

LORD'S DAY 24

Q62. Why can't our good works be our righteousness before God, or at least a part of our righteousness?

A. Because the righteousness which can pass God's judgment must be entirely perfect and must in every way measure up to the divine law.¹ But even our best works in this life are imperfect and stained with sin.²

1. Gal. 3:10 – “For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all the things written in the book of the law.’”

Deut. 27:26 – “‘Cursed be anyone who does not uphold the words of this law by observing them.’ All the people shall say, ‘Amen!’”

2. Isa. 64:6 – “We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.”

Q63. How can our good works be said to merit nothing when God promises to reward them in this life and the next?

A. This reward is not earned; it is a gift of grace.¹

1. Luke 17:10 – “So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, ‘We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!’”

Q64. But doesn't this teaching make people indifferent and wicked?

A. No. It is impossible for those grafted into Christ through true faith not to produce fruits of gratitude.¹

1. Matt. [7]:18 – “A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.”