).

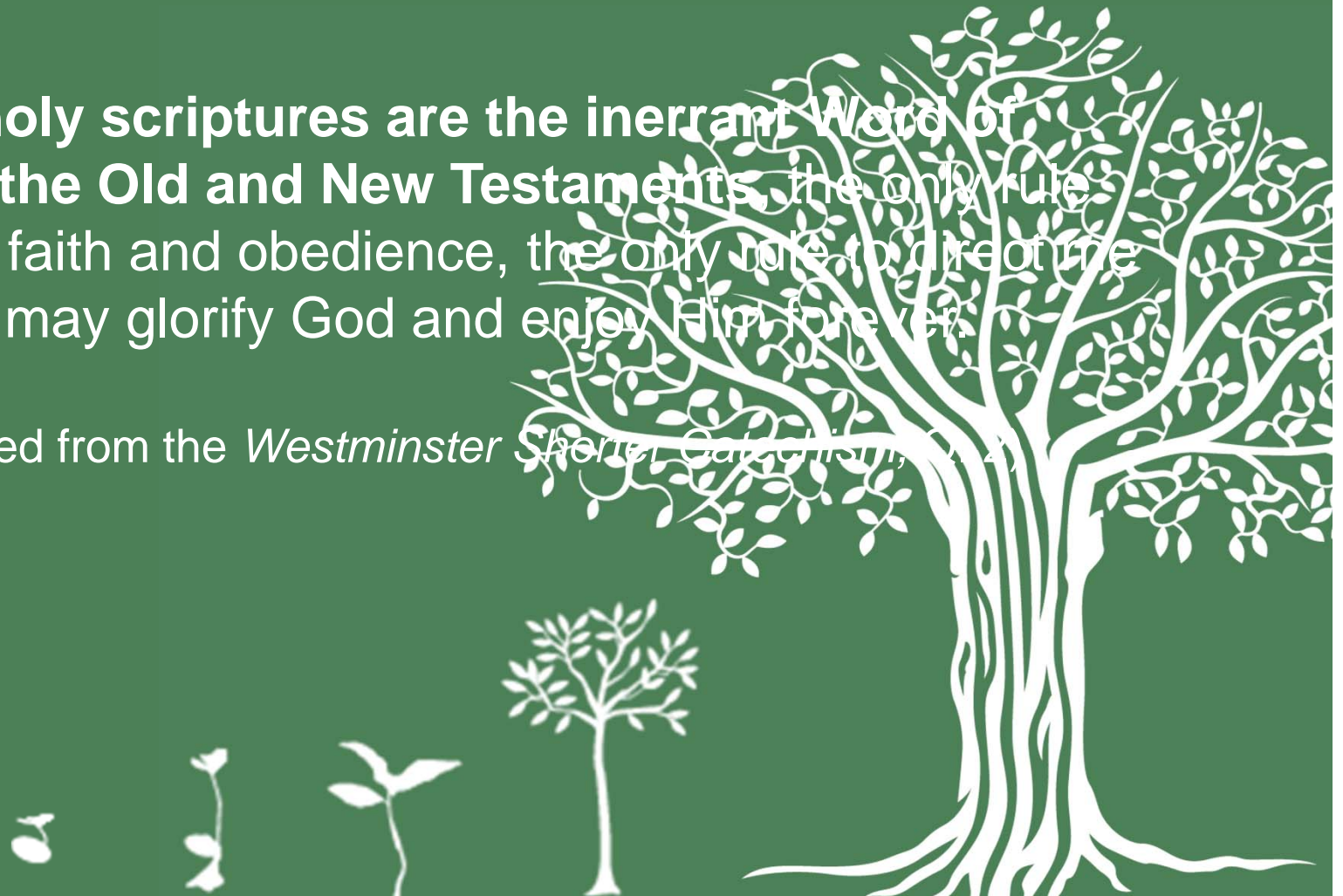
... the Scriptures of the prophets ... (NASB; Matt. 26:56).

... Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, as also in all his letters, ... which the untaught and unstable distort, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures (NASB; II Pet. 3:15-16).

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works (KJV; II Tim. 3:16-17).

The holy scriptures are the inerrant Word of God, the Old and New Testaments, the only rule of my faith and obedience, the only rule to direct me how I may glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

(Adapted from the *Westminster Shorter Catechism*, Q. 2)





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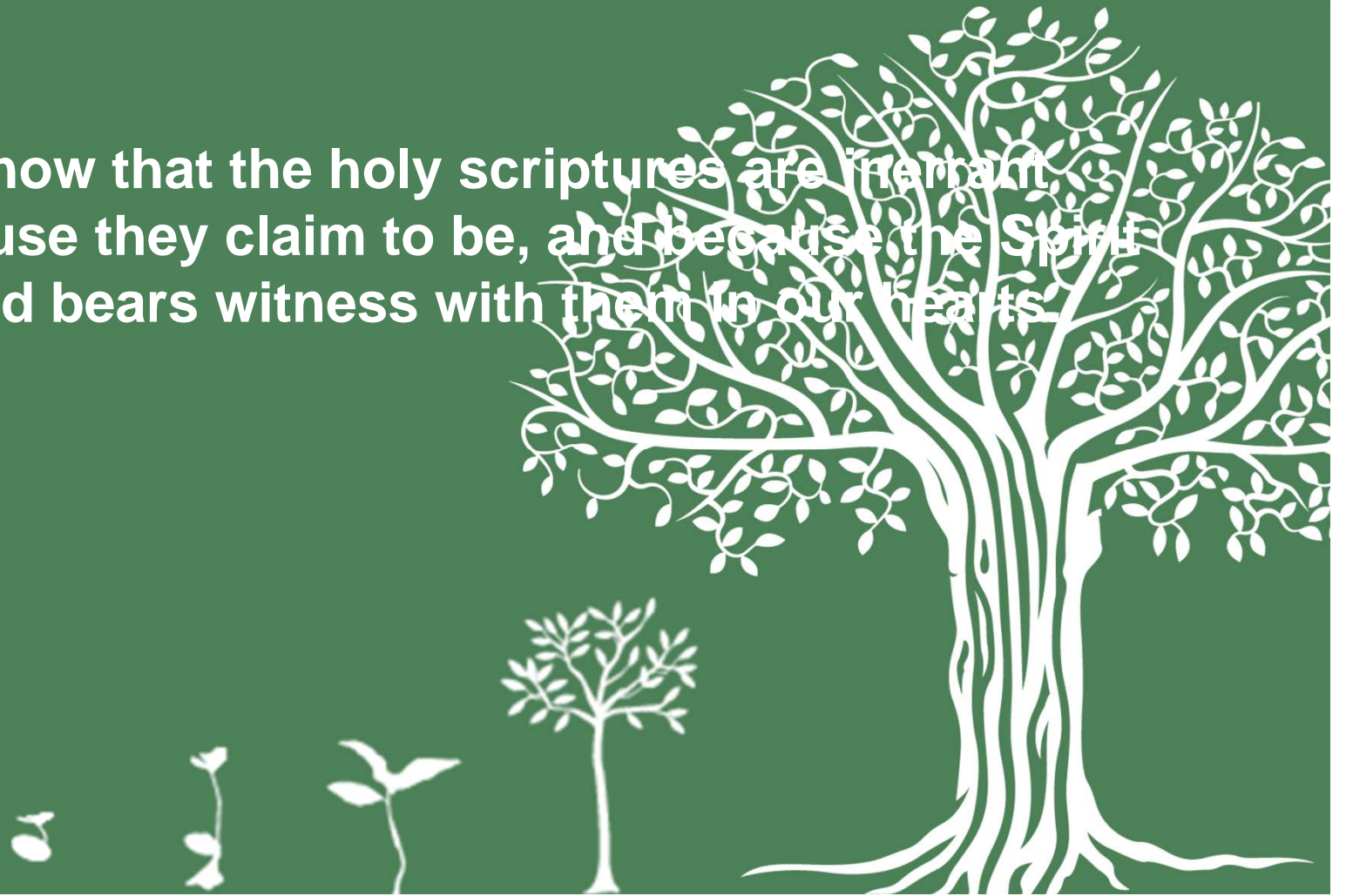
How do we know that the holy scriptures are inerrant?

