

# True Faith



Lord's Day 7  
Heidelberg Catechism



Heidelberg, Germany

# A Quick Overview

**I. Misery**

**II. Deliverance**

**God the Father**

**God the Son**

**God the Holy Spirit**

**The Holy Sacraments**

**Holy Baptism**

**The Holy Supper of Jesus Christ**

**III. Gratitude**

**The Ten Commandments**

**The Lord's Prayer**

## From Last Week:

How do you come to know this?

The holy Gospel tells me. God began to reveal the gospel already in Paradise; later God proclaimed it by the holy patriarchs and prophets and foreshadowed it by the sacrifices and other ceremonies of the law; and finally God fulfilled it through his own beloved Son.

*End of Day 6, Heidelberg Catechism*

# The Day 7 Questions:

20. Are all people then saved through Christ just as they were lost through Adam?
21. What is true faith?
22. What then must a Christian believe?
23. What are these articles?

#20: Are all people then saved through Christ just as they were lost through Adam?

No. Only those are saved who through true faith are grafted into Christ and accept all his benefits.

# 2017 Mercedes S-Class



\$96,600/each, or about \$20.52/lb.

# Sonderklasse!

**Matthew 7:14**, But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

**John 3:16**, For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

**John 3:18**, Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

**John 3:36**, Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them.

# Via Fida

**Romans 11:17-21**, If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, do not consider yourself to be superior to those other branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you.

# Via Fida

...You will say then, “Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in.” Granted. But they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but tremble. For if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either.

## #21: What is true faith?

True faith is not only a sure knowledge<sup>①</sup> by which I hold as true all that God has revealed to us in Scripture; it is also a wholehearted trust,<sup>②</sup> which the Holy Spirit creates in me by the gospel, that God has freely granted, not only to others but to me also, forgiveness of sins, eternal righteousness, and salvation. These are gifts of sheer grace, granted solely by Christ's merit.

# Revealed in Scripture

**John 17:3**, Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

**Hebrews 11:1-2**, Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. <sup>2</sup> This is what the ancients were commended for.

# Wholehearted Trust (*fiducia*)

**Romans 5:1**, Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...

**Romans 10:10**, For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

# Approach with Confidence

**Hebrews 4:15-16**, For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

# Spirit-given Faith

**John 3:5**, Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.

**Matthew 16:15-17**, “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.

# Christ's Merit

**Romans 3:22-26**, This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

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## #22: What then must a Christian believe?

All that is promised us in the gospel, a summary of which is taught us in the articles of our universal and undisputed Christian faith.

# The Whole Gospel

**Matthew 28:18-20**, Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

# A Little Pause in the Action

What exactly is the Apostles' Creed?

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- Not used by Eastern Orthodox churches

## #23: What are these articles?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

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- An understanding of *fiducia* or trust is absolutely essential to our concept of salvation and justification by faith.



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- An understanding of *fiducia* or trust is absolutely essential to our concept of salvation and justification by faith.
- The Evangelical understanding of salvation is not separate from, but in the context of historic Christianity as expressed in the Apostles' Creed.

## Tonight's Take-home:

The joy and peace of the Christian life is connected to a special kind of faith. This is a faith which trusts completely in Jesus Christ for our salvation, and produces a deep-seated confidence, not in ourselves, but in the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

Let us pray...

