

Daily Prayer

SATURDAY, JUNE 27

Today's prayer is based on the thirty-ninth question and answer of the Heidelberg Catechism, 1563 and Galatians 3.10-14.

The question is:

Is it significant that Jesus was *crucified* instead of dying some other way?

*Yes. This death convinces me
that he shouldered the curse
which lay on me,
since death by crucifixion was accursed by God.*

Lord, thank you for undergoing crucifixion for my sake,
and for the sake of all those who look to you in faith.
By this I am assured that you did indeed take my place
and bore God's curse for me.

*For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written,
"Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law,
and do them."*

Lord I understand that I *cannot* keep your law.
I know that if I attempt to justify myself to you by keeping your law,
I will never make it.

Your law is all-encompassing, requiring complete conformity
to your will in everything I think, say or do.
Even if I *could* keep your law from now on,
it is too late - I have not kept it to *this* point.

*Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law,
for "The righteous shall live by faith."*

I praise your name for the freedom that comes with the admission
that *no one* is justified before you by keeping your law.
"Right"-ness before you is a gift -
not something we labor at 'til we achieve it -
I am made *right* as I trust You that it is so.

But the law is not of faith, rather "The one who does them shall live by them."

Attempting to meet your requirement of obedience by keeping your law
is an exercise of my performance - not your grace.

*Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—
for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"—*

Thank you that Jesus *became a curse* - for me.

*so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles,
so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.*

Thank you that your grace brings *the blessing of Abraham* down to me,
that I receive your Spirit by *faith*, not by my performance,
all for your kingdom's sake. Amen.

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As it is the business of tailors to make clothes and cobblers to make shoes, so it is the business of Christians to pray.

- Martin Luther