

A Study of The Epistle of 1st Peter

Theme: “A LIVING HOPE!”

Trinity Lutheran Church - Norman, OK.

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Lesson: 26

Chapter 3:21-22

Date: 2-21-21



BIBLE TEXT:

(21) Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to **God** for a good conscience, through **the resurrection of Jesus Christ**, (22) **who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.**

STUDY NOTES:

(21) Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to **God** for a good conscience,

(Ac 16:33; 22:16; 23:1; Rom 6:3-6; 10:10; Eph 5:25-27; Titus 3:5; Heb 10:22)

through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

(22) who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

(Ps 8:1,6; 93:1-4; 110:1; Zech 9:10;

Mt 28:18; Mk 16:16-19; Lk 24:50-53; Ac 1: 9-11; 2:33-34;

Rom 8:34-38; Eph 1:20,21; 4:10; 6:12; Col 3:1; Heb 1:3; 4:14; 12:2)

Luther's Works – Volume 30 p. 116

Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as the covenant of a good conscience with God.

You are not saved by washing the dirt from the flesh in order that the body may be clean, as the Jews did. Such cleanliness no longer has any validity, but there must be “the covenant of a good conscience with God”; that is, you must feel in yourself a good and cheerful conscience—a conscience that is in league with God and can say: “He gave me this promise. He will keep it, for He cannot lie.” When you cling and cleave to His Word in this way, then you must be saved. Now the covenant is faith, which saves us. No external work you can do accomplishes this.

Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

St. Peter adds these words for the purpose of explaining faith, which is based on Christ's death, His descent into hell, and His resurrection from the dead. If He had remained dead, there would have been no help for us. But because He rose from the dead, sits at the right hand of God, and has this proclaimed to us in order that we may believe in Him, we have a covenant with God and a sure promise. With this we are saved, just as Noah was saved in the ark. Thus St. Peter has made the ark completely spiritual. Here one does not find flesh and blood. No, one finds a good conscience toward God, that is, faith.

Who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers subject to Him.

The apostle says all of this to explain and strengthen our faith. For Christ also had to ascend into heaven and become Lord over all creatures and wherever there is power, in order that He might also lead us to heaven and make us lords. Now this is said for our comfort, in order that we may know that all power in heaven and on earth, even death and the devil, must serve and aid us, just as everything must serve the Lord Christ and lie at His feet.

The Small Catechism - The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

As the head of the family should teach it in a simple way to his household.

First

What is Baptism?

Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's word.

Which is that word of God?

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: "Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19).

Second

What benefits does Baptism give?

It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

Which are these words and promises of God?

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" (Mark 16:16).

Third

How can water do such great things?

Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God's word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: "He 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" (Titus 3:5-6).

Fourth

What does such baptizing with water indicate?

It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Where is this written?

St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six: "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" (Romans 6:4).

LIFE APPLICATION

How does baptism establish your identity
and affect your daily reality,
as you battle the Old Adam as New Man in Christ?