

## **The Westminster Larger Catechism – The Benefits of the Mediator’s Work**

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**Q57. What hath Christ procured by his mediation?**

**A. Christ, by his mediation, hath procured redemption, with all other benefits of the Covenant of Grace.**



**(Christ has obtained redemption for his people with his own blood)**

**Hebrews 9:12:** <sup>12</sup>he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.

**(Christ’s life laid down as a ransom price)**

**Mark 10:45:** <sup>45</sup> For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

**(Christ gave himself as a ransom for all)**

**1 Timothy 2:6:** <sup>6</sup> who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

**(Long ago Job looked forward to Christ as his Redeemer)**

**Job 19:25:** <sup>25</sup> For I know that my Redeemer lives,  
and at the last he will stand upon the earth.

**(We are justified on the basis of redemption through Christ)**

**Romans 3:24:** <sup>24</sup> and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

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### **(Christ is made redemption to his people)**

**1 Corinthians 1:30:** <sup>30</sup> And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption,

### **(Redemption is through Christ’s blood)**

**Ephesians 1:7:** <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,

### **(Forgiveness of sins is based n redemption through Christ’s blood)**

**Colossians 1:14:** <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

### **(All benefits of the covenant of grace come to believers through Christ)**

**2 Corinthians 1:20:** <sup>20</sup> For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.

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**Q58. How do we come to be made partakers of the benefits which Christ hath procured?**

**A. We are made partakers of the benefits which Christ has procured, by the application of them unto us,<sup>1</sup> which is the work especially of God the Holy Ghost.**

**(Christ’s benefits applied to us)**

**John 1:11-12:** 11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

**(Regeneration by the Holy Spirit essential to salvation)**

**Titus 3:5-6:** 5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

**John 3:1-10:** 3:1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” <sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup> That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

<sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things?”

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**Q59. Who are made partakers of redemption through Christ?**

**A. Redemption is certainly applied, and effectually communicated, to all those for whom Christ hath purchased it;<sup>1</sup>who are in time by the Holy Ghost enabled to believe in Christ according to the gospel.**



**(Redemption effectually communicated to those for whom Christ purchased it)**

**Eph 1:13-14:** 13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

**John 6:37, 39:** 37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.

39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.

**John 10:15-16:** 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup> And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

**(Those for whom Christ purchased redemption are in time enabled to believe in him according to the gospel)**

**Ephesians 2:8:** <sup>8</sup> For <sup>z</sup>by grace you have been saved <sup>a</sup>through faith. And this is <sup>b</sup>not your own doing; <sup>c</sup>it is the gift of God,

**2 Corinthians 4:13:** 13 Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, “I believed, and so I spoke,” we also believe, and so we also speak,

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### **(Christ prays for those for whom he purchased redemption)**

**John 17:9:** <sup>9</sup> I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours.

### **(Those for whom redemption was purchased are in due time added to the church)**

**Acts 2:47:** <sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

### **(For a person to be saved by the gospel, the heart must be “opened” by the Lord)**

**Acts 16:14:** <sup>14</sup> for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses delivered to us.”

### **(God knows who his elect are, for whom redemption has been purchased, and to whom in due time it is to be applied)**

**Acts 18:9-11:** <sup>9</sup> And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, “Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, <sup>10</sup> for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people.” <sup>11</sup> And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

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***Q60. Can they who have never heard the gospel, and so know not Jesus Christ, nor believe in him, be saved by their living according to the light of nature?***

***A. They who, having never heard the gospel, know not Jesus Christ, and believe not in him, cannot be saved, be they never so diligent to frame their lives according to the light of nature, or the laws of that religion which they profess; neither is there salvation in any other, but in Christ alone, who is the Savior only of his body the church.***



**(The gospel message necessary for salvation)**

**Romans 10:14: 14** How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?

**(Those who do not know Jesus Christ are under divine condemnation because of their sin)**

**2 Thessalonians 1:8-9: 8** For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. **9** For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,

**Ephesians 2:12: 12** remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

**John 1:10-12: 10** He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. **11** He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. **12** But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

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### **(Faith in Jesus Christ necessary for salvation)**

