

Q. How are these articles divided?

A. *Into three parts: God the Father and our creation; God the Son and our deliverance; God the Holy Spirit and our sanctification.*

(Heidelberg Catechism 22-24)

***Hymn 55**

“To God Be the Glory”

To God be the glory, great things He has done!
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life-gate that we may go in.

Refrain:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,

Let the earth hear His voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,

Let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father thro' Jesus the Son,

And give Him the glory, great things He has done!

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!

To ev'ry believer the promise of God;

The vilest offender who truly believes,

That moment from Jesus forgiveness receives.

Refrain

Great things He has taught us, great things He has done,

And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;

But purer and higher and greater will be

Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

Refrain

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 12

Congregational Prayer

For this reason we also do not cease to praying, and to ask that we may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that we may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

(from Colossians 1:9-14)

***Hymn 213**

“What Child Is This”

What child is this, who, laid to rest,

On Mary's lap is sleeping?

Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,

While shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King,

Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:

Haste, haste to bring Him laud,

The babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce Him through;
The cross be borne for me, for you:
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, peasant, king, to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby:
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary.

New Testament Reading 2 Timothy 3:1-17

Message *"THE SECRET PLACE OF GOD'S FACE"*

***Hymn 699** "Like a River Glorious"

Like a river glorious is God's perfect peace,
Over all victorious, in its bright increase;
Perfect, yet it floweth fuller every day,
Perfect, yet it groweth deeper all the way.

Refrain:
Stayed upon Jehovah, hearts are fully blest
Finding, as He promised, perfect peace and rest.

Hidden in the hollow of His blessed hand,
Never foe can follow, never traitor stand;
Not a surge of worry, not a shade of care,
Not a blast of hurry touch the spirit there.

Refrain

Every joy or trial falleth from above,
Traced upon our dial by the Sun of Love;
We may trust Him fully, all for us to do;
They who trust Him wholly find Him wholly true.

Refrain

***God Blesses His People** 2 Corinthians 13:14

***Hymn 734** "Gloria Patri"

"THE SECRET PLACE OF GOD'S FACE"

Psalm 12: 2 Timothy 3:1-17

Prior to Psalm 12 David has been in several cyclones comprised of sharp and bitter words. But our text is the *clearest and most reassuring path* to the eye of the storm thus far. There is a place of safety far removed from the strife of tongues.

I. THE CRY FOR HELP! 1-2

A. Faithful People are Hard to Find

Micah 7:2; Prov 20:6; 2 Timothy 3:1ff; Prov 22:10; 26:20; 1 Cor 15:33. Prov 22:24-25. 1 Kings 19:18. Luke 9:50.

B. Faithlessness Revealed in False Speech

Eph 4:25; Heb 3:12-13.

II. AN APPEAL FOR GOD'S INTERVENTION 3-4

A. He Asks God to Silence Them!

B. They Have Faith in Their Words

III. GOD ARISES TO DELIVER! 5-8

A. God Will Put Us in His Hiding Place

Jer 36:26; Ps 31:20; Phil 4:6-7; Num 6:25; Ex 14:19-20;
1 Pet 2:23

B. The Contrary Nature of God's Words

"God's words are pure from all error, all mistake, all equivocation, all deception, all encouragement to sin, all weakness. They are more replete with meaning, with faithfulness, with grace than the best minds and the strongest faith have ever conceived or alleged. There is something amazing in the power of God's word. It differs from all other writings." Rom 6:23.

C. God Will Preserve the Righteous Until Judgment Comes

Conclusion