

Saving
Faith &
Repentance
Unto Life & Salvation

An Orthodox Catechism | Q. 21



The background of the entire image is a photograph of several classical columns, likely from an ancient Greek or Roman temple. The columns are made of weathered stone or marble, showing vertical fluting and some surface texture. They are arranged in a row, with some in the foreground and others receding into the distance. The lighting is natural, suggesting an outdoor setting. The overall color palette is warm, dominated by the browns and tans of the stone.

Review:


HERCULES COLLINS

**AN
ORTHODOX
CATECHISM**

Being the Sum of Christian Religion,
Contained in the Law and Gospel

Review: [Overview] Q 1

- **What is your only comfort in life and death?**
 - That both in soul and body, whether I live or die, I am not my own, but belong wholly unto my most faithful Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. By His most precious blood fully satisfying for all my sins, *[cont.]*

- 
- He has delivered me from all the power of the devil, and so preserves me, that without the will of my heavenly Father not so much as a hair may fall from my head. Yes, all things must serve for my safety and by His Spirit, also He assures me of everlasting life, and makes me ready and prepared, that from now on I may live to Him.

Catechism Outline: Overview

- Your only comfort in life & death [Q. 1]
- 3 necessary conditions for apprehending this comfort: [Q. 2]
 - (Guilt / Sin) Man's Misery [Q. 3-11]
 - (Grace / Salvation)
Man's Redemption [Q. 12-90]
 - (Gratitude / Sanctification)
Man's Thankfulness [Q. 91-148]

Outline: [Guilt] Man's Misery

- The source of the knowledge of man's misery [Q 3-5]
- The creation of man [Q 6]
- The origin of human depravity [Q 7]
- The extent of human depravity [Q 8]
- The responsibility of man [Q 9]
- The punishment of sin [Q 10-11]
 - God's righteous judgment of sin [Q 10]
 - The mercy and justice of God [Q 11]

Outline: [Grace] Man's Redemption

- The deliverance of man [Q 12-14]
- The only Mediator between God and man [Q 15-18]
- The Gospel [Q 19]
- The extent of our salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ [Q 20]
- True Faith [Q 21]
- *The Apostles' Creed* [Q 22-63]
- The Sacraments/Ordinances [Q 64-87]
- The Keys of the Kingdom [Q 88-90]

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An Orthodox Catechism: Q. 21

- What is faith?
 - It is not only a knowledge, whereby I surely assent to all things which God has revealed to us in His Word,^a but also an assured trust^b kindled in my heart by the Holy Spirit,^c through the gospel,^d whereby I make my repose in God being assuredly resolved that remission of sins, *[cont.]*

Q. 21: What is faith?

- ... everlasting righteousness, and life is given not to others only, but to me also and that freely through the mercy of God for the merits of Christ alone.^e
 - a: Heb. 11:1-3; Gal. 2:20; Jam. 2:19
 - b: Rom. 4:16; 5:1; 10:10
 - c: Mat. 16:17; Joh. 3:5; Act. 10:45; Gal. 5:22; Phi. 1:19
 - d: Mar. 16:16; Act. 16:14; Rom. 1:16; 10:17; 1 Cor. 1:21
 - e: Act. 10:42-43; Rom. 3:24-25

1689 Ch. 14 - Par. 1

- The grace of faith enables the elect to believe so that their souls are saved; it is the work of the Spirit of Christ in their hearts.¹ Faith is ordinarily produced by the ministry of the Word.² By this same ministry and by the administration of baptism and the Lord's supper, prayer, and other means appointed by God, faith is increased and strengthened.³

1689 Ch. 14 - Par. 2

- By this faith Christians believe to be true everything revealed in the Word, recognizing it as the authority of God Himself.⁴ They also perceive that the Word is more excellent than every other writing and everything else in the world,⁵ because it displays the glory of God in His attributes, the excellence of Christ in His nature and offices, and the power and *[cont.]*

1689 Ch. 14 - Par. 2 [cont.]

- ...fullness of the Holy Spirit in His activities and operations. So they are enabled to entrust their souls to the truth believed.⁶ They respond differently according to the content of each particular passage—obeying the commands,⁷ trembling at the threatenings,⁸ and embracing the promises of God for this life and the one to come.⁹ [cont.]

