

New City Catechism Class

Week Thirty-Five

Q35: Since we are redeemed by grace alone, through faith alone, where does this faith come from?

A35: All the gifts we receive from Christ we receive through the Holy Spirit, including faith itself.

Titus 3:4-6 “But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.” (ESV)

Discuss the question:

- What is redemption?
- What is the tension between the concepts of “grace alone” and “faith alone”?
- Why is this question relevant today?

Discuss the Scripture:

- According to Paul, what motivated God to save us?
- What are the distinctions among goodness, lovingkindness, and mercy; and how do each of these reveal different aspects of our salvation?
 - Goodness:
 - Lovingkindness (literally *philanthropy*):
 - Mercy:
- Why is the phrase “in righteousness” so important in helping us to identify the deficiency of “works done by us”?
- What is the difference between regeneration and renewal? What does this refer to?
- What is the relationship between the hearing of the gospel and the faith-giving work of the Holy Spirit (cf. John 17:17; Romans 10:17; Ephesians 5:26)?
- What does this passage indicate is another of Christ’s gifts when saved (cf. Acts 2:28)?

Discuss the answer in light of the Scripture:

- Mica Edmondson says this is “a question best asked in retrospect.” Why might he think this? How should we counsel/exhort the unbeliever in respect to faith?
- Why might our personal experiences cause us confusion with respect to the origin of our faith?
- Francis Schaeffer wrote, “We do nothing for our salvation because Christ did it all. We do not have to do anything.” What do you think of these statements?
- How would change if we truly believed this answer...
 - In respect to our reactions to our disordered world?
 - In respect to how we share the gospel?
 - In respect to how we view church growth?
 - In respect to how we view ourselves in relation to others?