

## New City Catechism Class

### Week Thirteen

**Q13:** Can anyone keep the law of God perfectly?

**A13:** Since the fall, no mere human has been able to keep the law of God perfectly, but consistently breaks it in thought, word, and deed.

**Romans 3:10-12**

None is righteous, no, not one;

no one understands;

no one seeks for God.

All have turned aside; together they have become worthless;

no one does good,

not even one. (ESV)

Discuss the question:

- Why ask this question at this point in the catechism?
- Why is it important to use the word 'perfectly'?

Discuss the Scripture (vv. 9-20):

- Who is under sin (v. 9)?
- What does it mean to be under sin (v. 9)?
- What does Paul mean when he uses the language of charging (v. 9)?
- What does 'as it is written:' communicate (v. 10)?
- What do verses 10-12 emphatically say?
- For what purpose(s), given in verse 19, does the law speak?
- What are the works of the law?
- Can we be justified in the sight of God by works of the law?

Discuss the answer in light of the Scripture:

- What is being communicated by 'since the fall' in the answer?
- What is being communicated by the word 'mere' in the answer?
- According to Romans 3:9-20 has anyone kept the law of God perfectly?
- What do we do 'consistently'?
- In light of this consistency, should we be active or passive in our fight against sin?
- How do verses 13-14 inform how we think about breaking the law of God in word?