

LORD'S DAY 7

Q20. Are all people then saved through Christ just as they were lost through Adam?

A. No. Only those are saved who through true faith are grafted into Christ and accept all his benefits.¹

1. John 1:12 – “But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God,”

John 3:36 – “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever disobeys the Son will not see life, but must endure God’s wrath.”

Isa. 53:11 – “Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

Ps. 2:11[–12] – “Serve the Lord with fear, with trembling”

Rom. 11:17 – “But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, a wild olive shoot, were grafted in their place to share the rich root of the olive tree,”

Rom. 11:19 – “You will say, ‘Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.’”

Heb. 4:2 – “For indeed the good news came to us just as to them; but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened.”

Heb. 10:39 – “But we are not among those who shrink back and so are lost, but among those who have faith and so are saved.”

Q21. What is true faith?

A. True faith is not only a sure knowledge by which I hold as true all that God has revealed to us in Scripture;¹ it is also a wholehearted trust,² which the Holy Spirit³ creates in me by the gospel,⁴ that God has freely granted, not only to others but to me also, forgiveness of sins, eternal righteousness, and salvation.⁵ These are gifts of sheer grace, granted solely by Christ’s merit.⁶

1. Heb. 11:1, 3 – “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen...By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.”

James 2:19 – “You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder.”

2. Rom. 4:16[–25] – “For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us,”

James 1:6 – “But ask in faith, never doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind;”

Rom. 5:1 – “Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we[a] have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,”

Rom. 10[9–10] – “because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved.”

3. 2 Cor. 4[6, 13] – “For it is the God who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness’, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”

Eph. 2[8, 18] – “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—”

Matt. 16:17 – “And Jesus answered him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven.’”

John 3[5–]13 – “Jesus answered, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.’”

Gal. 5:22 – “By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness,”

Phil. 1:29 – “For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well”

4. Rom. 1:16 – “For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

Rom. 10:17 – So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

5. Heb. 2[:9–11] – “but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honour because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.”

Rom. 1[:16] – *ibid*

Heb. 10:38 – “but my righteous one will live by faith. My soul takes no pleasure in anyone who shrinks back.”

Hab. 2:4 – “Look at the proud! Their spirit is not right in them, but the righteous live by their faith.”

Matt. 9:2 – “And just then some people were carrying a paralyzed man lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, ‘Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.’”

Eph. 2:7–9 – “so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast.”

Rom. 5:1 – “Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,”

6. Eph. 2[:8] – “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—”

Rom. 3:24–25 – “they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed;”

Gal. 2:16 – “yet we know that a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. And we have come to believe in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by faith in Christ, and not by doing the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law.”

Q22. What then must a Christian believe?

A. All that is promised us in the gospel,¹ a summary of which is taught us in the articles of our universal and undisputed Christian faith.

1. John 20:31 – “But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.”

Matt. 28:20 – “and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Q23. What are these articles?

A. I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will 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 the life everlasting. Amen.