

#### Question 84

Q. How is the kingdom of heaven opened and closed by the preaching of the gospel?

A. According to the command of Christ, the kingdom of heaven is opened when it is proclaimed and publicly testified to each and every believer that God has really forgiven all their sins for the sake of Christ's merits, as often as they by true faith accept the promise of the gospel. The kingdom of heaven is closed when it is proclaimed and testified to all unbelievers and hypocrites that the wrath of God and eternal condemnation rest on them as long as they do not repent. According to this testimony of the gospel, God will judge both in this life and in the life to come.[1]

[1] [Mat 16:19](#); [Joh 3:31-36](#); [Joh 20:21-23](#).

#### Question 85

Q. How is the kingdom of heaven closed and opened by church discipline?

A. According to the command of Christ, people who call themselves Christians but show themselves to be unchristian in doctrine or life are first repeatedly admonished in a brotherly manner. If they do not give up their errors or wickedness, they are reported to the church, that is, to the elders. If they do not heed also their admonitions, they are forbidden the use of the sacraments, and they are excluded by the elders from the Christian congregation, and by God Himself from the kingdom of Christ.[1] They are again received as members of Christ and of the church when they promise and show real amendment.[2]

[1] [Mat 18:15-20](#); [1Co 5:3-5](#); [1Co 5:11-13](#); [2Th 3:14-15](#).

[2] [Luk 15:20-24](#); [2Co 2:6-11](#).

† † † † †

**Sunday Devotion** will resume January 8 2012.

# Cottonwood Community Church

January 1, 2012

First Sunday After Christmas

Sunday Devotion, 9:15 a.m.

Sunday Worship, 10:00 a.m.

[www.cottonwoodcommunitychurch.org](http://www.cottonwoodcommunitychurch.org) Welcome

Welcome

The Collect

**Genesis 12:1-4**

- 1. Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you.**
2. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.
- 3. I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."**

---

Hymn # 108 O Come O Come Emmanuel

Old Testament Reading: Deuteronomy 5:17-21

Hymn # 58 Joy To The World

Preparation for the Lord's Supper

**Let us rehearse the articles of our belief.**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into Hades.

The third day He arose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.

**What do we chiefly learn in these articles of our belief?**

First, I learn to believe in God the Father, who hath made me, and all the world.

Secondly, in God the Son, who hath redeemed me, and all mankind.

Thirdly, in God the Holy Ghost, who sanctifies me, and all the people of God.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Celebration of The Lord's Supper

Hymn # 59 O Come All Ye Faithful

New Testament Reading: Luke 11:1-4

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

---

**The Lord's Prayer Revisited**

Matthew 6:9-13

---

Congregational Prayer

Our Father, who art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy name.

Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

---

Hymn # 39 Lord dismiss Us with They Blessing

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.