1689 Ch. 14 - Par. 2 [cont.]

- ...But the principal acts of saving faith focus directly on Christ— accepting, receiving, and resting upon him alone for justification, sanctification, and eternal life, by virtue of the covenant of grace.¹⁰

1689 Ch. 14 - Par. 3

- This faith may exist in varying degrees so that it may be either weak or strong.
¹¹ Yet even in its weakest form, it is different in kind or nature (like all other saving graces) from the faith and common grace of temporary believers.
¹² Therefore, faith may often be attacked and weakened, but it gains the victory.¹³ [*cont.*]

1689 Ch. 14 – P. 3 [cont.]

- ...It matures in many to the point that they attain full assurance through Christ,¹⁴ who is both the founder and perfecter of our faith.¹⁵

1689 Ch. 14 – Outline

1. The source of saving faith
2. The acts of saving faith
3. The distinctiveness of saving faith

14.1 – Source of Saving Faith

- The grace of faith enables the elect to believe so that their souls are saved; it is the work of the Spirit of Christ in their hearts...
 - **Phil. 1:29** For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,

14.1 – Source of Saving Faith

- **Eph. 2:8-9** For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

14.1 – Instrument Means

- ...Faith is ordinarily produced by the ministry of the Word....
 - **Rom. 10:8-17** [14] How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher?

“It is to be remembered that the efficacy of faith does not reside in itself. Faith is not something that merits the favour of God. All the efficacy unto salvation resides in the Saviour. As one has aptly and truly stated the case, it is not faith that saves but faith in Jesus Christ; strictly speaking, it is not even faith in Christ that saves but Christ that saves through faith. Faith unites us to Christ in the bonds of abiding attachment and entrustment *[cont.]*”

“... and it is this union which insures that the saving power, grace, and virtue of the Saviour become operative in the believer. The specific character of faith is that it looks away from itself and finds its whole interest and object in Christ. He is the absorbing occupation of faith.”

John Murray

REDEMPTION

Accomplished

and

Applied

14.1 – Means for Growth

- ...By this same ministry and by the administration of baptism and the Lord's supper, prayer, and other means appointed by God, faith is increased and strengthened.
 - **Luke 17:5** The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"

14.1 – Means for Growth

- **Mark 9:24** “I do believe; help my unbelief.”
- **1 Pet. 2:2** like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation

14.1 – Means for Growth

- **Acts 20:32** And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build *you* up and to give *you* the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

14.2 – What It Embraces

- By this faith Christians believe to be true everything revealed in the Word, recognizing it as the authority of God Himself...
 - **Acts 24:14** ...I do serve the God of our fathers, believing everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets

14.2 – What It Embraces

...They also perceive that the Word is more excellent than every other writing and everything else in the world...

Ps. 27:8 My heart says of you, “Seek his face!” Your face, LORD, I will seek.

Ps. 119:72 The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver & gold.

14.2 – What It Embraces

- ...because it displays the glory of God in His attributes, the excellence of Christ in His nature and offices, and the power and fullness of the Holy Spirit in His activities and operations. So they are enabled to entrust their souls to the truth believed...

14.2 – Believes God's Word

- **1 Thes. 2:13** And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.

14.2 – Believes God's Word

- **2 Tim. 1:12** For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.

14.2-Responds Appropriately To Scripture

- They respond differently according to the content of each particular passage— obeying the commands, ...
 - **John 14:14** If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do *it*.
 - **John 15:14** You are My friends if you do what I command you.

14.2-Responds Appropriately To Scripture

- ...trembling at the threatenings,....
 - **Is. 66:1** Thus says the Lord,
“Heaven is My throne and the earth is
My footstool.
Where then is a house you could build
for Me?
And where is a place that I may rest?

14.2-Responds Appropriately To Scripture

- **Is. 66:2** “For My hand made all these things,
Thus all these things came into being,”
declares the Lord.
“But to this one I will look,
To him who is humble and contrite of
spirit, and who trembles at My word.

“There you see that God prefers the Trembler to the Temple and makes to the contrite heart a larger promise than even to the consecrated shrine of His glory. May the Holy Spirit bless these meditations!”