**John 8:24:** <sup>24</sup> I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins.”

**Mark 16:16:** <sup>16</sup> Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

### **(There is no real knowledge of God, or salvation, apart from the preaching of the cross of Christ)**

**1 Corinthians 1:20-24:** <sup>20</sup> Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

### **(Careful living according to the light of nature, or any other religious system which a person may profess, not sufficient for salvation)**

**John 4:22:** <sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.

**Romans 9:31-32:** <sup>31</sup> but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law. <sup>32</sup> Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone,

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**Philippians 3:4-9:** <sup>4</sup> though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. <sup>7</sup> But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—

### **(There is no salvation except in Christ)**

**Acts 4:12:** <sup>12</sup> And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

### **(Christ is the Savior of only his body, the church)**

**Ephesians 5:23:** <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.



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***Q61. Are all they saved who hear the gospel, and live in the church?***

***A. All that hear the gospel, and live in the visible church, are not saved; but they only who are true members of the church invisible.***



**(There is a distinction between the external observable body of the people of God, who profess the true religion, and the body of those who truly know God and are really saved)**

**John 12:38-40:** 38 so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

“Lord, who has believed what he heard from us,  
and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”

John 12:39 Therefore they could not believe. For again Isaiah said,

John 12:40 “He has blinded their eyes  
and hardened their heart,  
lest they see with their eyes,  
and understand with their heart, and turn,  
and I would heal them.”

**Romans 9:6: 6** But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel,

**Matthew 7:21: 21** “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

**Romans 11:7: 7** What then? Israel failed to obtain what it was seeking. The elect obtained it, but the rest were hardened,

***Q62. What is the visible church?***

***A. The visible church is a society made up of all such as in all ages and places of the world do profess the true religion, and of their children.***



**(The visible church consists of those, of all times and places, who profess the true religion)**

**1 Corinthians 1:2:** To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

**1 Corinthians 12:13:** <sup>13</sup> For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

**Romans 15:9-12:** 9 and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles,  
and sing to your name.”

Rom. 15:10 And again it is said,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.”

Rom. 15:11 And again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples extol him.”

Rom. 15:12 And again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse will come,  
even he who arises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him will the Gentiles hope.”

**Revelation 7:9:** 9 After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands,

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**Psalm 2:8:** <sup>8</sup> Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,  
and the ends of the earth your possession.

**Psalm 22:27-31:** <sup>27</sup> All the ends of the earth shall remember  
and turn to the LORD,  
and all the families of the nations  
shall worship before you.  
<sup>28</sup> For kingship belongs to the LORD,  
and he rules over the nations.

**Psa. 22:29** All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship;  
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,  
even the one who could not keep himself alive.  
<sup>30</sup> Posterity shall serve him;  
it shall be told of the Lord to the coming “generation;  
<sup>31</sup> they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn,  
that he has done it.

**Psalm 45:7:** <sup>7</sup> you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.  
Therefore God, your God, has anointed you  
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;

**Matthew 28:18-20:** <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

**Isaiah 59:21** <sup>21</sup> “And as for me, this is my covenant with them,” says the LORD: “My Spirit that is upon you, and my words that I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth, or out of the mouth of your offspring, or out of the mouth of your children’s offspring,” says the LORD, “from this time forth and forevermore.”

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**(The children of those who profess the true religion are members of the visible church along with their parents, because they are included with their parents in the covenant promises of God)**

**1 Corinthians 7:14:** <sup>14</sup> For the unbelieving husband is made holy because of his wife, and the unbelieving wife is made holy because of her husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy.

**Acts 2:39:** <sup>39</sup> For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”

**Romans 11:16:** <sup>16</sup> If the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, so is the whole lump, and if the root is holy, so are the branches.

**Genesis 17:7:** <sup>7</sup> And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

**Q63. What are the special privileges of the visible church?**

**A. The visible church has the privilege of being under God’s special care and government; of being protected and preserved in all ages, notwithstanding the opposition of all enemies; and of enjoying the communion of saints, the ordinary means of salvation, and offers of grace by Christ to all the members of it in the ministry of the gospel, testifying, that whosoever believes in him shall be saved, and excluding none that will come unto him.**

**(The visible church is under God’s special care and government)**

**Isaiah 4:5-6:** 5 Then the LORD will create over the whole site of Mount Zion and over her assemblies a cloud by day, and smoke and the shining of a flaming fire by night; for over all the glory there will be a canopy. 6 There will be a booth for shade by day from the heat, and for a refuge and a shelter from the storm and rain.

