

DEVOTIONAL AID FOR 18 JANUARY 2021 – 24 JANUARY 2021



**UPPER
HUNTER**
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dear church family,

Welcome back to the devotional aid! From this week, we resume meditating on Biblical truths guided by the Heidelberg Catechism.

As you may remember, the Heidelberg Catechism has three sections: Guilt, Grace, Gratitude. The first section explains **our guilt** before the holy God. The second section explains **God's grace** for us sinners. From this week, we begin the third section where it explains **our grateful response** to God's grace. I trust this devotional aid will help you live in grateful trust and obedience to our gracious God.

Yours in Christ,

Timothy Lee

<https://www.upperhunterpc.com>

THE HEIDELBERG CATECHISM¹

Lord's Day 32

Q86) We have been delivered from our misery by God's grace alone through Christ and not because we have earned it: Why then must we still do good?

A) To be sure, Christ has redeemed us by His blood. But we do good because Christ by His Spirit is also renewing us to be like Himself, so that in all our living we may show that we are thankful to God for all He has done for us, and so that He may be praised through us. And we do good so that we may be assured of our faith by its fruits, and so that by our godly living our neighbours may be won over to Christ.

Q87) Can those be saved who do not turn to God from their ungrateful and impenitent ways?

A) By no means. Scripture tells us that no unchaste person, no idolaters, adulterers, thief, no covetous person, no drunkard, slanderer, robber, or the like is going to inherit the kingdom of God.

2 CORINTHIANS 3:18

18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

How do you see the salvation God has graciously given to us? Is it merely about entering heaven instead of hell? God saves us not only from judgment that follow our sins, but He saves us from our sins themselves. This is why the moment we are converted to Jesus is not the end point. Rather, it's only the beginning of a life-long transformation by God's Spirit. God saves us from our old sinful selves to become like Christ, His beloved Son, the Son He is well pleased with. So we continue to trust in God's gracious work in us to make us more holy, more loving, more obedient, more Christ-like. We call this process sanctification. So, how do you think you are going in the process of sanctification? Are you growing in holiness? Are you growing in your love for God and obedience to His Word?

EPHESIANS 2:8-10

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

That God saves sinners by His grace is taught all throughout the Bible. Among the clearest places we can see this gospel truth is in Ephesians 2:1-10. As it says above, "by grace you have been saved." Because it is by God's grace (gift), it also says, "no one may boast." Nevertheless, salvation by grace alone does not mean we may now neglect doing good works, works that please God. Ephesians 2:10 explains why. It is because God made us for good works. He prepared good works for us to do even before He made us. One of the reasons God saved us is so that we may now do good works. How are you doing good works today? How are you pleasing God today?

¹ 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.