

Lord's Day 25: Questions 61-63

Introduction:

There are only two types of religion in the world; Do and Done!

Key Thought: Our salvation is all a work of grace and is all to the glory of God. We have done nothing to earn it and we do not work to keep it, however, Christian's desire to do good works to please their Savior

Question 61: Why can't our good works be righteousness, or some part of righteousness, before God?

Answer: Because the righteousness which must stand fast before the judgement of God, must be in all points perfect and agreeable to the law of God (a). Now our works, even the best of them, are imperfect in this life and defiled with sin (b)

(a) Deut 27:26; Gal 3:10, (b) Isa 64:6

1. Man is a fallen creature and is incapable of doing good (not as measured by man, but by God)
 - a. Isa 64:6, Rom 3:23
2. There is no work that, even when mingled with faith can justify man before God (Rom 3:24-27, Eph 2:8-9)
3. If our works were part of salvation, then Christ would not have needed to die for our sins, and we could boast about our decision to receive Christ as Savior (Gal 2:16, Gal 2:21, Gal 3:21)
4. Saving faith comes before and is followed by good works (i.e., works of righteousness)
 - a. Example of Abraham
 - i. Believed God with a saving faith (Gen 15:6, Rom 4:3)
 - ii. Righteous works followed (Jas 2:21-24, Gen 22)

Question 62: How is it that our good works merit nothing, seeing God promises that He will give a reward for them both in this life and in the life to come?

Answer: That reward is not given of merit, but of grace (a)

(a) Luke 17: 10

1. Good works are an expected result of a born-again believer (Luke 17:10, Mat 25:14-30)
 - a. It is presupposed by the Lord that His true servants will do righteous works and give of themselves for His Kingdom
 - b. Those who show no works are not truly His (Mat 25: 30)
2. Those in heaven know who deserves the praise for their rewards (Rev 4:10-11)
3. Rewards are promised to those who already know Him
 - a. For those who are reviled and hated (Mat 5:11-12)
 - b. All work according to their ability and the works will be tried by fire (1 Cor 3:8-15)
 - c. Those who remain steadfast and disciplined (2 Jn 8)
 - d. Rewards will be given to those who know Christ and work for Him upon His return (Rev 22:12)
4. Even our rewards are only because of the grace and mercy of God.

Question 63: But does not this doctrine make men careless and profane?

Answer: No. Those who are incorporated into Christ through faith, necessarily bring forth fruits of thankfulness (a)

(a) Matt 7:18; John 15:5

1. Paul anticipates this question and answers it (Rom 6:1-2)
2. A born-again Christian:
 - a. Shows evidence of being saved by bearing fruit (Mat 7:18, John 15:5)
 - b. A new creation (2 Cor 5:17)
 - c. New desires (Psa 100:2)
 - d. Cannot go unpunished if sinning (Heb 12:6-8)

Questions

1. Why does human reasoning lead people to believe they must do something in order to be justified with God?
2. Why does human nature resist the truth that there is no hope for salvation by any type of works?
3. What is Christian legalism, and why is it a heavy weight for true Christians to carry?
4. Do you feel like you earned rewards in heaven? Why is that good, and why is that dangerous?
5. Do you ever feel that you can sin because you are saved, and it really doesn't matter?