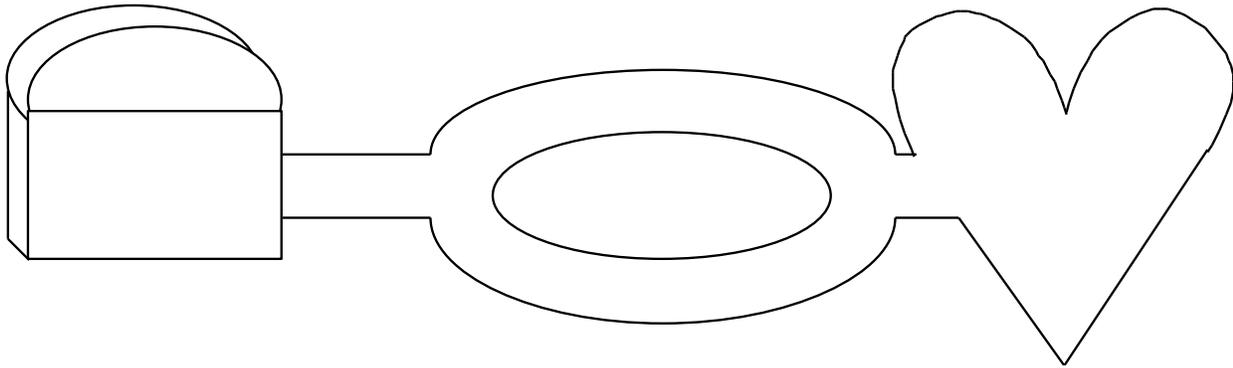


LESSON #8 HOPE GROWS AS GOD ADOPTS ME INTO HIS FAMILY -- BAPTISM

- **Rom. 5:18** Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men.
- **Mark 16:16** Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.
- **Rom. 1:16** I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.
- **2 Cor. 5:17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!



What is a Sacrament?

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

The two sacraments are _____ and _____.

I. WHAT DOES "BAPTISM" MEAN?

Read Mark 7:1-4

1. In a general sense the word "baptism" means: _____

Read Matthew 28:18-20

1. According to v19, how many people does God want to be baptized? _____
2. In v19 Jesus gives us the Word of God which is generally used in Baptism. What are those words? _____
3. What is the significance of those words? _____

4. After a person is baptized, what further does Jesus want us to do? (v20) _____

A definition of Christian Baptism: _____

In Mt. 28 Jesus also gives His Church their mission -- what He want His Church to be doing. To summarize, Jesus wants us to _____ in the Word and _____ with the Word. Everything a congregation does should be examined in light of these words.

II. WHAT ARE THE BLESSINGS OF BAPTISM?

Some Helpful Passages:

Eph. 2:1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,

1. When I'm born I'm _____.

Titus 3:5 ... he (God our Savior) saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,

2. In baptism God _____.

Rom. 8:7 the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.

3. When I'm born my relationship to God is one of _____.

Gal. 3:26-27 You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

4. In baptism, God makes me _____ .

Ps. 51:5 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

5. When I'm born I'm _____ .

Acts 2:38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

6. In baptism, God _____ .

III. WHAT DOES MY BAPTISM MEAN FOR ME?

Some Helpful Passages:

Gal. 3:26-27 You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

1. _____

1 Pet. 3:20b-21 In it (the ark) only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also -- not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ...

2. _____

1 Cor. 12:12-13 The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body ...

3. _____

Eph. 5:25-27 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

4. _____

Rom. 6:4, 13 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. ¹³Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life;

5. _____

Some Further Questions For Possible Discussion:

1. Who may perform a baptism? (Eph 5:25-26) _____

2. Does baptism actually work the blessings? or merely symbolize them? _____

3. What is the fate of the unbaptized? (Mark 16:15-16) _____

4. How often do we need to be baptized? (Is 54:10) _____

5. How soon should I baptize my children? _____

6. Can a baby really believe in God? (Matt 18:6; Luke 18:15-17; Ps 51:5; John 3:5-6) _____

7. How do Lutherans generally baptize? _____

8. Did the early Christian Church baptize infants? _____

- *Origen (b. 185 A.D.) tells us the practice of baptizing infants was handed down from the apostles.*
- *Irenaeus (202 A.D.) writes: “Christ came to save all men by Himself, all, I say, who through Him are reborn into God; infants, little children, boys, young men and old men.”*
- *Augustine (b. 353 A.D.) said he never heard of anyone who accepted the Bible as God’s Word who also rejected infant baptism.*
- *Numerous inscriptions in the catacombs read this way: “Aristus lived 8 months; he was recently baptized.”*

