

New City Catechism Class
Week Nineteen

Q19: Is there any way to escape punishment and be brought back into God's favor?

A19: Yes, to satisfy his justice, God himself, out of mere mercy, reconciles us to himself and delivers us from sin and the punishment for sin, by a Redeemer.

Isaiah 53:10-11

Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him;
 he has put him to grief;
when his soul makes an offering for guilt,
 he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;
the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.
Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied;
by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,
 make many to be accounted righteous,
 and he shall bear their iniquities. (ESV)

Discuss the question:

- How does question 19 relate to question 18?

Discuss the Scripture:

- Who is being crushed and by whom?
- Is this person guilty? (see verse 11)
- What is meant by an offering for guilt? (Lev 5:1-6:7)
- What happens in verse 10 when his soul makes an offering for guilt?
- In verse 11, what is the response of this person out of the anguish of his soul?
- How does the servant make many to be accounted righteous?
- What does it mean to be accounted righteous?

Discuss the answer in light of the Scripture:

- How does God satisfy his justice?
- Who reconciles us?
- What does it mean to be reconciled?
- From what are we delivered?
- By what means are we delivered?
- Did God have to do this?
- Why was it the will of the Lord to crush Christ?

[In Christ] we have a righteous life that satisfies the justice of God for us and an atoning death that satisfies the justice of God for us. This great exchange is the heart of the gospel itself.

—Mika Edmondson