

New City Catechism Class

Week Thirty-four

Q34: Since we are redeemed by grace alone, through Christ alone, must we still do good works and obey God's Word?

A34: Yes, because Christ, having redeemed us by his blood, also renews us by his Spirit; so that our lives may show love and gratitude to God; so that we may be assured of our faith by the fruits; and so that by our godly behavior others may be won to Christ.

1 Peter 2:9-12

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation. (ESV)

Discuss the question:

- What does "by grace alone" mean?
- What does "through Christ alone" mean?
- Since justification is by faith alone, why is this question a "natural" one to ask?
- Does this question relate more to justification or to sanctification?

Discuss the Scripture:

- How are the redeemed described in verse 9?
- What contrasts do we see in verses 9 and 10?
- What does Peter call us to do in light of our identity?
- How might these things take shape in our day-to-day lives?

Discuss the answer in light of the Scripture:

- What does it mean that Christ redeemed us by his blood?
- What does it mean that Christ renews us by his Spirit?
- How do we show gratitude to God?
- How do we assess our faith by the fruits?
- How does God use our godly behavior to win others to Christ?
- How should we respond when our conduct among unbelievers is not honorable? How might God use these responses?

So, then, dear friends, these good works must be in the Christian. They are not the root, but the fruit of the salvation. They are not the way of the believer's salvation; they are his walk in the way of salvation.

C. H. Spurgeon