

ANCIENT ANSWERS

modern questions

The Heidelberg Catechism in the 21st Century

LORD'S DAY FIVE

12 Q. According to God's righteous judgment we deserve punishment both in this world and forever after: how then can we escape this punishment and return to God's favor?

- A. God requires that his justice be satisfied.¹
Therefore the claims of his justice
must be paid in full,
either by ourselves or another.²

13 Q. Can we pay this debt ourselves?

- A. Certainly not.
Actually, we increase our guilt every day.³

14 Q. Can another creature—;any at all—; pay this debt for us?

- A. No.
To begin with,
God will not punish another creature
for what a human is guilty of.⁴
Besides,
no mere creature can bear the weight
of God's eternal anger against sin
and release others from it.⁵

¹ Ex. 23:7; Rom. 2:1-11

² Isa. 53:11; Rom. 8:3-4

³ Matt. 6:12; Rom. 2:4-5

⁴ Ezek. 18:4, 20; Heb. 2:14-18

⁵ Ps. 49:7-9; 130:3

15 Q. What kind of mediator and deliverer should we look for then?

A. One who is truly human⁶ and truly righteous,⁷
yet more powerful than all creatures,
that is, one who is also true God.⁸

Sermon Notes

THE TENSION

The reality of _____ justice.

The _____ of a _____

ATTEMPTING TO GET OUT OF OUR MISERY

Pay for it _____

Make _____ pay

It would be _____

No mere creature can endure _____ wrath for others

THE TRUE DELIVERER

⁶ Rom. 1:3; 1 Cor. 15:21; Heb. 2:17

⁷ Isa. 53:9; 2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 7:26

⁸ Isa. 7:14; 9:6; Jer. 23:6; John 1:1