

***Bearing the Fruits of Gratitude***

**Romans 3:9-31**

**Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Days 23-24**

Main Point:

You are right with God only because of His unmerited grace in Jesus Christ; therefore, bear the fruits of gratitude in your life.

1. Sinners need to be made right with God.

2. Only true faith in Jesus Christ can make you right with God.

3. Bear the fruits of gratitude in your life.

## Quotations and Cross-References

**Heidelberg Catechism 59** Q: What good does it do you, however, to believe all this?  
A: In Christ I am right with God and heir to life everlasting.

**Heidelberg Catechism 60** Q: How are you right with God? A: Only by true faith in Jesus Christ. Even though my conscience accuses me of having grievously sinned against all God's commandments and of never having kept any of them, and even though I am still inclined toward evil, nevertheless, without my deserving it at all, out of sheer grace, God grants and credits to me the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ, as if I had never sinned nor been a sinner, as if I had been as perfectly obedient as Christ was obedient for me. All I need to do is to accept this gift of God with a believing heart.

**Heidelberg Catechism 61** Q: Why do you say that by faith alone you are right with God? A: It is not because of any value my faith has that God is pleased with me. Only Christ's satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness make me right with God. And I can receive this righteousness and make it mine in no other way than by faith alone.

**Heidelberg Catechism 62** Q: Why can't the good we do make us right with God, or at least help make us right with Him? A: Because the righteousness which can pass God's scrutiny must be entirely perfect and must in every way measure up to the divine law. Even the very best we do in this life is imperfect and stained with sin.

**Heidelberg Catechism 63** Q: How can you say that the good we do doesn't earn anything when God promises to reward it in this life and the next? A: This reward is not earned; it is a gift of grace.

**Heidelberg Catechism 64** Q: But doesn't this teaching make people indifferent and wicked? A: No. It is impossible for those grafted into Christ by true faith not to produce fruits of gratitude.

**Ephesians 2:1** <sup>1</sup> And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins. (NKJV)

**WLC 93** What is the moral law? A. The moral law is the declaration of the will of God to mankind, directing and binding every one to personal, perfect, and perpetual conformity and obedience thereunto ... promising life upon the fulfilling, and threatening death upon the breach of it.

**Isaiah 64:6a** <sup>6</sup> But we are all like an unclean *thing*, And all our righteousnesses *are* like filthy rags ... (NKJV)

**G.I. Williamson** "Faith is not a meritorious work whereby we ourselves do something to earn God's favor. No, true faith is rather a looking entirely away from ourselves to another who merits salvation for us."

**Kevin DeYoung** "There is nothing we contribute to our salvation but our sin ... [and] no merit we bring but Christ's ..."

**Andrew Kuyvenhoven** "Faith is indeed indispensable, but we do not give credit to the hand of the beggar for the generous gift someone else has placed in that hand."

**Ephesians 2:8-10** <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. (NKJV)

**Matthew 7:17** <sup>17</sup> "Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. (NKJV)

**James 2:14-18** <sup>14</sup> What *does it* profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? <sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, <sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what *does it* profit? <sup>17</sup> Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. <sup>18</sup> But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. (NKJV)

**Titus 2:11-14** <sup>11</sup> For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, <sup>12</sup> teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, <sup>13</sup> looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself *His* own special people, zealous for good works. (NKJV)

**Kevin DeYoung** "If we live habitually as selfish, God-ignoring, sin-cherishing people, then we haven't really been changed, and we haven't really experienced grace."

**2 Peter 1:5-9** <sup>5</sup> But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, <sup>6</sup> to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, <sup>7</sup> to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. <sup>8</sup> For if these things are yours and abound, *you* will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. (NKJV)

**Andrew Kuyvenhoven** "All of us must learn again and anew that God's grace, the gospel of forgiveness and love, is God's way of bringing all of us to works of obedience."