

## The Heidelberg Catechism

### **21. What is true faith?**

True faith is not only a sure knowledge whereby I hold for truth all that God has revealed to us in His Word,<sup>1</sup> but also a hearty trust,<sup>2</sup> which the Holy Spirit<sup>3</sup> works in me by the Gospel,<sup>4</sup> that not only to others, but to me also,<sup>5</sup> forgiveness of sins, everlasting righteousness, and salvation are freely given by God,<sup>6</sup> merely of grace, only for the sake of Christ's merits.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Jn 17:3, 17; Heb 11:1-3; Jas 1:6, 2:19; <sup>2</sup> Rom 4:16-21, 5:1, 10:10; Heb 4:16; <sup>3</sup> 2 Cor 4:13; Php 1:19, 29; <sup>4</sup> Acts 16:4; Rom 1:16, 10:17; 1 Cor 1:21; <sup>5</sup> Gal 2:20; <sup>6</sup> Rom. 1:17; Heb 10:10, 11:1-2; <sup>7</sup> Acts 10:43; Rom 3:20-26; Gal 2:16; Eph 2:7-10