For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished (NASB; Matt. 5:18).

... The Scripture cannot be broken **[by being proved false]** (NASB; John 10:35).

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God (NASB; I Cor. 2:12).

**We know that the holy scriptures are inerrant,
because they claim to be, and because the Spirit
of God bears witness with them in our hearts.**





7

How did God give us the holy scriptures?

All scripture is given by inspiration of God . . .
(KJB; II Tim. 3:16).

But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is **[came into being]** *a matter* of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God (NASB; II Pet. 1:20-21)

**God gave us the holy scriptures as
“men moved by the Holy Spirit
spoke from God.”**





8

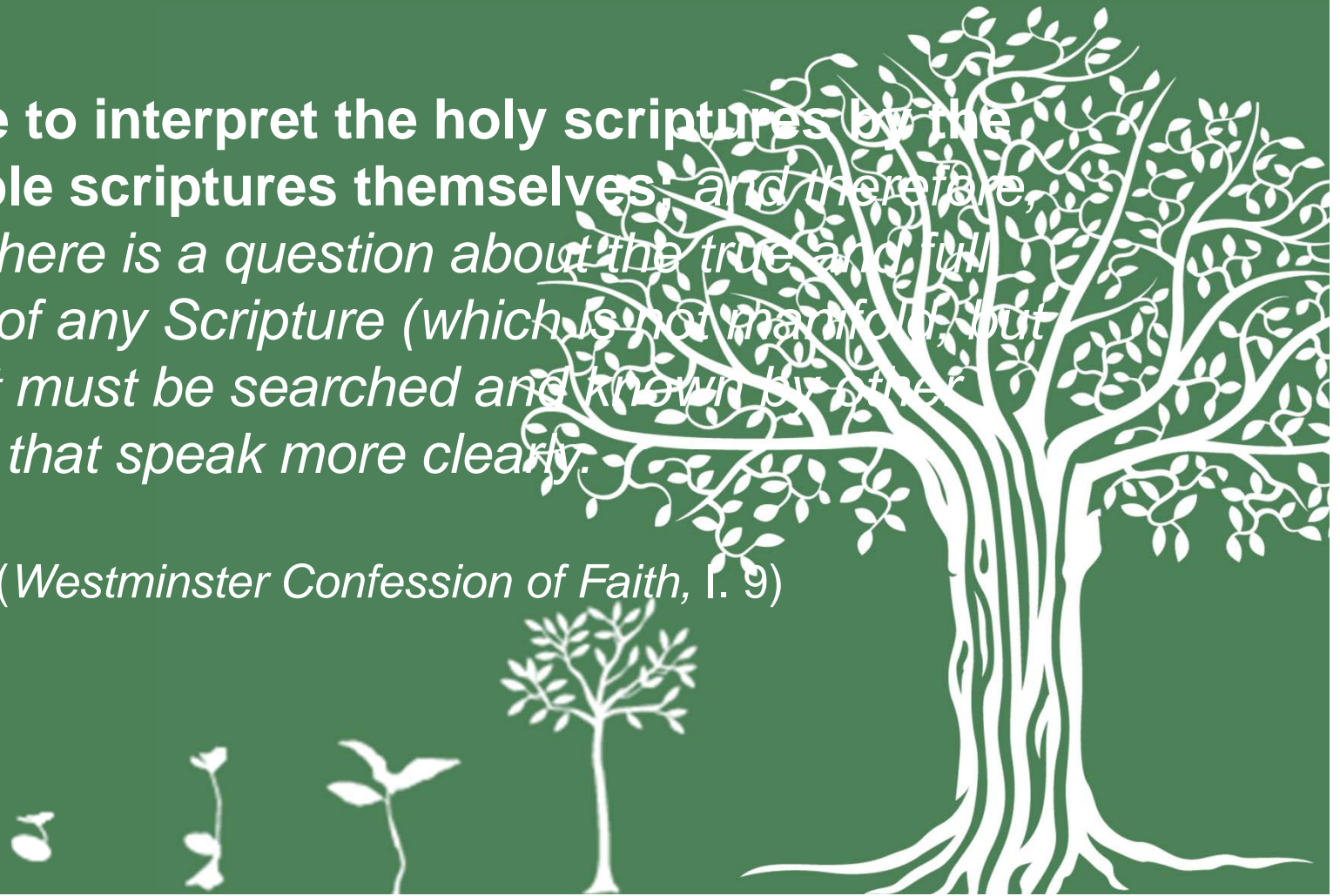
How are we to interpret the holy scriptures?

