

## YOUTH INSTRUCTION CLASS

### LESSON 17: THE HOLY SPIRIT

### THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS

#### Opening Review

- What is the difference between the Holy Christian Church and a church like Redeemer Lutheran Church?
- Are there true believers in our church? How do you know?
- What is a *congregation* and what is a *synod*? What is the *Church of the Lutheran Confession*?

#### Bible History

Write what the word *forgiveness* means to you ...

Today's lesson is about the forgiveness of sins. This is the heart of the gospel. The story below illustrates the importance of God's forgiveness:

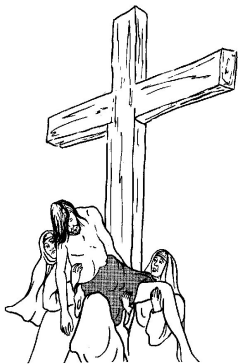


Mark 2:1-12

**Listen** to the account.  
Follow along in your Bibles.

How did Jesus show the importance of forgiveness?  
How did Jesus prove He had the authority to forgive sins?

#### I Believe In the Forgiveness of Sins



In the Apostles' Creed (third article) we say: "I believe in ... the forgiveness of sins." Martin Luther explains it using these words: "He [the Holy Spirit] daily and richly forgives all sins to me and all believers."

- Why do we need God to forgive us our sins?  
(Hint: Look at Romans 5:12)
- How can the holy God who hates sin forgive our sins?  
(Ephesians 1:17; 1 John 2:12)

We could never come to recognize the Father's favor and grace, were it not for the Lord Christ. (Luther's Large Catechism)

- Another term that is related to forgiveness is *justification*. God forgives our sins by *justifying* us in connection with Christ Jesus.

To *justify* means \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 8:33 (889)



Because Jesus took our sins on Himself and paid the penalty for our sins by His death on the cross (suffering hell and separation from God), God declares us "not guilty" or "innocent" just as judge might declare a defendant in court to be "not guilty." In this way God sees us as innocent and forgiven.

Romans 3:23-24 (895)

Romans 5:18 (897)

- Consider these questions on justification:

1. *Why* did God decide to work out a plan to justify us?

John 3:16

2. *How many* sins has God forgiven because of Jesus?

John 1:29 (893)

3. *Whom* has God justified?

1 John 2:2 (892)

This is also called \_\_\_\_\_

## Receiving the Gift Of Forgiveness

God declared the whole world *not guilty* (justified) in Christ Jesus, but not everybody is saved because some do not believe this gospel message. Those who do not believe it are not able to share in the blessings of being justified (for example, they do not inherit eternal life in heaven).

God's forgiveness (justification) becomes ours when we believe it (personal justification):

Romans 3:28 (901)

Mark 16:15-16

Therefore, we receive the forgiveness of sins:

- By grace
- Through Faith
- For Christ's sake (because of Jesus)

Where does this faith in Christ come from?

1 Corinthians 12:3 (900)

Romans 10:14-17

We can be certain of God's forgiveness because it does **not** depend on **ourselves**, but it depends on what **Jesus** did.

## Review and Discussion

1. Why is the forgiveness of sins such an important thing?
2. How do we receive the forgiveness of sins?
3. What does the Holy Spirit use to share with us the forgiveness of sins and to create and strengthen our faith?
4. Did Jesus die for the sins of unbelievers? Do unbelievers enjoy the benefits of Christ's death? Why or why not? Is faith in heart our own doing?
5. The word *justify* means \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_ The Holy Spirit gives us knowledge of our sins
7. \_\_\_\_\_ The Holy Spirit gives us knowledge of our Savior
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Most people have sinned
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Believers cannot sin because they are forgiven
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus never sinned
11. \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus death only paid for the sins of those who believe
12. \_\_\_\_\_ If our sins are not forgiven, we will not go to heaven
13. \_\_\_\_\_ God does not give forgiveness through baptism
14. \_\_\_\_\_ We can throw away forgiveness by not believing God has given it to us
15. \_\_\_\_\_ We can throw away forgiveness by refusing to believe we are sinners
16. \_\_\_\_\_ We are forgiven because our sins are not that bad
17. \_\_\_\_\_ To get to heaven, we must be as good as we possibly can be

## Assignment

- Study Questions 206-211 (pp.156-159) in the catechism.