

LORD'S DAY 23

Q59. What good does it do you, however, to believe all this?

A. In Christ I am righteous before God and heir to life everlasting.¹

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

Rom. 1:17 – “For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith, as it is written, ‘The one who is righteous will live by faith.’”

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.”

Q60. How are you righteous before God?

A. Only by true faith in Jesus Christ.¹ Even though my conscience accuses me of having grievously sinned against all God’s commandments, of never having kept any of them,² and of still being inclined toward all evil,³ nevertheless, without any merit of my own,⁴ out of sheer grace,⁵ God grants and credits to me⁶ the perfect satisfaction,⁷ righteousness, and holiness of Christ,⁸ 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.⁹ All I need to do is accept this gift with a believing heart.¹⁰

1. Rom. 3:21–28 – “But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; 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 demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus. Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.”

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

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

Eph. 2:8–9 – “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.”

Phil. 3:9 – “and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith.”

2. Rom. 3:9[–18] – “What then? Are we any better off? No, not at all, for we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under the power of sin,”

3. Rom. 7:23 – “but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.”

4. 2 Tim. 3:5 – “holding to the outward form of godliness but denying its power. Avoid them!”

5. Rom. 3:24 – “they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus”

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”

6. Rom. 4:4 – “Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due.”

2 Cor. 5:19 – “that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.”

7. 1 John 2:2 – “and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.”

8. 1 John 2:1 – “My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous,”

9. 2 Cor. 5:21 – “For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

10. Rom. 3:22 – “the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction,”

John 3:18 – “Those who believe in him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.”

Q61. Why do you say that through faith alone you are righteous?

A. 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,¹ and because I can accept this righteousness and make it mine in no other way than through faith.²

1. 1 Cor. 1:30 – “In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption,”

1 Cor. 2:2 – “For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.”

2. 1 John 5:10 – “Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son.”