

The Apostles' Creed: Third Article

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Forgiveness of Sins

As we continue with the study of the Third Article of the **Apostles' Creed**, I want to call your attention to the last question: *Why must we firmly hold to this teaching of justification by grace, for Christ's sake, through faith?* and take a look at the four answers.

1. *We must firmly hold to this teaching because it is the most important doctrine of the Christian religion. **Acts 4:12** says: *There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.* Jesus is the Son of God, and only He can save.*
2. *It distinguishes the Christian religion from false religions, all of which teach salvation by works. **Galatians 5:4-5** says: *You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness.* All religions seek salvation. Christianity is the only one that offers it by grace alone. All other religions are works religions, depending upon human works for salvation. Any participation in one of those separates us from Christ.*
3. *It gives enduring comfort to the penitent sinner. Jesus says in **Matthew 9:2**, *"Take heart, My son; your sins are forgiven."* Some men had brought a paralytic to Jesus for healing. Jesus saw the deeper need, the need for forgiveness. To be forgiven of our sins is a greater comfort than being physically healed.*
4. *It gives all glory to God for His grace and mercy in Christ. **Revelation 1:5-6** says: *To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood and has made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.* Jesus is glorified because of the victory He won on the cross over sin, death, and the devil. Nothing gives glory to Him like our salvation in His blood. *Soli Dei Gloria!* Glory to God alone!*