Simeon has related . . . With this the words of the Prophets agree, just as it was written. . . (NASB; Acts 15:15).

Which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual *thoughts* with spiritual *words* (NASB; I Cor. 2:13).

We are to interpret the holy scriptures by the infallible scriptures themselves; and therefore, when there is a question about the true and full sense of any Scripture (which is not manifold, but one), it must be searched and known by other places that speak more clearly.

(Westminster Confession of Faith, I. 9)





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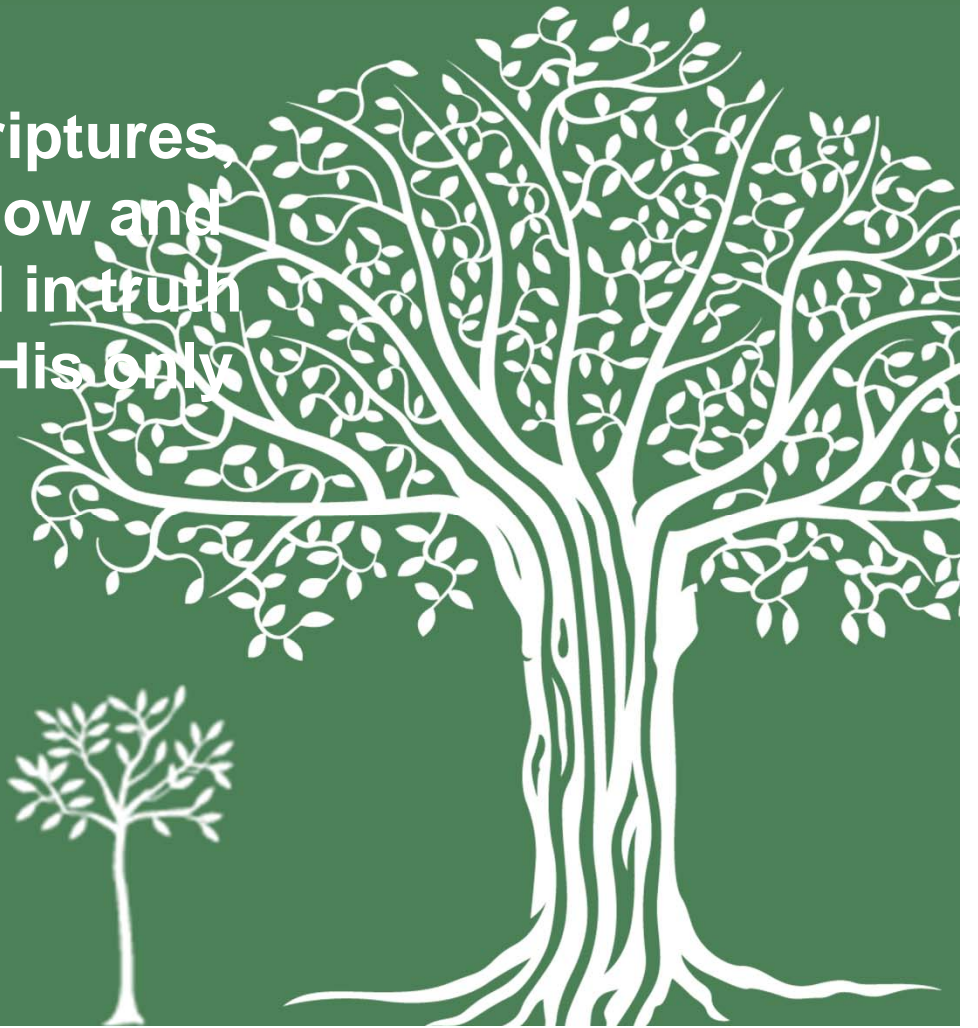
According to the holy scriptures, what is the only way for me to know and worship God in spirit and in truth?

