

Lord's Day 24

Suggested Devotional Readings Prior to Class

*Psalm 14, Matthew 6:1-18, Matthew 7:15-27, Matthew 25:31-46,
Philippians 3:1-16*

QUESTION 62.

But why can our good works not be our righteousness before God, or at least a part of it?

ANSWER. Because the righteousness which can stand before God's judgment must be absolutely perfect and in complete agreement with the law of God,¹ whereas even our best works in this life are all imperfect and defiled with sin.²

QUESTION 63.

But do our good works earn nothing, even though God promises to reward them in this life and the next?

ANSWER. This reward is not earned¹; it is a gift of grace.²

QUESTION 64.

Does this teaching not make people careless and wicked?

ANSWER. No. It is impossible that those grafted into Christ by true faith should not bring forth fruits of thankfulness.¹

Proof Texts for Lord's Day 24

Lords Day 24 [Q&A 62.1]

Deuteronomy 27:26 “‘Cursed be anyone who does not confirm the words of this law by doing them.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’”

Galatians 3:10 For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be every one who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.

Lords Day 24 [Q&A 62.2]

Isaiah 64:6 We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.

Lords Day 24 [Q&A 63.1]

Matthew 5:12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Hebrews 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Lords Day 24 [Q&A 63.2]

Luke 17:10 So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.’

II Timothy 4:7, 8 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

Lords Day 24 [Q&A 64.1]

Matthew 7:18 A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit.

Luke 6:43-45 For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not

gathered from thorn bushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.