**THE LIFE OF GRATITUDE**

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Ps 422:3 - 312:1-6 - 88:1,3 - 83:3

Scripture: Romans 6. Apostle’s Creed. BCoF 9. HC LD 32.

**1. The grace of Christ**

* True thankfulness cannot exist without true repentance and a living need of the Saviour.
* Reason for why we must do good works: errors of RC Church and Antinomians
* A truly saved person is so overwhelmed by God’s love and the deliverance in Christ that he cannot but glory in the blood of the Lamb.
  + Hence, the believer’s heart will return unto the Lord in love (1 Cor. 6:20).
* Christ not only purchased them, but also impresses His image upon them.
  + Both justification *and* sanctification (Acts 9:5-6).
  + Christ renews His people by His Spirit.

**2. The honour of God**

* Thankfulness is not something we have to *produce*, but that we have to *be*.
* We have to serve the Lord with heart, head and hand.
* That God may be praised by us (Ps 34:3).
  + Speak to others about it.
* Gods’ children grieve that they cannot praise God as they ought; this brings them in the dust and drives them out to the Lord (Song 1:4).

**3. The salvation of others**

* The best evangelist witnesses through his life (2 Ki. 5:3; Acts 10; 1 Cor. 7:16).
* Also speak a word in season.
* How many people have you won to Christ already?

**4. The assurance of faith**

* Grace is communicative and winsome.
* God’s children are being assured of their faith by its fruits (Mat. 7:20).
* Caution: do not live by conclusions based on our good works.
* Real assurance is on found in communion with Christ.
* HC says “the fruits of faith”.
  + With a close walk with the Lord the believer will receive much assurance.
  + Sloppy life -> can lose joy of salvation.
* If no fruits are seen in one’s life then no salvation and everlasting life can be expected.
* Salvation is salvation from *sin*, or it is not salvation at all!
* Consider the serious message of Mat 25.

**QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION**

1. In LD 32 the third part of the HC (about gratitude) begins. Meditate upon the meaning of the word ‘gratitude’. What things is the Christian thankful for, which he has confessed in the previous 31 Lord’s Days?
2. A large part of the HC is devoted to gratitude. How is that in your own life? Give concrete examples.
3. Q86 speaks about good works which we must do. Is it right to say it in this way? Do we then not make a new law of gratitude?
4. In essence, this LD deals with *sanctification*. Which 3 reasons can you find in Q86 why sanctification is necessary?
5. Q86 ends with a peculiar phrase: “that by our godly conversation others may be gained to Christ.” Can you give examples of this? Perhaps out of your own life?
6. The list in answer 87 makes us think of what is being said in the form for the Holy Supper. How does it affect you personally when you read this answer?
7. Rom 12:6-21 deals with sanctification. Meditate upon this portion and compare your own life with it. What can you learn?