

Lord's Day 11 – Of Man's Deliverance

~ Of God the Son ~

The Heidelberg Catechism explained to children

Last week, the teacher told us about the providence of God. Everything comes from the hand of God the Father. You might remember the examples the teacher mentioned: *herbs and grass, rain and drought, fruitful and barren years, meat and drink, health and sickness, riches and poverty*, and all other things do not come to us by chance, but by God's hand.

That shows that we have to be patient in difficult times, and thankful in comfortable times. It also means that we have to trust God. Everything is in God the Father's hands, and without His will none of His creatures can even move.

Do you remember that God is a triune God? That means there is one God, but three distinct Persons. In the last two Lord's Days, you read about God the Father. The next few Lord's Days are about God the Son.

Who is the Son of God? Jesus! The student wants to know more about the name **Jesus**, and he asks:

29. Why is the Son of God called **Jesus**, that is a Saviour?

The name **Jesus** means: Saviour. Jesus is the Saviour. But what does that mean? The teacher explains:

Because He saveth us, and delivereth us from our sins;

We are all sinful. We were born in sin, and we sin every day. We deserve punishment for our sins. What punishment do we deserve? We deserve to die, and we deserve eternal punishment in hell. That is our misery!

The Lord Jesus delivers His people out of that misery. He saves His people. How does He do that? God the Father poured out His wrath upon the Lord Jesus. The Lord Jesus suffered and died on the cross. He did that in the place of God's children. They do not have to bear the punishment for their sins anymore. They do not go to hell. They will go to heaven, where they will never sin anymore! That is all because Jesus suffered and died on the cross. That is how Jesus saved—and still saves—His people.

The teacher said: *Because He saveth us, and delivereth us from our sins.* You know the teacher is a child of God. Are you a child of God as well? Then Jesus has saved and delivered you too! Or are you not a child of God yet? You can still become a child of God! How? Through faith! You read about that in Lord's Day 7.

and likewise, because we ought not to seek, neither can find salvation in any other.

Is there anyone else who can save us from our sins? No! Jesus is the only Saviour. You can read that in Acts 4:12:

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

30. Do such then believe in Jesus the only Saviour, who seek their salvation and welfare of saints, of themselves, or anywhere else?

Some people think they can save themselves. They think they can be saved by living a good life. Other people believe that saints can save them. They pray to saints: for example, to Jesus' mother Mary, or to the apostles, who have died long ago. Is it possible to save ourselves? Can saints, such as Mary or the apostles, save us? Can we be saved in any other way? No, we cannot!

Do people who believe they can save themselves, or people who believe that saints can save them, or people who think they can be saved any other way, truly believe in Jesus? The teacher is very clear in his answer to that:

They do not; for though they boast of Him in words, yet in deeds they deny Jesus the only deliverer and Saviour; for one of these things must be true, that either Jesus is not a complete Saviour or that they, who by a true faith receive this Saviour, must find all things in Him necessary to their salvation.

It is impossible to do that. You cannot believe that Jesus is your Saviour, and at the same time believe you have to live a good life in order to be saved. That would mean Jesus is not enough; that would mean you need a bit of Jesus and a bit of good works in order to be saved. But that is not true! Jesus alone can save you!

You cannot believe that Jesus is your Saviour, and at the same time pray to the saints to save you. That would also mean Jesus is not enough; that would mean you need a bit of Jesus and a bit of help from the saints in order to be saved. But that is not true either! Jesus alone can save you!

God's people, those *who by a true faith receive this Saviour*, know that Jesus alone can save them. They expect everything from Him alone.

What about you? Do you think that you will be saved because you read your Bible often, because you faithfully go to church, and because you pray every day? Do you think that you will be saved if you live a good life? Do you think that you will be saved because your father, mother, or grandparent is saved? Or do you know that Jesus, and Jesus alone, can save you from your sins? Is Jesus your Saviour already?

Psalters

♪ Psalter 35:5-6

♪ Psalter 162