

Lesson No. 18

What Does the Bible Say About the Benefit of Holy Baptism?

1. What is the benefit of Holy Baptism?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

- *(a) **Galatians 3:26,27.** For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were **baptized into Christ have put on Christ.**
- *(a) **Acts 2:38.** Repent, and let every one of you be **baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ **for the remission of sins.**
 - (a) **Acts 22:16.** Arise and be **baptized**, and **wash away your sins.**
- *(a) **Mark 16:16.** He who believes and is **baptized** will be **saved.**
 - (a) **1 Peter 3:21.** There is also an antitype which now **saves us-- baptism.**
- (a b) **Titus 3:5-7.** According to His mercy **He saved us, through the washing of regeneration** and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should **become heirs** according to the hope of **eternal life.**
 - (b) **John 3:5.** Unless one is **born of water and the Spirit**, he cannot **enter the kingdom of God.**
 - (c) **Acts 8:35-39.** Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized? Then Philip said, **If you believe** with all your heart, you may. And he answered and said, **I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.** So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he **baptized him.** Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he **went on his way rejoicing.**

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

Baptism is a means of grace through which the Holy Spirit

- (A) Distributes the treasures of Christ's redemption, namely forgiveness of sins, reconciliation with God, and eternal life;
- (B) Regenerates infants, creating in them the faith which accepts these great blessings;
- (C) Seals salvation to already believing adults, giving them added assurance that their sins are forgiven and that they are God's dear children and heirs of heaven.

2. To whom does Baptism give these blessings?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

Mark 16:16. He who **believes** and is baptized will be saved.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

Baptism gives these blessings to all that believe.

(We have the blessings of Baptism only as long as we believe. It is therefore of the utmost importance that after their Baptism children be instructed in the Word, and that adults continue steadfastly to hear the Gospel and to receive the Lord's Supper for the strengthening and preservation of their faith (Sunday school; Christian day school; Bible class; church attendance). If a person after Baptism loses his faith, he loses the benefits of Baptism, but he does not lose Baptism itself. He need not be rebaptized if later he turns back to God; he need only lay hold again on the promise made to him in Baptism. Is. 54:10; 2 Tim. 2:13.)

3. How can water do these great things?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

- (a) *Ephesians 5:25,26*. Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water **by the word**.
- (b) *Mark 16:16*. He who **believes** and is baptized will be saved.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

It is not the water which does these great things, but

- (A) The Word of God, which is connected with the water, places forgiveness, life, and salvation, into Baptism; and
- (B) Faith, which trusts this Word, accepts the treasures and makes them our own.

4. Can anyone be saved without Baptism?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

- (a) *Mark 16:16*. He who **does not believe** will be **condemned**.
- (b) *Luke 7:30*. But the Pharisees and lawyers **rejected the will of God** for themselves, **not having been baptized** by him.
- (c) *Luke 23:42,43*. Then he (the malefactor on the cross) said to **Jesus, Lord, remember me** when You come into Your kingdom. And Jesus said to him, Assuredly, I say to you, today **you will be with Me in Paradise**.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

- (A) It is unbelief only that damns.
- (B) Saving faith cannot exist in the heart of one who despises Baptism.
- (C) It can exist when for some reason Baptism cannot be obtained.
(The Bible says nothing about the fate of infants who die without Baptism. We hope that God has some way of saving them without means of grace. While He has bound us to the use of these means, He has not bound Himself. However, we have no definite assurance on the matter. God wisely withheld this information from us so that we might not neglect to baptize our infants as soon as possible.)

5. What daily use should we make of our Baptism?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

- (a) *Galatians 3:26, 27*. For you are all **sons of God through faith** in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were **baptized** into Christ have **put on Christ**.
- (b) *Romans 6:4*. Therefore we were buried with Him (Christ) through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should **walk in newness of life**.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

We should daily remember our Baptism, for this will

- (A) Strengthen us in the faith that in Christ all our sins are forgiven, and that we are children of God;
- (B) Admonish us that, as the children of God, we should shun all sin, and serve God by a Christian life day by day. (At Baptism, infants, through their sponsors, renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways, and promise to serve the Triune God, and Him only. Later, as children or adults, they make this vow with their own lips, and make a public confession of their faith. This we call confirmation. Confirmation is not a divine institution, but a God-pleasing custom of the Church. The instruction which precedes confirmation is the main thing.)

Before the Next Lesson

FILL OUT Work Sheet No 18, marked with an asterisk (*)

MEMORIZE the Bible passages



READ ACTS, chapters 26-28, and Romans, chapters 1-4.

Work Sheet No. 18

1.

(Check the correct statement.)

- (A) Baptism is no more than a sign or confession on the part of the baptized person that by faith he or she has obtained forgiveness of sins.
- (B) Baptism offers, gives, and seals unto us the forgiveness of all our sins.
- (C) Baptism removes original sin and only those actual sins which were committed before Baptism.

2.

Paul states in Galatians 3:26-27 that in Baptism we “put on Christ.” What is the meaning of this expression?

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3.

(Check whether true or false.)

Everyone receives forgiveness of sins in Baptism. True. False.

4.

(Check the correct statement.)

- (A) Unbaptized infants are lost.
- (B) Unbaptized infants are saved.
- (C) The fate of unbaptized infants is not revealed in the Bible.

5.

Many people have their children baptized, but later neglect to give them a Christian education.

(A) Prove with a Bible passage that we must both baptize and teach them.....

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(B) Why is it of the greatest importance that we also teach them?.....

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6.

(A) How should your Baptism be a daily comfort to you?.....

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(B) How should your Baptism be a daily incentive to you?.....

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