

# Lord's Day 23

## Heidelberg Catechism

### The Second Part – Of Man's Deliverance

#### Question 59

But what doth it profit thee now that thou believest all this?

#### Answer

That I am righteous in Christ, before God, and an heir of eternal life.<sup>1</sup>

#### Question 60

How art thou righteous before God?

#### Answer

Only by a true faith in Jesus Christ;<sup>2</sup> so that, though my conscience accuse me that I have grossly transgressed all the commandments of God, and kept none of them,<sup>3</sup> and am still inclined to all evil;<sup>4</sup> notwithstanding, God, without any merit of mine,<sup>5</sup> but only of mere grace,<sup>6</sup> grants<sup>7</sup> and imputes to me<sup>8</sup> the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ;<sup>9</sup> even so, as if I never had had nor committed any sin: yea, as if I had fully accomplished all that obedience which Christ has accomplished for me;<sup>10</sup> inasmuch as I embrace such benefit with a believing heart.<sup>11</sup>

*(Continued...)*

<sup>10</sup> **2 Cor. 5:21**

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

<sup>11</sup> **Rom. 3:28**

Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

**John 3:18**

He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

<sup>1</sup> **Rom. 5:1**

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

**Rom. 1:17**

For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, the just shall live by faith.

**John 3:36**

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

<sup>2</sup> **Rom. 3:22 ff**

Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

**Gal. 2:16**

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

**Eph. 2:8, 9**

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

<sup>3</sup> **Rom. 3:9 ff**

What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin;

<sup>4</sup> **Rom. 7:23**

But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

<sup>5</sup> **Rom. 3:24**

Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

<sup>6</sup> **Tit. 3:5**

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

**Eph. 2:8, 9**

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

<sup>7</sup> **Rom. 4:4, 5**

Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

**2 Cor. 5:19**

To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

<sup>8</sup> **1 John 2:1**

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

<sup>9</sup> **Rom. 3:24, 25**

Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

## Question 61

Why sayest thou that thou art righteous by faith only?

### Answer

Not that I am acceptable to God on account of the worthiness of my faith,<sup>12</sup> but because only the satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ is my righteousness before God;<sup>13</sup> and that I cannot receive and apply the same to myself any other way than by faith only.<sup>14</sup>

**12 Ps. 16:2**

O my soul, thou hast said unto the LORD, Thou art my Lord: my goodness extendeth not to thee;

**Eph. 2:8, 9**

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

**13 1 Cor. 1:30**

But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

**1 Cor. 2:2**

For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

**14 1 John 5:10**

He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.