Sponsors (Godparents) and/or Witnesses

1. Having a sponsor or a witness of a baptism is a church custom. It is not necessary, but can be a useful habit.
2. A sponsor (Godparent) does several things:
 - a. serves as witnesses of the baptism.
 - b. promises to pray for the child
 - c. promises to help with the child’s Christian training, especially if the parent(s) should die.
 - d. should, therefore, be Christians of the same faith as the parent(s).
3. A witness simply testifies that the baptism has happened. A witness doesn’t make the promises that a sponsor would make.

Summary:

- God works faith through the Means of Grace - the Gospel in Word and Sacrament.
- Through baptism God adopts me into His family, claims me as His child.
- Baptism gives me wonderful assurances that I stand before God as innocent and powerfully motivates me to serve God with my whole life.

FOR STUDY AT HOME DURING THE WEEK

10. Complete the homework sections below.

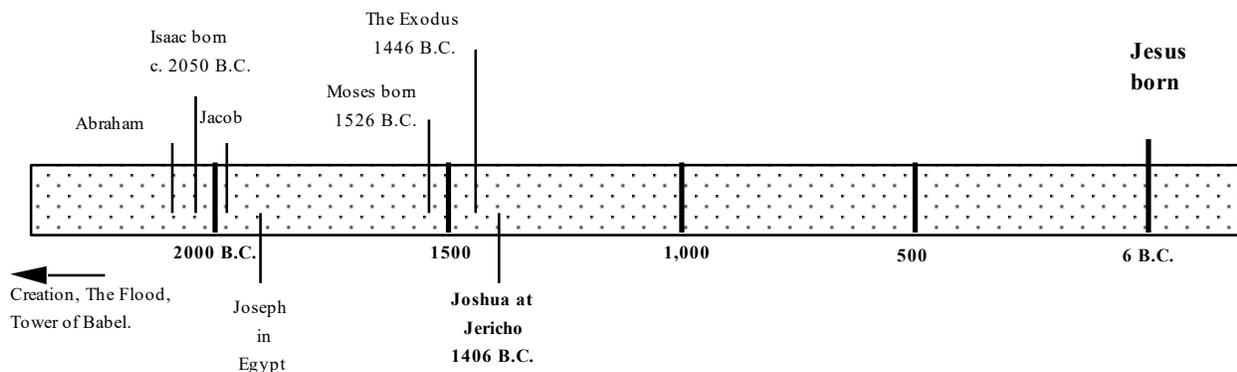
11. To build up your knowledge of God's Word, memorize these passages:

Gal. 3:27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ were clothed with Christ

1 Peter 3:21 this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also...

12. Study Addendum #6, Luther's explanations of baptism as drawn from the Word of God

13. Suggested daily reading: Romans 1-7



After parting the Red Sea, God led the Israelites to the borders of the land of Israel. Moses then sent 12 men (one from each of the 12 tribes descended from Jacob's 12 sons) into the land to "check it out." They reported that the land was great, but the people in it were strong. In fact, 10 of the 12 spies said that they couldn't take the land. Only two spies (Joshua and Caleb) attempted to convince the people to trust in God. " *And do not be afraid of the people of the land. ... the LORD is with us. Do not be afraid of them.*" (Num. 14:9)

Unfortunately the people listened to the 10 untrusting spies. As a result, God declared that the Israelites would have to wander in the wilderness for 40 years until this untrusting generation had died. (God made Joshua and Caleb, the two faithful spies, exceptions.)

After the 40 years, God brought them again to the land. Moses, the leader, died just as they reached the border. In Moses' place, God appoints Joshua as the new leader. Today we see how God began to give them the land of Israel, just as He had promised to Abraham.

