

This Lord's Day takes a careful look at the relationship between righteousness and works, and also between grace and works. There may be misunderstanding on these vital doctrines!

A. The justice of God demands a perfect righteousness.

1. By virtue of the fact that God is the only true God, the God of all authority, He is the one who constantly judges all things.

a. Quote these passages that speak of God's perfect righteousness.

1) Deuteronomy 32:4 — " \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_."

2) I John 1:5, 6 — " \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_."

b. The very best works which the child of God can do in this life are far from perfect; they are stained or defiled with sin.

1) Mention several works or activities of the child of God that are or should be the best that he ever performs. \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_

2) Show how even these works are defiled with sin. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3) All this is taught in Isaiah 64:6, which states, " \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_."

2. Let us consider for a moment the possibility that our works were perfect (which they surely are not). Could our works then merit with God? \_\_\_\_\_

a. In military life there is something called "above and beyond the call of duty." A soldier can perform acts of bravery and heroism that no commander can expect of his soldiers. Such deeds are rewarded and recognized with medals: the medal of honor, the legion of merit, etc.

1) Is it possible for man to do anything that is above and beyond the call of duty that comes from God? \_\_\_\_\_ Explain. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2) Quote Luke 17:10 to prove your answer. " \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_."

b. Read Romans 11:6 carefully. In this passage, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are put in contrast. Either we are saved by \_\_\_\_\_ and then we

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have cause to boast, or we are saved by \_\_\_\_\_ and we can never, never boast.

- c. It is true that God rewards us according to our works. (See Rev. 22:12.) But this reward is always of grace, because the works which we perform are God's gift to us, and not ours to Him (see Eph. 2:8-10). In other words, God chose us in grace, sent Christ in His grace, prepared good works for us to walk in by His grace, and rewards us by His grace. It is all grace, and grace is undeserved favor!
  - d. Circle the words in the following list that belong together, being consistent with the above discussion: works, merit, reward, earn, grace, inheritance, wages, gift.
- B. The last part of our Lord's Day deals with the question of what the doctrine of pure grace does to the spiritual life of a person. Does this doctrine make men careless and profane? \_\_\_\_\_
- 1. Let us understand how the argument goes. If our works cannot add to our righteousness before God, and the sins which we commit cannot subtract from it, will man not come to the conclusion that it doesn't make any difference what he does or how he lives? Will not man become careless and profane (wicked), since he is saved alone by grace in Christ? We ought to notice that this charge was brought against the teaching of the apostle Paul as we find it in Romans 5. The apostle senses that some might think that this is an excuse for sinful living.
    - a. Quote his answer, found in Romans 6:2. " \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_."
    - b. From verses 4 and 7, quote the phrases that prove that the doctrine of salvation by grace alone does not lead to a careless and profane life. " \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, " " \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_."
  - 2. Positively, the Catechism tells us that it is impossible for those who are engrafted into Christ *not* to bring forth fruits of thankfulness or good works.
    - a. Being engrafted into Christ means that as branches we live out of the vine which is Christ. Quote John 15:5. " \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_."
    - b. According to John 15:2 and 6, what happens to those people (branches) who do not bring forth fruit? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
    - c. Mention some good works which are the fruit of salvation. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_