No man hath seen God at any time: the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared **[exegeted]** him (KJV; John 1:18).

And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true. . . (NASB: I John 5:20).

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me (KJV; John 14:6).

**According to the holy scriptures,
the only way for me to know and
worship God in spirit and in truth
is through Jesus Christ, His only
begotten Son.**



**3. Catechizing contributes to
our fulfilling the Great Commission.**



4. Catechizing equips parents to disciple in orderly theological arrangement.



*You shall teach them diligently
to your sons and shall talk of them
when you sit in your house and
when you walk by the way and
when you lie down and when you
rise up.*



*You shall **teach** them diligently
to your sons and shall **talk** of them
when you sit in your house and
when you walk by the way and
when you lie down and when you
rise up.*



Spontaneous *talk*



Systematic *teaching*





According to the holy scriptures, who is God?

Then Moses said to God . . . “Now they may say to me, ‘What is His name?’ What shall I say to them?” God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. . . .” (NASB; Exod. 3:13-14).

God, furthermore, said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’ This is My name forever, and this is My memorial-name to all generations (NASB; Exod. 3:15. Also see Isaiah 42:8.).

The LORD God made the earth and the heavens (KJV; Gen. 2:4).

**According to the holy scriptures,
God is, “I AM WHO I AM,”
“the LORD,” “the LORD God.”**





11

According to the holy scriptures, what is God?

God is spirit [**or, Spirit**] . . . (NASB; John 4:24).

He is infinite (II Chron. 6:18; Job 11:7-9), eternal (Ps. 90:2), and unchangeable (Mal. 3:6; Jam. 1:17) in His being and in all His perfections.

**According to the holy scriptures,
God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal,
and unchangeable, in His being,
wisdom, power, holiness, justice,
goodness, and truth.**

(Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q. 4)





12

How many Gods are there?

The LORD our God is one LORD (KJV; Deut. 6:4).

“You are My witnesses,” declares the LORD, “And My servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe Me and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, and there will be none after Me. I, even I, am the LORD, and there is no savior besides Me” (NASB; Is. 43:10-11).

“Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth;
For I am God, and there is no other. I have sworn by Myself, the word has gone forth from My mouth in righteousness and will not turn back, that to Me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear *allegiance*” (NASB; Is. 45:22-23).

We all believe with the heart, and confess with the mouth, that there is only one living and true God. And we detest the multitude of gods, because it is expressly written, “The LORD our God is one LORD” (KJV; Deut. 6:4), and, “There is no other God besides Me” (NASB; Is. 45:21).

(Belgic Confession (1561) Article 1; Second Helvetic Confession III. 2. (1566))





5. Catechizing provides parents and children a natural opportunity for spiritual interchange.





13

How do we know that God exists in three persons?

... baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit (NASB; Matt. 28:19).

... God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" (NASB; Gal. 4:4-6; compare Rom. 8:15).

We know that God exists in three persons because they are distinguished in Scripture by their personal relations with one another and by their distinctive works.

