

# Heidelberg Catechism

Part 2: Deliverance

Lord's Day 24

Question and Answer 62-64

# Heidelberg Catechism

Lord's Day 24

## Question 62:

Why can't our good works be our righteousness before God, or at least a part of our righteousness?

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Answer 62:

Because the righteousness which can pass God's judgment must be entirely perfect and must in every way measure up to the divine law. But even our best works in this life are imperfect and stained with sin.

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<sup>8</sup>If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

1 John 1:8-10

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<sup>6</sup>All of us have become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we  
all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins  
sweep us away.

Isaiah 64:6

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<sup>4</sup> Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. <sup>6</sup> We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:4-6

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## Question 63:

How can our good works be said to merit nothing when God promises to reward them in this life and the next?

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Answer 63:

This reward is not earned; it is a gift of grace.



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<sup>5</sup>He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup>whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup>so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Titus 3:5-7

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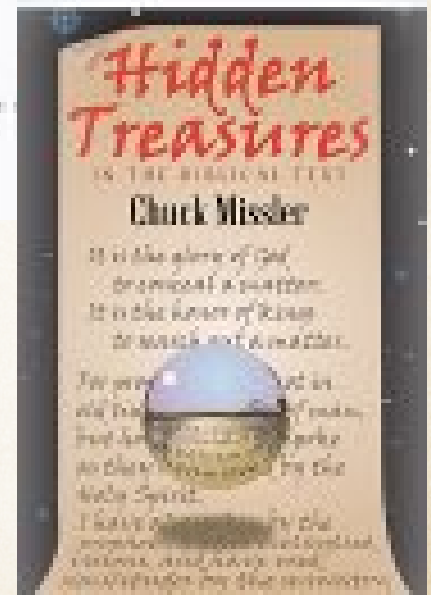
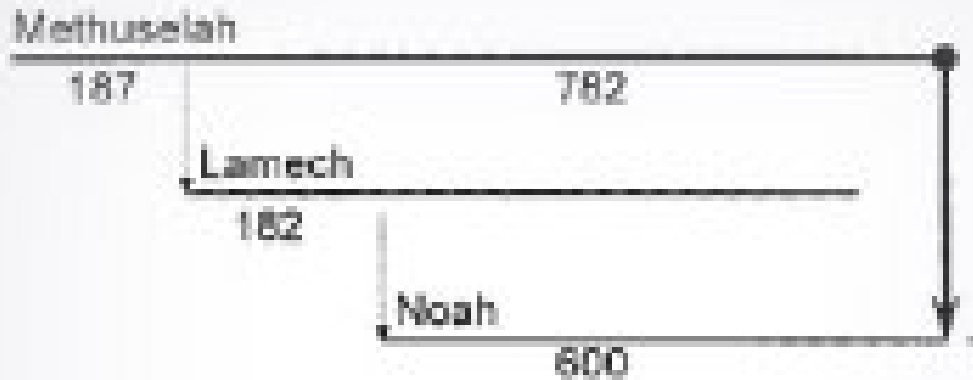
<sup>5</sup>By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. <sup>6</sup>And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Hebrews 11:5-6

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If Methuselah was the oldest man in the Bible,  
how could he die before his father?

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# Hebrew-English

Adam-Man

Seth-Appointed

Enosh-Mortal

Kenan-Sorrow;

Mahalalel-The Blessed God

Jared- Shall come down

Enoch-Teaching

Methuselah-His death shall bring

Lamech-The despairing

Noah-Rest, or comfort

# Hebrew-English

Now let's put it all together:

“Man (is) appointed mortal sorrow; (but) the Blessed God shall come down teaching (that) His death shall bring (the) despairing rest.”

Missler, Chuck (2013-04-09). Hidden Treasures in the Biblical Text (Kindle Locations 223-224). Koínonía House. Kindle Edition.

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Question 64:

But doesn't this teaching make people indifferent and wicked?

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Answer 64:

No. It is impossible for those grafted into Christ through true faith not to produce fruits of gratitude.



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<sup>5</sup>“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. <sup>8</sup>This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

John 15:5-8

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<sup>43</sup>“No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. <sup>44</sup>Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars. <sup>45</sup>The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.

<sup>46</sup>“Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?”

Luke 6:43-46