



QUESTIONS FOR UNDERSTANDING & REFLECTION

The Biblical Worldview of the Saints (pp. 47 – 70)

1. Describe the image that God gave St. Catherine of Siena to explain the structure of reality. What was the image and what did it mean?
2. What, according to St. Catherine's *Dialogues*, are the four principle torments of hell?
3. Why is the sight of the devil so terrible for the damned?
4. Define "fear of the Lord."
5. How does one acquire true wisdom?
6. What are some of the blessings and privileges given to souls in Heaven?
7. What, according to St. Bernard, leads to growing confidence in God's love?
8. According to St. John of the Cross, what conclusions must a soul reach before seriously pursuing holiness and heaven?

9. What is the purpose of focusing on biblical passages about salvation, damnation, and gravity of sin?

10. What is the “big picture” St. Teresa of Avila presumes people must understand in order to progress in the spiritual life? What will keep that “big picture” in mind for people?

11. Reflect upon your relationship with God. Do you fear him in any way? Describe that fear. Is that fear a healthy fear of the Lord described in this chapter, or is it another kind?

12. Has a healthy fear of the Lord ever prevented you from making an unwise choice? If so, describe what happened. Next, describe an unwise choice that a healthier fear of the Lord would have prevented you from making.

13. Are there any choices you are making now that could lead you to choose hell?

14. Read Matthew 7:13-14. In what ways do Jesus’ words conflict with cultural attitudes about heaven and hell? With whom do you tend to agree more, Jesus or the culture?

15. In what ways does the culture in which you live – both your family and society at large, including media – pull *you* away from the “narrow” road that leads to heaven? What aspects of the culture do you still need to reject in order to proceed down the road of the “few”?