

CatClub Question 34



1. Recap. Last week we asked whether those who have faith in Christ should look for their salvation through their own works (i.e. good deeds), or anywhere else. The answer was no, because everything necessary to salvation is found in Christ. To try and find salvation through good works is to deny that Christ is the only Redeemer and Saviour.

Q34 now asks: Since we are redeemed by grace alone, through Christ alone, must we still do good works and obey God's word (=the Bible)? **Answer: Yes, because Christ, having redeemed us by his blood, also renews us by his Spirit (i.e. the Holy Spirit), so that our lives may show love and gratitude to God; so that we may be assured of our faith by the fruits; and so that by our godly behaviour others may be won to Christ.**

Note: if we cannot be saved on the basis of anything we do (no matter how hard we try), what does Christianity have to say about the role of 'good works', i.e. living in obedience to God's Commandments - which are all about loving God and loving other people?

2. Investigation - please look up:

a) (In the New Testament) John chapter 14, verses 15-17. Here Jesus promises that **he will send the Holy Spirit to live within believers forever, to help us and to teach us the truth** (through the Bible).

b) (In the New Testament) Titus chapter 3, verses 4-5. This verse makes it clear that Christians are **regenerated** (=given new spiritual life) and **renewed** (=changed spiritually so that we can obey God) by the Holy Spirit who comes to live within us when we become Christians.

c) (In the New Testament) James chapter 1, verse 22. The key instruction here is for those who call themselves Christians not simply to be hearers of the word, but to be **doers of the word.** The 'word' here means the word of God, i.e. the Bible. So Christians are to be those who read the Bible and put it into practice in their lives. Special attention is to be paid to obeying the Ten Commandments as laid out in Exodus chapter 20, verses 1-17 (in the Old Testament) and to Jesus' summary of them in Matthew chapter 22, verses 37-39. **And the promise is that the Holy Spirit will help us.**

To sum up: Christians are not saved on the basis of our 'good works'; however, we are saved **for** good works, i.e. to give glory and praise to God and to prove the reality of our faith.

>>>Next week's question: Since we are redeemed by grace alone, through faith alone, where does this faith come from?

This weeks' songs:

'Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me':

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zundjUFazfg&list=RDEMneBVV3ubqkrV1mzwMJs8vg&start_radio=1

'I will follow': <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ohvhmGSfxl>

John 14:15-17

¹⁵ “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

Titus 3:4-5

⁴ But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Saviour appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit...

James 1:22

²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

Exodus 20:1-17

²⁰ And God spoke all these words, saying,

² “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

³ “You shall have no other gods before me.

⁴ “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷ “You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

⁸ **“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.** ⁹ Six days you shall labour, and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

¹² **“Honour your father and your mother,** that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³ **“You shall not murder.**

¹⁴ **“You shall not commit adultery.**

¹⁵ **“You shall not steal.**

¹⁶ **“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.**

¹⁷ **“You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbour's.”**

Matthew 22:37-39

³⁷ And he said to him (one of the Pharisees, a lawyer), **“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.** ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: **You shall love your neighbour as yourself.**