

Lord's Day 24

Heidelberg Catechism

The Second Part – Of Man's Deliverance

Question 62

But why cannot our good works be the whole or part of our righteousness before God?

Answer

Because that the righteousness which can be approved of before the tribunal of God must be absolutely perfect, and in all respects conformable to the divine law;¹ and also, that our best works in this life are all imperfect and defiled with sin.²

Question 63

What! Do not our good works merit, which yet God will reward in this and in a future life?

Answer

This reward is not of merit, but of grace.³

Question 64

But doth not this doctrine make men careless and profane?

Answer

By no means; for it is impossible that those who are implanted into Christ by a true faith should not bring forth fruits of thankfulness.⁴

1 Gal. 3:10

For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

Deut. 27:26

Cursed be he that confirmeth not all the words of this law to do them. And all the people shall say, Amen.

2 Isa. 64:6

But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

3 Luke 17:10

So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.

4 Matt. 7:17, 18

Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

John 15:5

I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.