

CatClub: Question 29



1. Recap. Last week we learnt that God's is a moral universe where, in the end, no-one will be able to escape justice - and that the important question which everyone will have to face when Jesus returns as Judge is whether they have trusted him for the forgiveness of their sins and lived their lives accordingly. If not, after death they will spend eternity in hell which is a place of horrifying and never-ending punishment. No wonder we should want everyone to come to trust the Lord Jesus.

Q29 now asks: How can we be saved? **Answer:** **Only by faith in Jesus Christ and his substitutionary atonement on the cross; so even though we are guilty of having disobeyed God and are still inclined to all evil, nevertheless, God, without any merit of our own but only by pure grace, imputes to us the righteousness of Christ when we repent and believe in him.**

Explanation: This answer tells us that there is only one Saviour and that there is nothing we can do to merit (=earn) salvation. It also tells us that, when we repent (=turn away from our sins) and believe in Jesus, God the Father regards us as perfectly righteous – i.e. as perfectly righteous as Jesus himself. All this takes place by God's grace (see below) and is received by faith (also see below).

2. Investigation

Please look up:

a) (In the New Testament) John chapter 14, verse 6. This famous verse tells us that **there is only way to God, i.e. by Jesus Christ.** There is no other Saviour and no other religion that can lead us to God. Only Christianity teaches this fundamental truth. And Jesus doesn't just point the way to God, **he is the way to God**, through his perfect life and his sacrifice for our sins on the cross.

b) (In the New Testament) Ephesians chapter 2, verses 8-9. This is worth quoting here in full, because it is so important: **'For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast'**. There are three vital things to understand here: first, that when we are saved it is **by grace alone**, i.e. only because of God's mercy, which we don't deserve; second, that we receive salvation **by faith alone**, i.e. only by trusting in Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins; thirdly, **that we can never do enough** (that's what 'works' means) **to earn salvation for ourselves.** We can never work our way into God's good books.

>>>Next week's question: What is faith in Jesus Christ?

This week's songs:

'Only by grace can we enter' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-ixkmBOIUE>

'On faith alone' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m3e5OsBurYc>

John 14:6

⁶ Jesus said to him (i.e. Thomas), “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.