Read Joshua 2-3

1. When Joshua sent the two spies into Jericho, in whose home did they stay? _____

2. When the king sent soldiers to search for the spies, how does Rahab protect them? _____

3. This happened 40 years after the Israelites had left Egypt. Yet, what does Rahab say to the spies? (vv9-11) _____

4. She requested that the Israelites spare her and her family, so the spies instructed Rahab to mark her home so the Israelites would know whom to spare. What was the mark? _____

5. To establish Joshua as the leader, God promised a miracle. When the priests who were carrying the ark reached the Jordan River - which was at flood stage! - what did God promise would happen? (3:13) _____

6. Why do you think God chose this particular miracle? (cf. also Exodus 13-14) _____

Read Joshua 6

1. Jericho was a powerful, walled city at a key location. What does God say to Joshua about it? (v2) _____

2. In vv 3-5, God explains the battle plan to conquer this powerful, walled city. What was that plan? _____

3. How do you think the people may have reacted to this plan? (Think of several possible reactions.) _____

4. The Israelites followed God's plan, as "illogical" as it seemed. What happened? (v20) _____

5. What lessons might we learn from this account? _____

Choose the answer which most correctly completes the sentences below.

1. The term “Means of Grace” means “the Gospel in
a) Word and Sacrament.”
b) Word and Prayer.”

2. The word “baptism” in its most general sense means
a) to apply water in any manner.
b) to immerse.

3. Jesus told us to baptize
a) all people, including infants.
b) only those who were old enough to choose to be baptized.

4. Baptism may be performed by
a) anyone, as long as they use water and the Word of God.
b) pastors only, because only if a pastor does it will a baptism be valid.

5. When an infant is born he/she is in need of baptism because
a) the child needs to join a congregation.
b) the child is sinful and needs forgiveness.

6. Baptism
a) merely symbolizes that the person’s sins are forgiven.
b) actually works forgiveness in a person’s heart.

7. When I was baptized I became
a) a member of a congregation.
b) a child of God.

8. What makes baptism powerful is
a) the water -- it’s a special kind.
b) the Holy Spirit, who works through the Words of God which are spoken.

9. When an infant is baptized,
a) faith is worked in that child’s heart, even though we may not understand how the child can believe.
b) it only symbolizes that the child will be brought up in the congregation and will be taught about Jesus.

Thought Questions:

1. What are the reasons that babies, too, should be baptized?

2. Luther one time said: “Often I feel my sins most severely. The devil then tries to get me to question as to whether God could possibly love me. At that point I say, ‘Devil, I am a baptized child of God and you cannot take that from me.’” Luther looked to his Baptism for comfort particularly in times of weakness.

On the addendum you’ll find Luther’s four-part explanation of Baptism, its power and benefits. Read through that addendum, then find answers to the following questions.

The First of Baptism: What is a passage which teaches us how to baptize?

The Second of Baptism: What are some blessings of baptism?

The Third of Baptism: How is it that water can do such great things?

The Fourth of Baptism: What does baptism mean for me in my daily life?

Write the Bible Passages, from memory if possible.

Galatians 3:27

1 Peter 3:21

Addendum #6

Martin Luther was a pastor in Germany in the early and middle 1500's. Luther recognized the great difficulty which many people have in teaching the truths of the Bible to their children. In order to help them, Luther wrote the Catechism. (The Catechism presented the truths of the Bible in a simple, orderly way, making it easier for a parent to teach their children the important truths of Scripture.) Below are the Biblical truths regarding baptism as Luther organized them, in a way that parents could teach them to their children.

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

As the head of the family should teach it in the simplest way to those in his household.

THE INSTITUTION OF BAPTISM

First: *What is Baptism?*

Baptism is not just plain water, but it is water used by God's command and connected with God's Word.

Which is that Word of God?

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit!"

THE BLESSINGS OF BAPTISM

Second: *What does Baptism do for us?*

Baptism works forgiveness of sin, delivers from death and the devil and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

What is God's promise?

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."

THE POWER OF BAPTISM

Third: *How can water do such great things?*

It is certainly not the water that does such things, but God's Word which is in and with the water, and faith which trusts this Word used with the water.

For without God's Word the water is just plain water and not Baptism. But with this Word it is Baptism.

God's Word makes it a washing through which God graciously forgives our sin and grants us rebirth and a new life through the Holy Spirit.

Where is this written?

St. Paul says in Titus, chapter 3, "God saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying."

THE MEANING OF BAPTISM FOR OUR DAILY LIFE

Fourth: *What does baptizing with water mean?*

It means that our Old Adam with his evil deeds and desires should be drowned by daily contrition and repentance, and die, and that day by day a new man should arise, as from the dead, to live in the presence of God in righteousness and purity now and forever.

Where is this written?

St. Paul says in Romans, chapter 6, "We were buried with Christ through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."

MAP OF THE TWELVE TRIBES

