

## Lord's Day 23

*Suggested Devotional Readings Prior to Class*  
*Romans 3:19-26, Romans 6 & 7, John 1:1-18*

### **QUESTION 59.**

**But what does it help you now that you believe all this?**

ANSWER. In Christ I am righteous before God and heir to life everlasting.<sup>1</sup>

### **QUESTION 60.**

**How are you righteous before God?**

ANSWER. Only by true faith in Jesus Christ.<sup>1</sup> Although my conscience accuses me that I have grievously sinned against all God's commandments, have never kept any of them,<sup>2</sup> and am still inclined to all evil,<sup>3</sup> yet God, without any merit of my own,<sup>4</sup> out of mere grace,<sup>5</sup> imputes to me the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ.<sup>6</sup> He grants these to me as if I had never had nor committed any sin, and as if I myself had accomplished all the obedience which Christ has rendered for me,<sup>7</sup> if only I accept this gift with a believing heart.<sup>8</sup>

### **QUESTION 61.**

**Why do you say that you are righteous only by faith?**

ANSWER. Not that I am acceptable to God on account of the worthiness of my faith, for only the satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ is my righteousness before God.<sup>1</sup> I can receive this righteousness and make it mine by faith only.<sup>2</sup>

## **Proof Texts for Lord's Day 23**

### **Lords Day 23 [Q&A 59.1]**

Habakuk 2:4 “Behold, as for the proud one,  
His soul is not right within him;  
But the righteous will live by his faith.;

John 3:36 He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

Romans 1:17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “ But the righteous man shall live by faith.”

Romans 5:1, 2 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.

### **Lords Day 23 [Q&A 60.1]**

Romans 3:21-28 But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Where then is boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law of faith. For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.

Galatians 2:16 ...nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.

Ephesians 2:8, 9 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Philippians 3:8-11 More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;

### **Lords Day 23 [Q&A 60.2]**

*Romans 3:9, 10* What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one;"

### **Lords Day 23 [Q&A 60.3]**

*Romans 7:23* ...but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.

### **Lords Day 23 [Q&A 60.4]**

*Deuteronomy 9:6* "Know, therefore, that the Lord your God is not giving you this good land to possess because of your righteousness, for you are a stubborn people."

*Ezekiel 36:22* "Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord God: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came."

Titus 3:4, 5 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 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,...

### **Lords Day 23 [Q&A 60.5]**

Romans 3:24 ... and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,...

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,...

### **Lords Day 23 [Q&A 60.6]**

Romans 4:3-5 For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness,...

II Corinthians 5:17-19 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.

I John 2:1, 2 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. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

### **Lords Day 23 [Q&A 60.7]**

Romans 4:24, 25 ...but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

II Corinthians 5:21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God:...

### **Lords Day 23 [Q&A 60.8]**

John 3:18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

Acts 16:30, 31 Then he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

Romans 3:22 ...the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction;...

### **Lords Day 23 [Q&A 61.1]**

I Corinthians 1:30, 31; 2:2 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.” ...For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

### **Lords Day 23 [Q&A 61.2]**

Romans 10:10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

I John 5:10-12 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.