**1 Timothy 4:10:** 10 For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.

**(The visible church is protected and preserved by God in all ages, in spite of the opposition of enemies)**

**Psalm 115:1-2:** 1 Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory,  
for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!

**Psa. 115:2** Why should the nations say,  
“Where is their God?”

**Isaiah 31:4-5:** 4 For thus the LORD said to me,  
“As a lion or a young lion growls over his prey,  
and when a band of shepherds is called out against him  
he is not terrified by their shouting  
or daunted at their noise,  
so the LORD of hosts will come down  
to fight on Mount Zion and on its hill.

5 Like birds hovering, so the LORD of hosts  
will protect Jerusalem;  
he will protect and deliver it;  
he will spare and rescue it.”

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**Zechariah 12:2-9:** 2 “Behold, I am about to make Jerusalem a cup of staggering to all the surrounding peoples. The siege of Jerusalem will also be against Judah. 3 On that day I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples. All who lift it will surely hurt themselves. And all the nations of the earth will gather against it. 4 On that day, declares the LORD, I will strike every horse with panic, and its rider with madness. But for the sake of the house of Judah I will keep my eyes open, when I strike every horse of the peoples with blindness. 5 Then the clans of Judah shall say to themselves, “The inhabitants of Jerusalem have strength through the LORD of hosts, their God.’

Zech. 12:6 “On that day I will make the clans of Judah like a blazing pot in the midst of wood, like a flaming torch among sheaves. And they shall devour to the right and to the left all the surrounding peoples, while Jerusalem shall again be inhabited in its place, in Jerusalem.

Zech. 12:7 “And the LORD will give salvation to the tents of Judah first, that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem may not surpass that of Judah. 8 On that day the LORD will protect the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the feeblest among them on that day shall be like David, and the house of David shall be like God, like the angel of the LORD, going before them. 9 And on that day I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

### **(The visible church enjoys the communion of the saints, and the ordinary means of salvation)**

**Acts 2:39, 42:** 39 For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”

42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

### **(The visible church enjoys the free offer of the gospel)**

**Psalm 147:19-20:** 9 He declares his word to Jacob,  
his statutes and rules to Israel.

<sup>20</sup> He has not dealt thus with any other nation;  
they do not know his rules.  
Praise the LORD!

**Romans 9:6:** 6 But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel,

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**Ephesians 4:11-12:** <sup>11</sup> And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

**Mark 16:16:** <sup>6</sup> Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

**(The ministry of the gospel, in the visible church, excludes no one willing to come to Christ)**

**John 6:37:** <sup>37</sup> All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.

***Q64. What is the invisible church?***

***A. The invisible church is the whole number of the elect, that have been, are, or will be gathered into one under Christ the head.***



**(The invisible church consists of all the elect of God, including all truly saved persons of past, present, and future))**

**Ephesians 1:10, 22-23:** 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

22 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

**John 10:16:** <sup>16</sup> And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

**John 11:52:** <sup>52</sup> and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad.

**(Elect persons who have not yet come to Christ are part of the invisible church)**

**Acts 18:9-10:** 9 And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, “Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, <sup>10</sup> for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people.”

**(Christ, in his high priestly prayer, made intercession for those who would believe in him in the future, thus recognizing them as part of the invisible church)**

**John 17:20:** 20 “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word,



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***Q65. What special benefits do the members of the invisible church enjoy by Christ?***

***A. The members of the invisible church by Christ enjoy union and communion with him in grace and glory.***

**NOTE: Question 65 is of the nature of a heading or summary of all the questions from 66 to 90. All these questions develop the doctrine which is summarized in 65.**



**(The Christian’s union and communion with Christ in grace)**

**John 17:21:** <sup>21</sup> that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

**Ephesians 2:5-6:** <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

**(The Christian’s union and communion with Christ in glory)**

**John 17:24:** <sup>24</sup> Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.