

## CatClub: Question 27



**1. Recap.** Last week we learnt that God's plan isn't just to make a new humanity (Christians by faith in Jesus), but to make a whole new universe one day – which is called the 'New Heaven and the New Earth'. We considered how wonderful it will be to live in a perfect world, free from human sin, a spoiled environment and natural disasters, when Jesus returns.

**Q27 now asks:** Are all people, just as they were lost through Adam, saved through Christ? **Answer:** **No, only those who are elected by God and united to Christ by faith. Nevertheless, God in his mercy demonstrates common grace even to those who are not elect, by restraining the effects of sin and enabling works of culture for human well-being.**

**Explanation:** This answer brings up two important issues. Firstly, '**election**' (also called '**predestination**'), which describes the fact that, before the creation of the universe, certain people were 'elected' (=chosen) by God to be saved (because human beings cannot choose to save themselves); and secondly, '**common grace**', which describes God's everyday kindness to *all* human beings (but which does not include saving them from their sins).

**2. Investigation - Please look up:**

a) (In the New Testament) **1 Peter chapter 1, verses 1-2**. Here you'll notice that the people Peter (the disciple) is writing to are called 'elect exiles', in other words they are Christians exiled (=scattered) in various different geographical locations who have been '**elected**' (=chosen) by God to be saved. It is, of course, a mystery why God chooses to save some and not others, but it's not something that should worry us. All it means is that, if we are Christians, we know that it is because God has been kind to us and saved us – something we can't do for ourselves because of sin.

b) (In the New Testament) **2 Corinthians chapter 5, verse 17**. Here we read 'if anyone is **in Christ**, he is a new creation'. Being 'in Christ' means **being united to him by faith**.

c) (In the New Testament) **Matthew chapter 5, verses 44-45**. Here Jesus says that his Father makes the sun shine and sends rain on both Christians and non-Christians. In other words, **he gives good things to everyone**. This is called **God's common grace** - and many of these good things, such as law, government, the arts, etc. help to stop the worst effects of sin. Human beings, although all are sinful, are therefore not as bad as they could be.

>>>Next week: **What happens after death to those not united to Christ by faith?**

**This week's songs - 'We look to you':**

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

'Lord, have mercy':

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qgUzA9EuC9E>

## **1 Peter 1:1-2**

To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, <sup>2</sup> according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

## **2 Corinthians 5:17**

<sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

## **Matthew 5:44-45**

<sup>44</sup> But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup> so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.