



**UPPER  
HUNTER**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## **DEVOTIONAL AID FOR 15 JUNE 2020 – 21 JUNE 2020**

Dear church family,

As I mentioned before, the Heidelberg Catechism is structured around our **guilt**, the **grace** of God, and our response in **gratitude**. This week, we continue in the **grace** section of the catechism.

In this week's catechism question and answer 20, you will notice that the whole human race are divided into two. One under the headship of Adam, the first man. Another under the headship of Christ, the last man. Romans 5 is one of the places in the bible that teach this truth. There are no many races, but instead there is only one human race, because everyone is from Adam or united to Adam as the head. This is why racism is anti-biblical. And this is why we say, everyone is born a sinner, because they belong to the fallen race of Adam. But while everyone by default belong to Adam, one can come under the headship of Christ simply when they trust Jesus Christ. It is by faith we are united to Christ and receive all his blessings. But this faith is not a random wishful thinking or positive outlook to life or towards heaven. It must have a definite content. For the biblical faith is one that depends on something or someone, and the one that the faith depends on matters supremely. Kevin DeYoung explains this way:

"[[...]] what does faith believe? We are not saved by believing anything in particular, as if God just wanted people be generally optimistic and full of wishful thinking. The object of our faith is the whole point. **Our faith, no matter how sincere, will be sincerely mistaken if it trusts in something other than gospel.** The gospel after all, is the power of salvation to everyone who believes (Rom. 1:16). But *the gospel* is not an easy term to define. Most foundationally, it refers to the good news about Jesus' death and resurrection (1 Cor. 15:1–8), but more broadly it can be shorthand for the whole message and story of the Christian faith (2 Tim. 1:8; 2:8). It's in the second sense that the Catechism understands the "gospel" in Answer 22. The gospel is what one must believe in order to be a Christian." [DeYoung, *The Good News We Almost Forgot*, 46, **bold mine**]

You will see that answer to the question 22 the Apostles' Creed. This creed is not the only essential truths that Christians must believe, but it is not less than that, and it is wonderful to confess these eternal truths together with 2000 years of the Christian church, even today. Obviously, the content of the creed is weighty and requires some further explanations. The great thing is that the catechism itself is designed to teach the creed. So for the following several months we will go through questions and answers that deal with various elements in the creed. This week, I'm not including any bible passages to reflect on, but I hope it gives you more time to familiarise yourself with the Apostles' Creed and other questions and answers.

Please do not hesitate to contact me (0425 270 854 / [tim.wonil.lee@gmail.com](mailto:tim.wonil.lee@gmail.com)) if you'd like to pray with me or for any other needs.

Yours in Christ,

Timothy Lee

<https://www.upperhunterpc.com>

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## THE HEIDELBERG CATECHISM<sup>1</sup>

### Lord's Day 7

Q20) **Are all people then saved through Christ just as they were lost through Adam?**

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

Q21) **What is true faith?**

A) True faith is not only a sure knowledge by which I hold as true  
all that God has revealed to us in his Word;  
it is also a wholehearted trust, which the Holy Spirit works 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 gifts are purely of grace, only because of Christ's merit.

Q22) **What then must a Christian believe?**

A) Everything God promises us in the gospel.  
That gospel is summarised for us in the articles of our Christian faith—  
a creed beyond doubt, and confessed throughout the world.

Q23) **What are these articles?**

A) 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,  
born of the virgin Mary;  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended to heaven,  
and sits 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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<sup>1</sup> The text of the Catechism is usually from <https://threeforms.org/heidelberg-catechism/>, but time to time, for the sake of clarity, I have also adopted the translation used in *The Good News We Almost Forgot* by Kevin DeYoung.