- TREMBLING AT THE WORD OF THE LORD
NO. 2071 | LORD'S DAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1889



14.2 – Trust Christ Alone for Salvation

- ...and embracing the promises of God for this life and the one to come...
 - **1 Tim. 4:8** for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and *also* for the *life* to come.

14.2 – Trust Christ Alone for Salvation

- ...But the principal acts of saving faith focus directly on Christ— accepting, receiving, and resting upon him alone for justification, sanctification, and eternal life, by virtue of the covenant of grace.
 - **Acts 15:11** But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way...

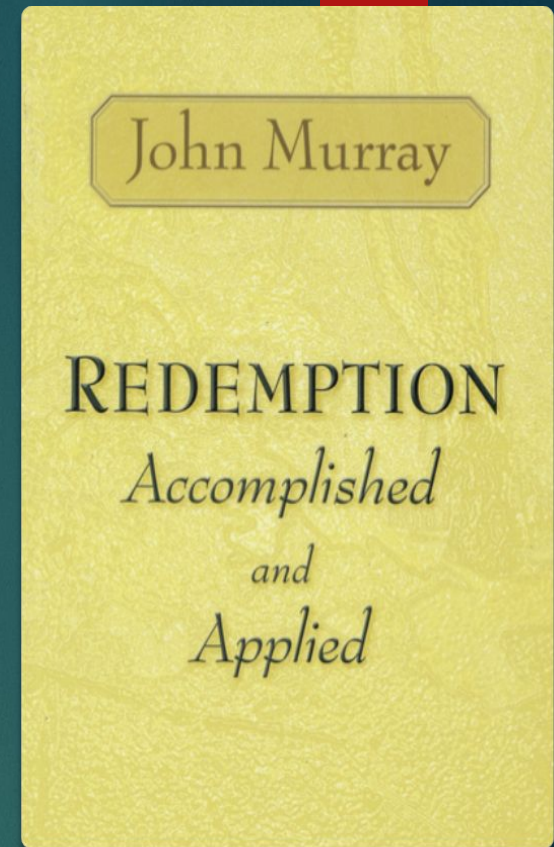
14.2 – Trust Christ Alone for Salvation

- **Acts 16:31** They said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”
- **John 1:12** But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name,

14.2 – Trust Christ Alone for Salvation

- **Gal. 2:20** I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

“Regeneration is the act of God and God alone. But faith is not an act of God; it is not God who believes in Christ for salvation, it is the sinner. It is by God’s grace that a person is able to believe but faith is an activity on the part of the person and of him alone. In faith we receive and rest upon Christ alone for salvation.”



14.3 - Its Distinctiveness

- This faith may exist in varying degrees so that it may be either weak or strong...
 - **Rom. 4:19-20** Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body... yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God,

14.3 - Its Distinctiveness

- ...Yet even in its weakest form, it is different in kind or nature (like all other saving graces) from the faith and common grace of temporary believers...
 - **2 Pet. 1:1** ...bond-servant & apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ:

14.3 – Its Distinctive Fruit

- ...Therefore, faith may often be attacked and weakened, but it gains the victory. It matures in many to the point that they attain full assurance through Christ, who is both the founder and perfecter of our faith.
 - **Matt. 24:13** But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.

14.3 – Its Distinctive Fruit

- **Eph. 6:16** in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil *one*.
- **1 John 5:4-5** For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

14.3 – Its Distinctive Fruit

- **Heb. 6:11-12** And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

14.3 – Its Distinctive Fruit

- Col. 2:2 that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and *attaining* to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, *resulting* in a true knowledge of God's mystery, *that is, Christ Himself,*

14.3 – Its Distinctive Fruit

- **Heb. 12:1-4** Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, *[cont.]*

