

CatClub: Question 25



1. Recap: In last week's Catechism session we learnt why Jesus had to die. We saw that death is the penalty for sin and that Jesus died willingly in our place, taking the punishment that we deserve upon himself. In this way he delivered us from the penalty for sin, and from its power over us, rescuing us from punishment in hell and granting us forgiveness, righteousness (=a right standing before God) and everlasting life.

Q25 now asks: Does Christ's death mean all our sins can be forgiven? Answer: **Yes! Since Christ's death on the cross fully paid the penalty for our sin, God graciously imputes Christ's righteousness to us (=credits his righteousness as ours) as if it were our own and will remember our sins no more.**

2. Investigation

Please look up:

(a) (In the New Testament) Romans chapter 6, verse 23. This tells us that, although the consequence of sin is death (not just physical death, but spiritual death in hell after we die), **God gives us the free gift of eternal life if we have faith in Jesus, i.e. if we really trust him.**

(b) (Again, in the New Testament) Romans chapter 4, verse 3. Going back to the Old Testament, this verse refers to Genesis chapter 15, verse 6 where it says: **'And he (Abraham) believed the LORD (GOD), and he (God) counted it to him as righteousness.'** What this means is that, when we truly believe and trust in God (and Jesus), **God treats us as if we are perfectly righteous and sinless**, even though we aren't. This is called the imputation of Jesus' righteousness to us, so that **when God looks at us (spiritually speaking) he doesn't count us as sinners, but instead sees us as if we are clothed in his Son's perfect righteousness.**

Note: **Imputation** means to count something as belonging to us even though it actually doesn't.

(c) (Again, in the New Testament) Hebrews chapter 8, verse 12. What a wonderful promise: **God will not remember our sins anymore!** (This goes back to a promise made through the prophet Jeremiah about six hundred years before Jesus – see in the Old Testament: Jeremiah chapter 31, verses 31-34.)

>>>Next week we answer the question: What else does Christ's death redeem?

This week's two songs: 'Forgiven':

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9v3v1C8K0mc>

'My Righteousness':

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yaKXBaR-TXQ>

Romans 6:23

²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 4:3

³ For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.”

Genesis 15:6

⁶ And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

Hebrews 8:12

**¹² For I will be merciful toward their iniquities,
and I will remember their sins no more.**

Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. ³³ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ And no longer shall each one teach his neighbour and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”