

## **Confirmation**

### **Lesson #21**

#### **Bible/Catechism**

##### **Introduction**

The Bible is the source of all Christian teaching “doctrine” and living. As Christians our faith is based and “rooted” in the teachings of the Bible.

A catechism is a book of instruction in the form of questions and answers. Martin Luther’s Small Catechism is a summary of the Bible. It helps us to dive into the main teachings (doctrine) of the Bible. In 1529 Luther wrote the Small Catechism to help the people learn the chief parts of Christian doctrine. It is called the Small Catechism because he also wrote the large, more detailed version, called the “Large Catechism.” There are six chief parts to the small catechism which are all taken from the Bible: 1 = Ten Commandments

2=The Apostle’s Creed

3=The Lord’s Prayer

4=The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

5=The Office of the Keys and Confession

6=The sacrament of the Altar (Lord’s Supper)

##### **THE BIBLE**

Bible means “Book” and it is the Book of books as it is the Word of God. It is the source for all preaching, teaching, and practice in the church. It is the one dependable guide for living, the one authority for Christian ministry and worship. It is also the final standard for our knowledge of God and His salvation in Christ. The Bible is God’s truth in human language. Martin Luther says, “Scripture is God’s testimony concerning Himself.”

The Bible has two parts and they are the Old Testament and the New Testament. Christ is the central figure of Scripture. His birth marks the division of time in Western civilization: B.C. and A.D. B.C. stands for before Christ and A.D. stands for the Latin Anno Domini which means “In the year of the Lord,” which is when the Lord appeared on earth. A testament is like a will. It is an expression of someone’s intentions or desires. A testament is often a written document to convey what someone may see as the most important things in their life. The Old and New Testament is God’s written will, His purpose and plan of salvation for the world. The old testament points to Christ and the new testament reveals Christ. The Old Testament was written in Hebrew and Aramaic Languages, was written in 1500-400 B.C., was written by Moses, Ezra, and the prophets, and has 39 books.

The New Testament was written in Greek, was written in A.D. 50-95, was written by Evangelists and the Apostles, and has 27 books.

The Bible is inspired by God. The Holy Spirit “breathed” into the writers the thoughts and words they were to write. Inspiration means to “breathe into.” God told the writers what to write and when to write. Because we are human, it is really hard to understand the Miracle of God inspiring writers to write. However, God’s word points us to His Son Jesus. Because we believe the Bible is God’s Word, we believe that it is God’s true, clear, and perfect Word. The Bible is inerrant, meaning it contains no errors. The Bible is infallible, it cannot make mistakes, nor does it mislead people. The Bible is reliable, trustworthy, and fully authoritative.

Look at John 20:30-31

The Bible is like a road map showing us the Way in Jesus. (Read John 14:6)

We should read the Bible, learn it, hear it preached, believe it, and live according to it.

The Bible is divided into two main teachings and they are the Law and Gospel. Law tells us what we are to do, convicts us of sins, is preached to unrepentant sinners, and serves as a guide for penitent believers.

The Gospel tells what God has done for us, saves us, is preached to troubled sinners, and creates a living faith inside of us.

### **SOS (John3:16)**

The Law Shows Our Sin and the Gospel

Shows Our Savior

God so loved the world that He gave His

One and only

Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not

Perish, but have

Eternal

Life