

New City Catechism Class

Week Twenty-Seven

Q27: Are all people, just as they were lost through Adam, saved through Christ?

A27: No, only those who are elected by God and united to Christ by faith. Nevertheless God in His mercy demonstrates common grace even to those who are not elect, by restraining the effects of sin and enabling works of culture for human well-being.

Romans 5:17 “For if, because of one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.” (ESV)

Discuss the question:

- What does the question mean?
- Why ask this question?
- What are some Scriptures that seem to suggest universalism?

Discuss the Scripture:

- What was the “one man’s trespass”? Why might Paul have used the word “trespass”?
- What does Paul contrast with Adam’s trespass? (cf. v 18 and 19)
- What does Paul mean by “death reigned”?
- What is the primary contrast between Adam’s trespass and Christ’s free gift of righteousness?
- Who was made subject to the reign of death because of Adam?
- Who receives the “abundance of grace” because of Christ?
- What are some Scriptures that make it clear that salvation is not universal?

Discuss the answer in light of the Scripture:

- What is the connection between those whom God elected and Christ?
- How is this similar to our connection with Adam?
- Why aren’t all people connected to Christ in the same way they are connected to Adam?
- What is the difference between general revelation and common grace?
- Why is it important to understand common grace?
- How does God’s common grace help us to explain the world as it is?

*What should the truth that not everyone is automatically saved
by Christ’s cross work compel us to do?*

*Does the reality of condemnation move you to compassion for the lost,
or are you suffering from indifference?*