

CatClub: Question 33



1. Recap. Last week we looked at the topics of justification and sanctification and we learnt that both are essential to be a Christian. Justification means that, when we trust in Jesus for salvation, we are declared righteous before God - which is made possible by Christ's death and resurrection for us, despite the fact that we are actually still sinful. Sanctification refers to our gradual, growing righteousness, made possible by the Holy Spirit's work in us – so that we become more and more able to obey God's Commandments, thus becoming more like Jesus himself and putting sin to death in our lives.

Q33 now asks: Should those who have faith in Christ seek their salvation through their own works, or anywhere else? **Answer:** **No, they should not, as everything necessary to salvation is found in Christ. To seek salvation through good works is a denial that Christ is the only Redeemer and Saviour.**

Note: 'Works' in this question and answer means **the things that we do, e.g. trying to obey God's Commandments.**

2. Investigation

Please look up:

a) (In the New Testament) Romans chapter 3, verse 23. This verse makes it clear that **all people are sinners and fall short of God's perfect standard.**

b) (In the New Testament) John chapter 14, verse 6. Here Jesus tells us clearly that **no one comes to God the Father except through him**. This means (a) that there is no person in any other religion through whom we can approach God, and (b) that **we cannot approach God on the basis of anything we have done, however good**. The reason is that we would have to think, speak and act perfectly all the time, which is impossible because of our sinfulness. Only Jesus has ever done this.

c) (In the New Testament) Galatians chapter 2, verse 16. **Here Paul, the author, explains that nobody is justified (declared righteous) by works of the law (=trying to obey God's Commandments), but through faith in Jesus Christ.** This means that we can never do enough to 'get into God's good books'. All we can do is trust Jesus and then, by the power of Holy Spirit, we are freed up to live a life pleasing to God. Put another way, doing good things cannot save us, because they'll never be good enough; however, doing good things by the power of the Holy Spirit within us is proof of our gratitude for what God has done in sending his Son to save us from our sins.

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

This weeks' songs: 'In Christ alone' https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ENtL_li4GbE
'Amazing Grace' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CDdvReNKKuk>

Romans 3:23

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

John 14:6

⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Galatians 2:16

¹⁶ yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.