Question: What are two of the distinctive works of each of the persons of the Godhead?





Who is God the Father?

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort (NASB; II Cor. 1:3).

We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son *to be* the Savior of the World (NASB; 1 John 4:14).

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life (KJV; John 3:16).

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name (NASB; John 1:12).

God the Father is the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that by faith we might become His *little children* (1 John 2:1, 12; 5:20-21) and He our heavenly Father.



Who is God the Son?

... and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. (NASB; John 1:14).

And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature ... (NASB; Heb. 1:3).

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us ... (NASB; John 1:14).

... Christ according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen (NASB; Rom. 9:5).

For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form (NASB; Col. 2:9).

God the Son is “the only begotten from the Father,” “the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature,” Who, *being the eternal Son of God, became man, and so was, and continues to be, God and man in two distinct natures, and one person, forever*

(Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q. 21)





16

Who is God the Holy Spirit?

How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God (NASB; Heb. 9:14)?

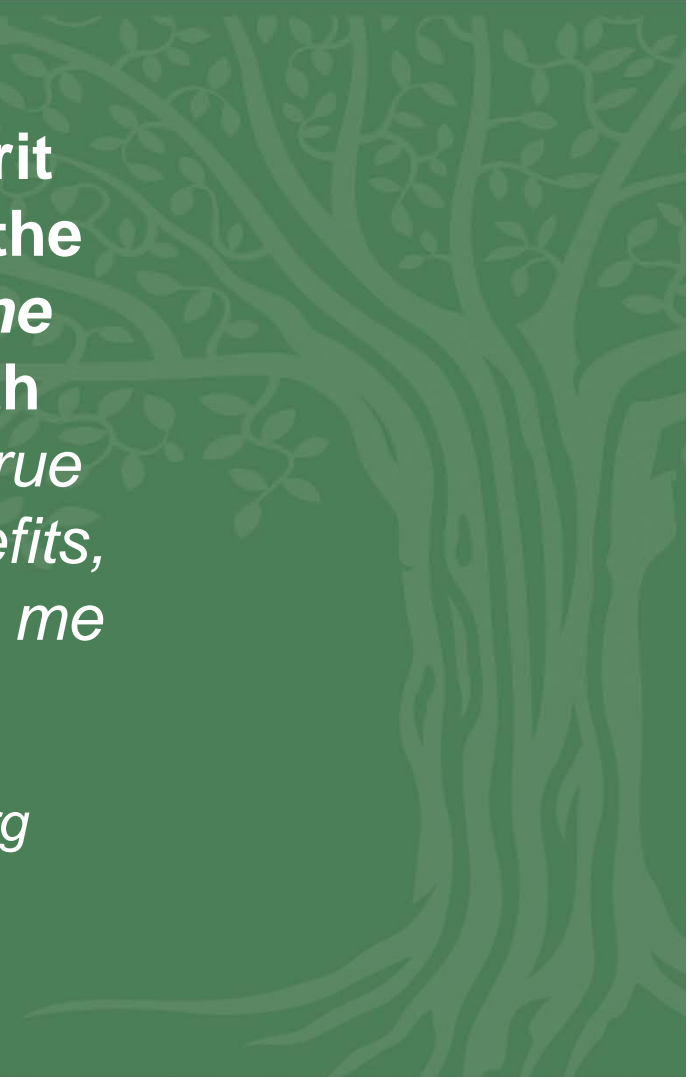
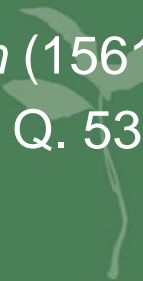
When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father [**see John 14:26**], *that is* the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me (NASB John 15:26).

... baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit (NASB; Matt. 28:19).

John 14:16; Rom. 8:15-17

God the Holy Spirit is the eternal Spirit proceeding from the Father, sent by the Father and the Son, but of *one and the same essence, majesty and glory* with both; and given me, to make me by a true faith, partaker of Christ and all His benefits, that He may comfort me and abide with me forever.

