

LORD'S DAY 24

Q62. WHY CAN'T OUR GOOD WORKS BE OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS BEFORE GOD OR AT LEAST A PART OF THAT RIGHTEOUSNESS?

*A. Because the righteousness
which can stand before the judgment seat of God,
must be entirely perfect
and must in every way measure up to the divine law.
But even our best works in this life
are all imperfect
and stained with sin.*

Galatians 3:10; Deuteronomy 27:26
Isaiah 64:6; James 2:10; Philippians. 3:12

Q63. HOW CAN OUR GOOD WORKS BE SAID TO MERIT NOTHING WHEN GOD PROMISES TO REWARD THEM IN THIS LIFE AND IN THE NEXT?

*A. The reward is not earned;
it is a gift of grace.*

Luke 17:10; Romans 11:6

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.*

Matthew 7:18; Romans 6:1-2; John 15:5

I suggest using a notebook to record your answers, thoughts, and questions that come to mind as you read the catechism and scripture. When we meet it will help to have something written that you can refer back to as we discuss the lessons and pray for each other.

As we enter the second part of the catechism our attention turns from our sin to our deliverance.

LORD’S DAY 23: June 11 – June 17, 2017

SUNDAY: Read questions and answers with all scripture references

MONDAY: Read Leviticus 19:1-2 and 1 Peter 1:14-16

Have you ever been in or perhaps watched a competition where every detail of your performance is judged? How is righteousness that can pass God’s judgement different from this idea of being judged?

TUESDAY: What does it mean to “earn” something?

WEDNESDAY: Read Ephesians 2:8-10

Who plans our “good works?” Who gives us the desire to do “good works?” Who gives us the ability to do “good works?”

THURSDAY: “Fear of punishment and hope of reward” is there anything wrong with this type of motivation?

FRIDAY: Define “gratitude”

How is gratitude cultivated and how is it shown?

SATURDAY: Read the corresponding essay in *THE GOOD NEWS WE ALMOST FORGOT*