

Confirmation Lesson

#29

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

(The Benefits)

Pastor's Lesson

1.) What are the Benefits of Baptism?

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

It is how we become a child of God, a member of the church, and an heir of heaven.

2.) What are the words and promised blessings of God.

Christ our Lord says in Mark "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. (Mark 16:16)

Baptismal Benefits

- **Forgiveness—Acts 2:38**
- **Deliverance**
- **Eternal Life- Mark 16:16**

3.) Can anyone be saved without Baptism?

The idea is that we must be baptized (jn 3:5-6). If, however, one did not have an opportunity to be baptized, yet still believes in Christ, then he or she will be saved. Baptism is a "Visible MEANS" of God's Grace, not the ultimate solution. It ultimately is "faith" that saves like the THIEF ON THE CROSS for example. He had faith, but most likely wasn't baptized, but Jesus promised paradise for him.

With that being said, if someone says "Yes I believe in Christ, but will not be baptized," this attitude demonstrates that they probably do not believe in Christ. If you believe in Christ, you also believe in His Word which commands us to be baptized.

4.) How can water do such great things?

Water can't do this by itself. The WORD of God in and with the water does all of these spiritually powerful things along with faith that trusts the word of God. Without the word of God, water is just plain out thirst quenching water!

Example-If you have a \$1000 dollar check that you made out to someone, but it isn't signed by you, how much is that piece of paper worth. NOTHING! A valid signed check indicates that I possess the power to back up my promise to pay. How much is the piece of paper worth? \$1000. If the recipient does not believe that I am able to do what I have promised (pay the money), so she doesn't go to the bank and cash the check, it is now worth nothing to her.

The same is true with baptism. You have water, very plain water just like the check. But when Jesus says to baptize in the name of the Triune God, he puts his signature on his promise of complete forgiveness of your sins. The power does not lie in the water itself, but in Jesus who stands behind His promises and seals His promise with His sacrifice on the cross. The word of God gives baptism its power. Faith is the hand that receives the blessings and power of Baptism.

What does our baptism with water indicate?

Look at Romans 6:4 "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."

Being baptized with water indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily repentance be crowned 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.

Bible Text to Look At Concerning Baptism

Acts 2:38-Repent and be baptized, everyone one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ....

Acts 22:16-Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away.

Galatians 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 Peter 3:21-And this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also, not the removal of dirt from your body, but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 5:25-26—Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church...

1 Corinthians 6:11- And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you're sanctified...