

In the past several Lord's Days, we have been studying those things necessary for the Christian to believe (the articles of the Apostolic Creed). This Lord's Day presents us with the tremendous profit or benefit we have because we believe all this.

A. Answer these questions.

1. What are the two chief benefits of believing all the truths contained in the Apostolic Creed? _____ and _____

a. What is it to be righteous? _____

b. What is an heir? _____

c. Does an heir inherit something because he has earned it, or does he receive the inheritance as a free gift? _____

2. What is the conscience? (Discuss this with your parents, if you are not sure.)

a. Is the conscience a trustworthy guide? _____

b. Try to give examples of saints in Scripture whose conscience bothered them.

c. According to this Lord's Day, of what three things may the conscience accuse us?
 _____, _____,
 and _____

d. In addition to the testimony of our conscience, what other testimony or speech does the child of God have within him? _____

3. Despite the accusation of the conscience, what does God impute to His children?

_____, _____,
 and _____

a. On what basis does God impute or grant these things? _____

b. Is faith the work of man, or is faith the free gift of God? _____
 Quote a text to prove this. " _____
 _____"

4. Let us look carefully at the phrase, "Righteous by faith alone."

a. "By faith alone" certainly eliminates any idea of _____
 _____.

b. Does faith itself justify or make righteous? _____ How then does faith justify? (Read Article 22 of the Belgic Confession.) _____

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c. Once again, therefore, we see that faith is not only believing but it is the living _____ that unites us to Christ.

B. Thought questions.

1. Read the three answers of this Lord's Day again. Upon whom or what is all the emphasis placed in each answer? _____ Is this the same emphasis that the Bible itself has? _____

2. A poet has written:

“My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus’ name.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.”

a. Hope looks to the future. To what future event especially does the Christian’s hope look with confidence? _____

b. “Sweetest frame” and “sinking sand” are really the same thing. In your own words tell what these phrases refer to. _____

c. The Bible calls Christ a Rock and a Stone. In what respect is Christ a solid rock? _____

3. We must agree with this Lord's Day when it tells us that we have grossly transgressed all the commandments of God, and kept none of them. In what way is this true of us?

