

## You Ask About Faith

*You Ask About Faith* by Tim Pauls  
(Concordia Publishing House, 300 pp., \$9.99)

This book is the third in a series of “You Ask About...” books authored by Pastor Tim Pauls (LCMS). Please read my reviews of “You Asked About Life” and “You Ask About Relationships” in the applicable 2008 Our Redeemer Newsletters for Pastor Paul’s background.

This latest book is written, as are the other two, primarily for teens and young adults. And like the other books in this series, is written in an informal, conversational tone generously laced with humor and occasionally off-the-wall remarks meant to be attention grabbers.

As in the previous books, Pastor Pauls begins each of his seven sections with an explanation based on God’s Word and then proceeds to answer questions about that section that have been submitted by teenagers and young adults. It will not come as a surprise that most of those questions are not only the same ones being asked by people of all ages today, but are questions that have been asked by people throughout the ages about the Christian faith.

The seven sections comprise: The Faith; The Basics of Faith; What Faith Isn’t; Faith and Good Works; Faith and Worship; Faith and Prayer; Faith and Miracles.

Here is a brief excerpt which will give you an idea of Pastor Paul’s approach (from pages 126 – 127):

“...Whenever someone says something about faith, run it through the filter:

- If it’s not a gift, it’s not faith
- If it doesn’t hold on to Jesus, it’s not faith
- If it’s something you do, it’s not faith
- If it comes through something besides His Word (this includes His Word in the Sacraments), it’s not faith.

Here is another brief excerpt from one of his seven Q and A sections (from page 161):

**“I’ve been invited to serve the Lord by going on a mission trip to Mexico. Do I have to go?”**

No, you don’t *have* to. If you stay home, clean your room, and honor your parents, these works are just as God-pleasing as serving people in Mexico. It’s not as if God gives double service points when you cross the border. What matters is that you’re forgiven...”

Pastor Pauls has a gift of explaining in an easy to understand, straight forward manner some pretty tough theological concepts. Just one example is his (just 2 pages!!) answer/discussion about the differences in salvation theology between John Calvin, Martin Luther, and Jacob Arminius. T

I hope you get the idea that I highly recommend this book for everyone, not just teenagers and young adults. Why? As Pastor Pauls reminds us in the final pages of this book: “...It’s All About Jesus.”

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