

LESSON 11: BY FAITH, NOT BY WORKS

Memory work

61. Q. Why do you say that you are righteous only by faith?

*A. Not that I am acceptable to God on account
of the worthiness of my faith,
for only the satisfaction, righteousness, and
holiness of Christ
is my righteousness before God.
I can receive this righteousness and make it my
own by faith only.*

*Not that God accepts me
because of the quality of my faith
Christ has done it all for me.
I can receive all this only by faith*

62. Q. But why can our good works not be our righteousness before God, or at least a part of it?

*A. Because the righteousness which can stand
before God's judgment
must be absolutely perfect
and in complete agreement with the law
of God,
whereas even our best works in this life are
all imperfect and defiled with sin.*

*Because for God to be good with us
Our works must be perfect
While even our best works are imperfect*

63. Q. But do our good works earn nothing, even though God promises to reward them in this life and the next?

A. This reward is not earned; it is a gift of grace.

64. Q. Does this teaching not make people careless and wicked?

*A. No. It is impossible
that those grafted into Christ by true faith
should not bring forth fruits of thankfulness.*

Homework

1.(4) Look up Canons of Dort III/IV rejection of errors 6. According to Arminians, what is faith not and what is it?

Faith is not _____

But faith is _____

2.(2) Now read CoD III/IV article 12. Which sentence below best describes the Calvinist position?

☐ Faith is not an act of man but purely a gift from God.

☐ Faith is partly a gift from God and partly an act of man.

☐ Faith is a gift from God which causes man to act himself.

3.(4) Do you think you would be a better Christian if God rewarded your good works? _____

Give reasons for your response. _____
