

GOD'S ANSWERS: SESSION FOUR

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 IV

Read aloud:

“Also they teach that men cannot be justified before God by their own strength, merits, or works, but are freely justified for Christ's sake, through faith, when they believe that they are received into favor, and that their sins are forgiven for Christ's sake, who, by His death, has made satisfaction for our sins. This faith God imputes for righteousness in His sight. Rom. 3 and 4.”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 a local newscast found at youtu.be/b9pNQoKzaCE. Note how only one emailer even comes close to getting the answer right biblically. All of the others who seek to answer the question which was asked point people to their own good deeds or works for salvation at least in part.
- Play the clip from the television show “Seinfeld” which can be found at youtu.be/ie1XGT YueHw. Note how the funny exchanges between characters reinforce the idea that nothing truly valuable could ever be given freely and without condition.
- Play the clip from “Catholic Minute” by Catholic speaker Ken Yasinski found at youtu.be/G0uVWgIH410. Note how this video though presented by a young, modern-looking Catholic presents the old Roman Catholic doctrine that Jesus' work on the cross and at the tomb is not enough for salvation. While many of the things he presents are very

close to the truth, lauding faith, repentance, the Word and Sacraments and even obedience, he teaches that these things must be added by us to what Jesus has done. In the end, without us, there is no salvation. This strikes against the teaching taught in the Bible.

You are also encouraged to explore things in culture which are more known to those you are teaching and that fit the same mold.

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

Read the following verses that speak about Jesus alone working our salvation. Be clear that getting this teaching is essential. It literally is the power of God to save us from our sinful selves and lead us to Jesus. There is no truth more important for us to rightly understand and believe.

- Ephesians 2:8–9: “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.”
- Galatians 2:21: “I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.”
- Galatians 5:2–4: “Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace.”

CLOSING PRAYER

Almighty God, we can bring nothing to you but our sins. Forgive us this day and always because of your Son Jesus and His sacrificial death and victorious resurrection. Amen.

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