(Belgic Confession (1561), Article 11; Heidelberg Catechism (1563), Q. 53)





In what sense are the three persons of the Godhead one?

... baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit (NASB; Matt. 28:19).

I and the Father are one (NASB; John 10:30).

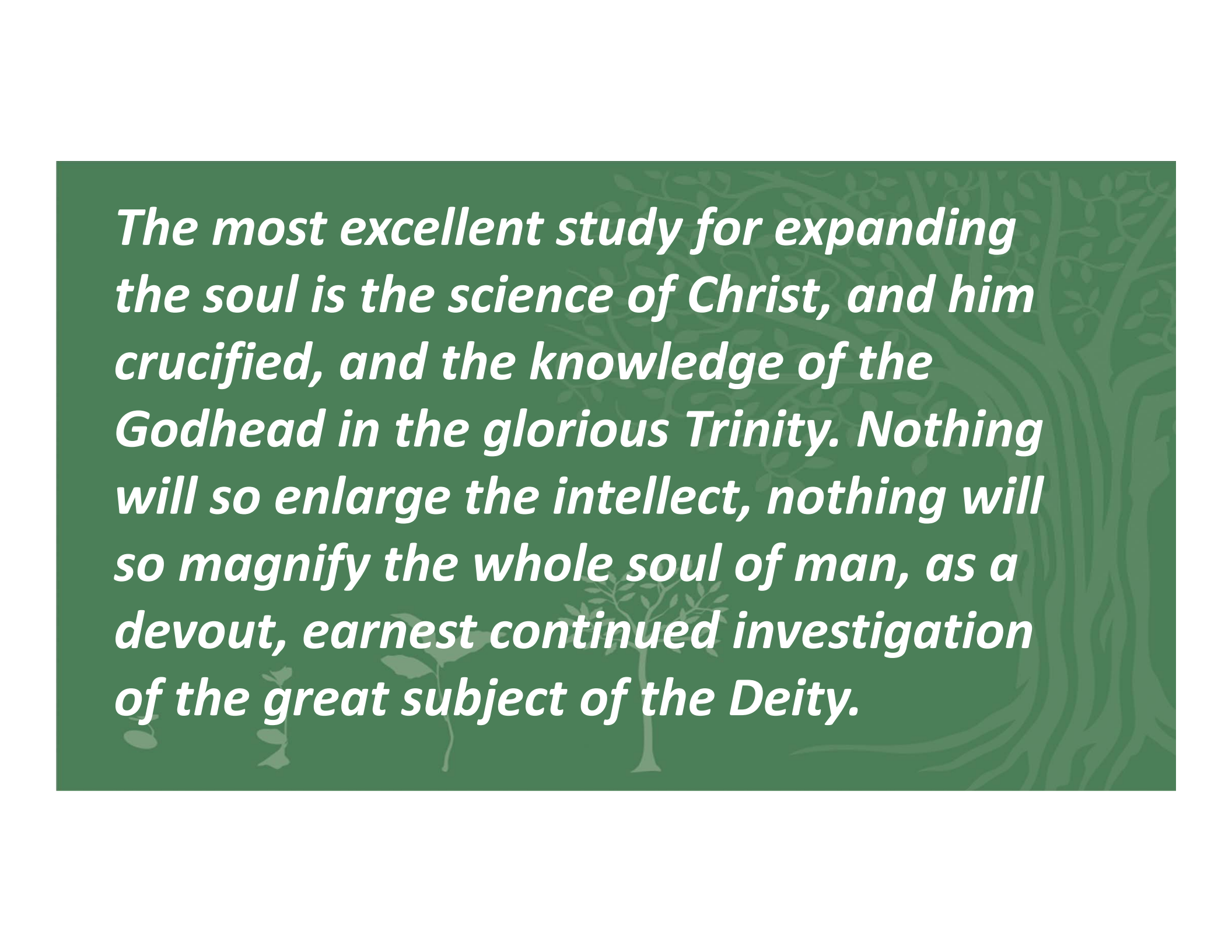
But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit? ... You have not lied to men but to God" (Acts 5:3a, 4b).

