

Catechetical Sermon, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 5, "We Can't Do It"**

Scripture Lesson: Romans 3:9 – 26

<b>Lesson Aim</b>	To understand that God's justice is only satisfied through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross; otherwise, God's justice can only be satisfied by the eternal death of sinners.
<b>Steps to Learning</b>	Read the <a href="#">Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Day 5</a> and <a href="#">Romans 3:9–26</a> . Discuss the sermon and the particulars of the lesson below. It may be best to work through the material over several days or sessions.
<b>Discuss</b>	<p><b>Is it fair for God to send people to hell?</b> Yes, God has published his law in the creation (see <a href="#">Romans 1:18ff</a>) so all people know they are to obey it, yet they refuse to. According to the covenant of works that God made with Adam and the whole human race, all people are liable to hell for their disobedience to the law of God.</p> <p><b>How does a person escape God's eternal judgment in hell and actually become favored by God?</b> According to the Heidelberg Catechism, question and answer 12, "God wills that his justice be satisfied. Therefore, we must make full satisfaction to the same either by ourselves or by another."</p> <p><b>As the sermon goes on to examine the logic of the Heidelberg Catechism, which is summarizing the Scriptures, we understand that we cannot make satisfaction of God's justice because we daily increase our guilt. What does that mean?</b> The Scriptures teach that because we are sinners by nature, we sin all of the time; both original sin and actual sin makes us guilty before God. In addition, besides transgressing God's law, we don't fulfill it or live up to its demands in the positive sense; this also renders us guilty before God.</p> <p><b>Finally, no animal sacrifice can make satisfaction to God's justice because it cannot sustain the burden of God's eternal wrath against sin and redeem others from it. What kind of mediator and redeemer, then, must we seek?</b> One who is a true and righteous man, and yet more powerful than all creatures, that is, one who is also true God. This one man is Jesus Christ who made propitiation for our sins on the cross. When Jesus died on the cross, the Father's anger was turned toward Christ and away from us. At this eternal moment, the Father's justice was satisfied and we were saved from God's eternal wrath and accepted into his eternal Kingdom through faith in Christ. Therefore, when we have faith in Jesus Christ, we are justified in God's sight seen as perfectly righteous even though we are still personally sinful.</p>
<b>Bible Reading</b>	<a href="#">Acts 9-12</a> [The story of the early church] (covering the great Bible stories)