

# THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

## “We Are His Workmanship”

Date: 11-17-24 Lesson: 28

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### THE TEXT - (Ephesians 4:17-32)



(17) Now this I say and testify **in the Lord**, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. (18) They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from **the life of God** because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. (19) They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.

**(Dt 29:4; Eccl 1:2; Rom 1:21-28; 2 Cor 3:14; 1 Tim 4:2; 1 Pet 4:3)**

(20) But that is not the way you learned **Christ!**-- (21) assuming that you have heard about **him** and were taught **in him, as the truth is in Jesus**, (22) to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, (23) and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, (24) and to put on the new self, created after **the likeness of God**

in true righteousness and holiness.

**(Jer 17:9; Rom 6:6-13; 12:2; 13:14; Col 3:5-10; Heb 3:13; Jas 1:21; 1 Pet 2:1)**

(25) Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. (26) Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, (27) and give no opportunity to the devil. (28) Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. (29) Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may **give grace** to those who hear.

**(Lev 19:11; Ps 15:2; Zech 8:16; Mt 5:22; 12:36; Ac 20:35; Col 3:9; 1 Th 4:11; Jas 1:14)**

(30) And do not grieve **the Holy Spirit of God**, by whom you were sealed for **the day of redemption**. (31) Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. (32) Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another,

**as God in Christ forgave you.**

**(Is 63:10; Mt 6:14,15; Col 3:8-13; 1 Th 5:19; 1 Pet 1:5; 2:1; 3:8)**

### STUDY HELPS

#### THE SMALL CATECHSIM - IV. 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?

Answer: Baptism is not simple water only, but it is the water included in God's command and connected with God's Word.

**Which is that Word of God?**

Answer: Christ, our Lord, says in the last chapter of Matthew, “Go therefore 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 does Baptism give or profit?

Answer: It works forgiveness of sins, delivers 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?

Answer: 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?

Answer: It is not the water indeed that does them, but the Word of God, which is in and with the water, and faith, which trusts this Word of God in the water. For without the Word of God the water is simple water and no Baptism. But with the Word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a gracious water of life and a washing of regeneration in the Holy Spirit. As St. Paul says in Titus chapter three, “He saved us . . . by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

The saying is trustworthy” [vv. 5– 8].

### FOURTH

#### What does such baptizing with water signify?

Answer: It signifies that the old Adam in us should, by daily contrition and repentance, be drowned and die with all sins and evil lusts. And also it shows that a new man should daily come forth and arise, who shall live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

#### Where is this written?

Answer: St. Paul says in Romans chapter 6, “We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life” [v. 4].

## THE LARGE CATECHISM – BAPTISM

[64] Lastly, we must also know **what Baptism signifies** and why God has ordained just this outward sign and ceremony for the Sacrament by which we are first received into the Christian Church. [65] The act or ceremony is this: we are sunk under the water, which passes over us, and afterward are drawn out again. These two parts, (a) to be sunk under the water and (b) drawn out again, **signify Baptism’s power and work**. It is nothing other than putting to death the old Adam and effecting the new man’s resurrection after that [Romans 6: 4– 6].

Both of these things must take place in us all our lives. So a **truly Christian life** is nothing other than a **daily Baptism**, once begun and ever to be continued. For this must be done without ceasing, that we always keep purging away whatever belongs to the old Adam. Then what belongs to the new man may come forth. [66] But what is the old man? It is what is born in human beings from Adam: anger, hate, envy, unchastity, stinginess, laziness, arrogance— yes, unbelief. The old man is infected with all vices and has by nature nothing good in him [Romans 7: 18]. [67] Now, when **we have come into Christ’s kingdom** [John 3: 5], these things must daily decrease. The longer we live the more we become gentle, patient, meek, and ever turn away from unbelief, greed, hatred, envy, and arrogance.

[74] Here you **see that Baptism, both in its power and meaning**, includes also the third Sacrament, which has been called repentance. It is really nothing other than **Baptism**. [75] What else is repentance but a serious attack on the old man, that his lusts be restrained and an entering into a new life? Therefore, if you live in repentance, **you walk in Baptism**. For **Baptism** not only illustrates such a new life, but also produces, begins, and exercises it. [76] For in **Baptism are given grace, the Spirit, and power** to suppress the old man, so that the new man may come forth and become strong [Romans 6: 3– 6].

## LIFE APPLICATION

“Simul Justus et Peccator”

How do we put off our old self (sinner), and put on our new self (saint) every day?