

New City Catechism

Question 29: How can we be saved?

Answer: Only by faith in Jesus Christ and in his substitutionary atoning death on the cross

Ephesians 2:8-9

Today, let's begin again by posing the question and listening to the answers of your family members.

There is an action-packed story in Acts 16, where a jailer asks Paul (imprisoned with his buddy, Silas, at the time) this exact same question. Let's read it together and see how Paul answered him.

Read Acts 16: 25-34

- What did the jailer ask?
- What was Paul's response?
- What is included in "believe in the Lord Jesus"?
- What kinds of things do you think Paul explained when it says "they spoke the word of the Lord to him"?

Paul shared some "words of the Lord" to the Romans to help them understand this belief in Jesus. **Read Romans 5:6-10**

- What is Jesus' role in our salvation? (*he pays our penalty*)
- How are we saved from God's wrath? (*God's wrath is justly and completely satisfied by Jesus' death*)
- If we understand and believe the gospel, we understand what Jesus's death does for us. But look at v.10—what does his life do for us? (*we are "saved by his life."*) How does Jesus's life save us? (*You will probably have to help them here: By his perfect life Jesus gained "righteousness" or "right-standing" before God. That is what he gives to us, his perfect righteousness, when we believe in him. His death pays for our sins, and his life earns us righteousness before God.*)
- What did we do to earn this salvation? (*nothing!*)

Review and commit today's question and answer to memory. Emphasize that we are saved ONLY by faith in JESUS—no one else, especially not ourselves! Read Ephesians 2:8-9. Spend some time thanking God for his gift of salvation. Count it a blessing that he doesn't save us because of what we do.

Please make use of the New City Catechism App or website
Commentary, Video, and Prayer as you see fit.

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