

GOD'S ANSWERS: SESSION SIX

A Study on Worldviews and the Augsburg Confession

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, Your Word is truth. Keep us steadfast in Your Word even as the evil one seeks to whisper his lies into our ears. Keep us with Your Son, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Amen.

God's revealed truth — Augsburg Confession Article VI

Read aloud:

“Also they teach that *this faith is bound to bring forth good fruits*, and that it is necessary to do good works commanded by God, because of God’s will, but that we should not rely on those works to merit justification before God. For remission of sins and justification is apprehended by faith, as also the voice of Christ attests: *When ye shall have done all these things, say: We are unprofitable servants.* Luke 17[:10]. The same is also taught by the Fathers. For Ambrose says: *It is ordained of God that he who believes in Christ is saved, freely receiving remission of sins, without works, by faith alone.*”¹

1. How is this truth undercut in our world?

After allowing some time for answers to be offered, consider how this truth is opposed in these examples:

- Play the clip from Jesse Duplantis found at youtu.be/9vnQT3vQiCI. He is seeking to motivate people to give to his campaign by promising them a place on his “wall of fame.” Talk about how often we are motivated to do things in life to get recognition before man. Then talk about how we often think the same about God. We think that if we do something for Him, He owes us His appreciation to be shown in some tangible way in our life. This example is not given at all to make any commentary on President Trump but just to show a quick example of how easily people are motivated by recognition or rewards. You could use any number of other examples.
 - Talk about the idea of participation awards. Point out that our world often likes to give the idea that being on the team is enough, even if you do not necessarily do anything that is asked of you. While it is true that our works do not earn us anything before God, we do want to be clear that being on the team means having things to do. God intends to use everyone He saves to do good works He has planned for them.
 - Talk about the idea of “Sunday-only Christianity.” Talk about how some people believe and live as if their faith only matters when they are gathered in church on Sundays. They forget that being saved gives us a whole new life, which is lived out in all of the places we are called to live each day. Again, God has not only saved us for a future life with Him, but a present life of service to Him shown in serving others.
- You are also encouraged to explore things in culture which are more known to those you are teaching and that fit the same mold.

¹ Triglot Concordia: The Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church: German-Latin-English (Saint Louis, MO: Concordia, 1921).

2. How is this truth revealed in the Scriptures? Why does it matter?

Read the following verses that speak about how we are to view good works as Christians. Emphasize that these works are a natural and expected part of the new life we have in Christ. They are an expression of our thankfulness to God, since we know that God's favor rests on us already because of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. We do not do them to try to get something from God. We do them just as part of who we are, thankful to be included in God's kingdom. We pray that God will use any work our hands do for the benefit of His kingdom.

- 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, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

- Luke 17:7–10: “Will any one of you who has a servant plowing or keeping sheep say to him when he has come in from the field, ‘Come at once and recline at table’? Will he not rather say to him, ‘Prepare supper for me, and dress properly, and serve me while I eat and drink, and afterward you will eat and drink’? Does he thank the servant because he did what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.’”
- Matthew 5:16: “In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

CLOSING PRAYER

Almighty God, You have given us not only eternal salvation to be enjoyed forever with You but also new life to be lived out right now. Grant that all we do may be pleasing in Your sight. In Jesus' name, amen.