14.3 – Its Distinctive Fruit

...and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

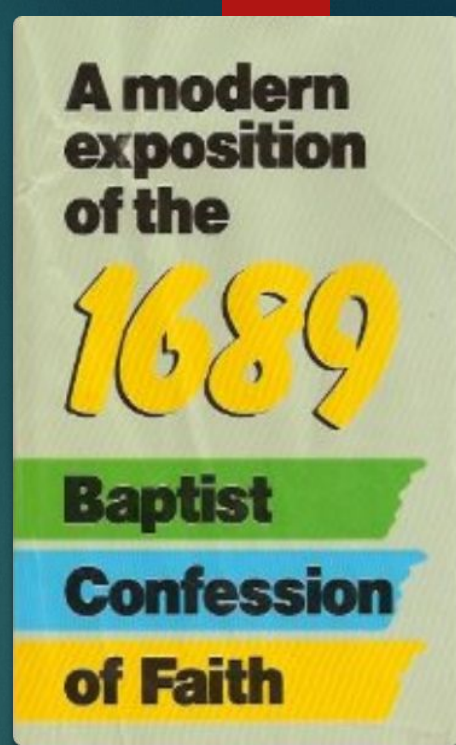
³ For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

⁴ You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin;


“May God grant us a large measure of faith as we work out our salvation with fear and trembling. Remembering that it is God who is at work in us to will and do His good pleasure (Philippians 2:12-13).

The Confession grounds faith firmly on and in Christ resulting in justification and sanctification; it does not let faith become vague, imprecise or without an object. There is no biblical ground for faith having no object. To say, ‘I have faith,’ is biblically an incomplete sentence or statement. *[cont.]*

“...The world states it has ‘faith’, but it is only an empty faith. The world only has faith in faith, or faith in itself, which is no real faith; it is certainly not a saving faith. The statement, ‘I have faith,’ is only a complete thought when it has an object, and that object must be the Lord Jesus Christ. We must say, ‘I have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.’”



[1689
commentary.org](http://1689commentary.org)
*A Layman's
Commentary of the
1689 Baptist
Confession*

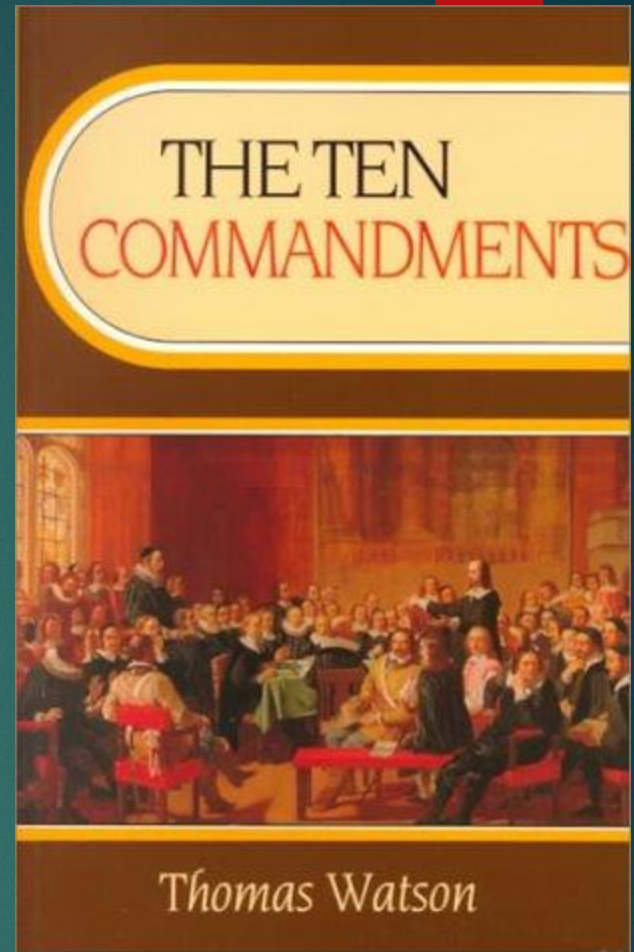


“He is a pillar in the temple of God,
‘Rooted and built up in him; and
established in the faith’ Col. ii:7.

Unbelievers are skeptics in religion; they are unsettled; they question every truth; but when faith is on the increasing hand, it doth *stabilire animum* [strengthen the spirit], it corroborates [confirms] a Christian. He is able to prove his principles; he holds no more than he will die for;” *[cont.]*

“...as a martyr women said,
'I cannot dispute for Christ,
but I can burn for him.' An
increasing faith is not like a
ship in the midst of the sea,
that fluctuates, and is
tossed upon the waves; but
like a ship at anchor, which
is firm and steadfast.”

- Thomas Watson
The Ten Commandments



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