

Catechetical Sermon, December 7th, 2025

Canons of Dort, Head 5, articles 1-3: "Christians are still sinners"

Scripture Lesson: Romans 7:7-25

Lesson Aim	To understand how the ordinary Christian life involves a struggle with sin. However, there is hope as we understand Paul's two age theology and the work of Jesus Christ and his Spirit in our lives.
Steps to Learning	Read the Canons of Dort, Head 5, articles 1-3 and Romans 7:7-25. Also discuss the sermon and the particulars of the lesson below. It may be best to work through the material over several days or sessions.
Discuss	<p>Even though Christians are saved and will be in heaven, do they (we) still sin? Yes, sometimes egregiously.</p> <p>Explain Paul's two ages theology found in Romans 6, Ephesians 4 and Colossians 3. Paul teaches that Adam is the representative of the old age of sin and death. But when we were baptized and had faith, we were crucified with Christ so that we are no longer represented by Adam and are no longer "old men" belonging to the "old age" of sin and death. No, now we are "new men" belonging to the "new age" of righteousness and life. Through the work of Jesus Christ to die and be raised from the dead, Adam and the power of sin and death no longer rule us; the old man was crucified with Christ. Now, we are ruled by Christ and are under the rule of grace and the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>How does Romans 7:7-25 help us think about the Christian life? In this passage, Paul argues that the Law of God serves to reveal sin in our lives. The ordinary Christian sins but struggles against it, which proves that he is a Christian. After all, a non-Christian doesn't care, ultimately, if he sins but we do. Paul goes on to argue that Christ has delivered us from sin's power and that the Holy Spirit will sustain us body and soul to the end of our lives.</p> <p>Let's be clear, who does the work of perseverance? God does the work of perseverance; we only cooperate in the work of God, following along. Berkhof defines perseverance in this way: "Perseverance may be defined as that continuous operation of the HS in the believer, by which the work of divine grace that is begun in the heart is continued and brought to completion. It is because God never forsakes His work that believers continue to stand to the very end."</p>
Bible Reading	Genesis 23-30 (Reading the great stories of the Old Testament)