

An Introduction to the Westminster Shorter Catechism

Instructor: Mike DeJong

"The Protestants have 'done great mischief' by means of catechisms."
Catholic Council of Trent

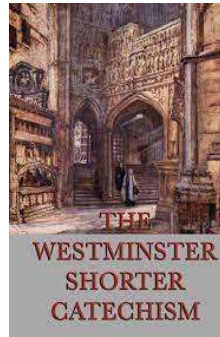
At a time in history when marriage, art, morals, education, work ethic, worship, and theology are plunging to pre-reformation levels in the West, what is needed is a means by which a grand overarching vision for all of life might be inculcated in our present generation. The Bible provides that vision. And as a summary of the bible's teaching and as a means of assimilating and applying its grand vision for all of life, there may be no more compact, simple to use, easy to access tool than the Westminster Shorter Catechism. The Westminster Shorter Catechism summarizes the Bible's answers to the great worldview questions:

- What is the meaning of life?
- Where did we come from?
- Who is God?

Now you might be wondering:

Question: Isn't Catechism a Catholic thing?

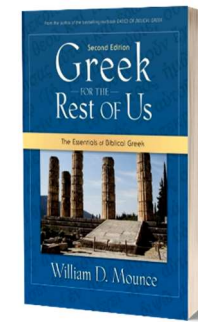
Answer: Actually, the revived use of biblical catechisms was one of the means that God used to bring the church out of the spiritual darkness and bondage of Catholicism that existed prior to the reformation.



"By the Grace of God, I have brought about such a change that nowadays a girl or boy of fifteen knows more about the Christian doctrine than all the theologians of the great universities used to know in the old days. For among us the catechism has come back into use..."
Martin Luther

I believe that the reviving of the practice of Catechesis might be used by God to bring about a much-needed reformation in our time.

Whether you are 5, 15, or 85 I invite you to join me for nine weeks as we seek to reacquaint ourselves with the Westminster Shorter Catechism, its history, its structure, its biblical questions and answers. May we, like the reformers, seek to *"do great mischief"* to the forces of spiritual darkness in our day.



The Basics of Biblical Greek

Instructor: Luke Campbell

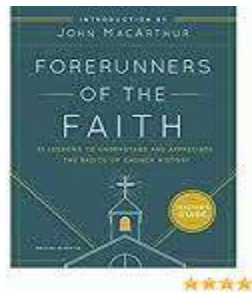
You may ask, what use is there in learning the Biblical languages if we already have masterful translations? And we do! But I will turn you to the reformer Martin Luther to answer better than I could,

"Without languages we could not have received the Gospel. Languages are the scabbard that contains the sword of the Spirit; they are the casket which contains the priceless jewels of antique thought... If we neglect the literature we shall eventually lose the gospel... No sooner did men cease to cultivate the languages than Christendom declined, even until it fell under the undisputed dominion of the pope. But no sooner was this torch relighted, than this papal owl fled with a shriek into congenial gloom."

Galatians chapter 4, verse 4 states "When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son." Thus, from the beginning of time God planned and orchestrated His universe and history according to His will so that in the fullness of time He would send His Son for the salvation of the World. One special component of His preparation for the coming of Christ, was the language by which the Gospel would go, not only to a select people, but to the whole world. The Koine Greek language was precise enough to clearly communicate the Gospel, and widely known enough to allow its rapid spread across the known world.

It is my great joy to be offering a class on the basics of this amazing language. If you persevere with this course long enough, you will learn how to read through the New Testament, in the original, fluently. But fair warning, this class is not for the faint of heart, it will come with homework and memorization.

Recommended for: Ages 10 and up



Forerunners of the Faith

Instructor: Bill Stenekes

The Christian faith extends beyond our personal experiences, our individual churches, and far beyond our present age. This, for the Christian, is great news. When we become acquainted with the legacy of our Christian heritage, we connect our stories to those of the faithful believers who have come before us.

Forerunners of the Faith outlines the fundamental biblical doctrines that characterize the true church. It captures the trials and triumphs of the historical Church, providing insights for how the ancient Christians responded to the problems of their day, to become the pillars of faith we now consider them to be. Learn how your faith stands on the shoulders of giants like Athanasius, Augustine, and Wycliffe. *Forerunners* provides spiritual encouragement as we remember the legacy of God's faithfulness to God's people.

- The Apostolic Age - Peter, Paul and the Early Church
- The Patristic Period – Polycarp, Irenaeus, Athanasius and the Council of Nicaea, Chrysostom
- The Middle Ages – Controversies, Councils, Schisms, and Pre-Reformers
- The Reformation and Modern Period – Luther, Calvin, Whitefield, Edwards, and the Great Awakening, etc.

Forerunners of the Faith provides an engaging and accessible introduction to church history. Whether you are new to the subject or simply eager to refresh your appreciation for the richness of your Christian heritage, you are sure to come away with a greater sense of awe and wonder for all the Lord has done through the centuries to build His church.

Recommended for: Ages 12 and up