

# The Righteousness of Christ



Lord's Day 23, Heidelberg Catechism

# Q #1: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

That I am not my own, but belong— body and soul, in life and in death— to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

# A Quick Overview

I. Misery

II. Deliverance

God the Father

God the Son



God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Sacraments

Holy Baptism

The Holy Supper of Jesus Christ

III. Gratitude

The Ten Commandments

The Lord's Prayer

## Last Week:

58. How does the article concerning  
“life everlasting” comfort you?

Even as I already now experience in my heart the beginning of eternal joy, so after this life I will have perfect blessedness such as no eye has seen,  
no ear has heard,  
no human heart has ever imagined: a blessedness in which to praise God forever.

# Tonight's Questions:

59. What good does it do you, however, to believe all this?

60. How are you righteous before God?

61. Why do you say that through faith alone you are righteous?

59. What good does it do you,  
however, to believe all this?

**Answer:** In Christ I am righteous  
before God and heir to life  
everlasting.

# Righteous before God

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

**John 3:36**

For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”

**Romans 1:17**

# Peace with God

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

**Romans 5:1-2**

## Oh, by the way:

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God\* through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

**Romans 5:1-2**

Some manuscripts: *Let us have peace with God*  
[εχωμεν vs. εχομεν]

## 60. How are you righteous before God?

**Answer:** Only by true faith in Jesus Christ. Even though my conscience accuses me of having grievously sinned against all God's commandments, of never having kept any of them, and of still being inclined toward all evil, nevertheless, without any merit of my own, out of sheer grace, God grants and credits to me the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ, as if I had never sinned nor been a sinner, and as if I had been as perfectly obedient as Christ was obedient for me. All I need to do is accept this gift with a believing heart.

# The Righteousness of God Through Faith

<sup>21</sup> But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— <sup>22</sup> the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.

# The Righteousness of God Through Faith

This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. <sup>26</sup> It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

<sup>27</sup> Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup> For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

**Romans 3:21-28**

# The Gift of Salvation

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

**Eph. 2:8-9**

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit. **Titus 3:4,5**

# Righteousness through Christ

Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. **Philippians 3:8-11**

# New Creation!

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

**II Corinthians 5:17-19**

61. Why do you say that through faith alone you are righteous?

Not because I please God by the worthiness of my faith. It is because only Christ's satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness make me righteous before God, and because I can accept this righteousness and make it mine in no other way than through faith.

# Sola Fide

And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

**I Corinthians 1:30-31**

For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

**Rom. 10:10**

# Pretty Straightforward, eh?

Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

**1 John 5:10-12**



Let us pray...

The Castle Church of Wittenberg, Germany