

# New City Catechism Class

Week 29

**Q29:** How can we be saved?

**A29:** Only by faith in Jesus Christ and in his substitutionary atoning death on the cross; so even though we are guilty of having disobeyed God and are still inclined to all evil, nevertheless, God, without any merit of our own but only by pure grace, imputes to us the perfect righteousness of Christ when we repent and believe in him.

## **Ephesians 2:8–9**

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

### **Discuss the question:**

- What makes this question so important?
- What's implied in asking "How can we be saved"?
- Why ask this question now (after question 28)?
- What kind of the answers we might get to this question if we asked in various contexts?
- Is this a necessary question for us to be asking people?

### **Discuss the Scripture:**

- What does it mean to be "saved by *grace*"?
- How are we saved "through faith"?
- How is this not our own doing but instead a gift from God?
- Why contrast this with the belief that it could be accomplished by works?
- Why should boasting be excluded? (Eph 2:9, Rom 3:27)

### **Discuss the answer in light of the Scripture:**

- Many people have "faith" or "beliefs"... What makes your faith a faith that saves?
- Why is it *only* by faith in Jesus Christ that we can be saved?
- How does Christ's "substitutionary atoning death" clarify that it is not our doing?
- How does Christ's "substitutionary atoning death" reinforce His claim that He is the only way to the Father?
- Are we really inclined to all evil before conversion? Can't non-believers do good things?
- What does it mean to have Christ's Perfect righteousness imputed to us? How is that different from a righteousness you obtain?
- What is the connection between belief and repentance?