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all (NASB; II Cor. 13:14).

The three persons of the Godhead are one in that they are a single, eternal, indivisible Being, *the same in substance, equal in power and glory.*

(Westminster Shorter Catechism (1647), Q. 6)





The most excellent study for expanding the soul is the science of Christ, and him crucified, and the knowledge of the Godhead in the glorious Trinity. Nothing will so enlarge the intellect, nothing will so magnify the whole soul of man, as a devout, earnest continued investigation of the great subject of the Deity.

And, whilst humbling and expanding, this subject is eminently consolatory. Oh, there is in contemplating Christ, a balm for every wound, in musing on the Father there is a quietus for every grief, and in the influence of the Holy Ghost there is a balsam for every sore.

Would you lose your sorrows? Would you drown your cares? Then go, plunge yourself in the Godhead's deepest sea; be lost in his immensity; and you shall come forth as from a couch of rest, refreshed and invigorated.



I know nothing which can so comfort the soul; so calm the swelling billows of grief and sorrow; so speak peace to the winds of trial, as a devout musing upon the subject of the Godhead.

--C. H. Spurgeon





7. Catechizing prepares us to defend the faith.

... always be ready to make a defense to everyone who ask you to give an account for the hope that is in you (1 Peter 3:15).

8. Catechizing wonderfully assists preaching.



I fear one reason why there has been no more good done by preaching, has been the chief heads and articles of religion have not been explained in a catechetical way. To preach and not to catechize is to build without foundation. --Thomas Watson

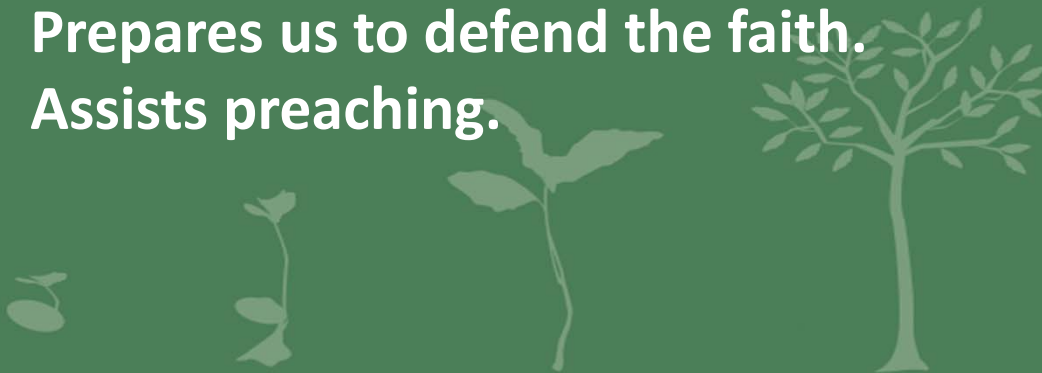


*Catechizing does to the preaching
of the word the same good office that
John the Baptist did to our Savior; it
prepares the way and makes its paths
straight.*

--Matthew Henry



1. Introduces basic theology in the form of a skeleton.
2. Defines the “bones” precisely.
3. Contributes to our fulfilling the Great Commission.
4. Equips parents to disciple in orderly theological arrangement.
5. Provides parents and children a natural opportunity for spiritual interchange.
6. Grounds an entire church relatively quickly.
7. Prepares us to defend the faith.
8. Assists preaching.



How is God related to all other things?

Worthy are you, Our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed and were created (NASB; Rev. 4:11).

He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together (NASB; Col. 1:17)

... He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings, the Lord of lords (NASB; I Tim. 6:15).

He does according to His will in the host of heaven and *among* the inhabitants of earth. . . (NASB; Dan. 4:35).

Consider Psalm 99.