

Catechetical Sermon, June 30th, 2024

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 11, "Exclusive Salvation"

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 1:18-25

Lesson Aim	To understand that Jesus is the only Savior of the world.
Steps to Learning	Read the Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Day 11 and Matthew 1:18-25 . 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>How do many Christians in our present culture understand eternal salvation? Many believe that Christ died for each and every person and that salvation is praying that Jesus would come into one's heart. In alleged Gospel presentations, there is an absence of a discussion on sin, God's wrath, the cross and hell; the presentations are minimalist.</p> <p>What are the problems with current Gospel presentations? The problems involve wrong assumptions. For example, Jesus didn't die for each and every person; he died only for the elect. Also, salvation is not something simply for the taking; Jesus died on the cross in order to save his people and his people will be saved necessarily. Nonetheless, the church must preach the Gospel to all people without exception because we don't know who the elect are.</p> <p>What text in Scripture makes it plain that salvation is definite for God's people? Matthew 1:18-25. In this text, an angel of the Lord tells Joseph, "You <u>shall</u> call his name Jesus, for he <u>will</u> save <u>his</u> people from their sins."</p> <p>What are God's elect like? They (we) are like all other people; we are sinners. Romans chapters 3 and 6 make that clear. Scriptures like Hebrews 9:22 make it clear that we need the shedding of Christ's blood to save us.</p> <p>In other traditions, like the Roman Catholic church, there is a belief that salvation and welfare are sought in saints and in others. Is this legitimate? No. As the Heidelberg summarizes the Scriptures, Jesus is a complete Savior and faith in him means that we have all that is necessary for our salvation.</p> <p>What are some Scriptures that speak about Jesus being the only way to God? John 14:6: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." Acts 4:12: "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." 1 John 5:12: "Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life."</p>
Bible Reading	Psalms 1-7 (Reading through the Psalms)