

CONFESSING OUR FAITH

westminster larger catechism

Q 155. How is the Word made effectual to salvation?

A The Spirit of God maketh the reading, but especially the preaching of the Word, an effectual means of enlightening,¹ convincing, and humbling sinners;² of driving them out of themselves, and drawing them unto Christ;³ of conforming them to his image,⁴ and subduing them to his will;⁵ of strengthening them against temptations and corruptions;⁶ of building them up in grace,⁷ and establishing their hearts in holiness and comfort through faith unto salvation.⁸

1. Neh. 8:8; Acts 26:18; Ps. 19:8. 2. 1 Cor. 14:24–25; 2 Chron. 34:18–19, 26–28. 3. Acts 2:37, 41; Acts 8:27–38. 4. 2 Cor. 3:18; Col. 1:27. 5. 2 Cor. 10:4–6; Rom. 6:17–18. 6. Eph. 6:16–17; Col. 1:28; Ps. 19:11; Matt. 4:4, 7, 10; 1 Cor. 10:11. 7. Eph. 4:11–12; Acts 20:32; 2 Tim. 3:15–17. 8. Rom. 16:25; 1 Thess. 3:2, 10–11, 13; Rom. 15:4; 10:13–17; 1:16.

Q 156. Is the Word to be read by all?

A Although all are not to be permitted to read the Word publicly to the congregation,¹ yet all sorts of people are bound to read it apart by themselves,² and with their families:³ to which end, the Holy Scriptures are to be translated out of the original into vulgar languages.⁴

1. Deut. 31:9, 11–13; Neh. 8:2–3; 9:3–5. 2. Deut. 17:19; Rev. 1:3; John 5:39; Is. 34:16. 3. Deut. 6:6–9; Gen. 18:17, 19; Ps. 78:5–7. 4. 1 Cor. 14:6, 9, 11–12, 15–16, 24, 27–28; Neh. 8:8.

Q 157. How is the Word to be read?

A The Holy Scriptures are to be read with an high and reverent esteem of them;¹ with a firm persuasion that they are the very Word of God,² and that he only can enable us to understand them;³ with desire to know, believe, and obey the will of God revealed in them;⁴ with diligence,⁵ and attention to the matter and scope of them;⁶ with meditation,⁷ application,⁸ self-denial,⁹ and prayer.¹⁰

1. Ps. 119:97; Ps. 19:10; Ex. 24:7; 2 Chron. 34:27; Isa. 66:2; Neh. 8:3–10. 2. 2 Pet. 1:19–21; Matt. 4:4; 1 Thess. 2:13; Mark 7:13. 3. Luke 24:45; 2 Cor. 3:13–16. 4. Deut. 17:10, 20. 5. Acts 17:11. 6. Acts 8:30, 34; Luke 10:26–28. 7. Ps. 1:2; Ps. 119:97. 8. 2 Chron. 34:21. 9. Prov. 3:5; Deut. 33:3; Matt. 16:24; Luke 9:23; Gal. 1:15–16. 10. Prov. 2:1–6; Ps. 119:18; Neh. 8:6, 8.

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