

Based on Many Bible Passages

Baptism – Let’s Think About It!

Sunday, January 10 at 8:00 & 10:45 + Monday, January 11 at 7 PM
The Baptism of Our Lord – 2016

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Today, on this Sunday when we remember the baptism of our Lord, which was also the beginning of His ministry, we focus on the topic of baptism:

- ✓ How to look at baptism in a simple way.
- ✓ Why baptism is necessary.
- ✓ What about Jesus’ baptism.
- ✓ How God called us to Himself.
- ✓ Some realities of baptism.
- ✓ How we currently see our own baptism.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE: “Baptism – Wrapped Up In Christ!”

- ➔ I can wrap up mud in a clean napkin!
- ➔ God can wrap up sinners in Jesus!

HYMN OF THE DAY – Part 1: “See This Wonder in the Making” LSB 593, st. 1

WHY IS BAPTISM NECESSARY?

1. All are sinful from conception: ^{NIV} Psalm 51:5 “Surely I was sinful at birth, **sinful from the time my mother conceived me.**”
2. All need Jesus to be saved: ^{NAS} John 14:6 Jesus said..., “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; **no one comes to the Father, but through me.**”
3. All are helpless to get Jesus: ^{NAS} Ephesians 2:1 “[before God made you alive in Christ] **you were dead in your trespasses and sins...**”
4. So God united us to Jesus through baptism: ^{NAS} Galatians 3:27 “**...all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with [literally, put on] Christ.**”

GOSPEL: Luke 3:21-22 ESV – JESUS **was not** sinful, **did not** need to be saved, and **was not** helpless, *so His baptism had a different purpose than ours*: Jesus' baptism began His ministry, which led to *His reception of our sins and His victory over sin, death, and Satan*; then, *though baptism, we received those benefits!* ↑

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the third chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, ²² and the **Holy Spirit** descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a **voice came from heaven**, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

L: God is three Persons in One God!

C: All three Persons were present when Jesus was baptized.

L: Now, in the Nicene Creed, we confess together more of what we believe:

NICENE CREED:

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen. ↓

HYMN OF THE DAY – Part 2: “See This Wonder in the Making” LSB 593, st. 2

Old Testament: Isaiah 43:1 ESV – *As the LORD called the descendants of Jacob, the nation of Israel, to be His own, so the LORD did the same for us through baptism!*

¹But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you **are** mine.”

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE: Romans 6:1-11 ESV – *Notice why we are dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus!*

1. Since we died to sin, we should stop living in sin: ¹ What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? // When your loved one was alive, *he influenced your life*. Now that he has died, *you are no longer influenced by him!* For us – sin used to control us, *but now we are dead to sin!*
2. We died to sin when God united us to Christ through baptism: ³ Do you not know that all of us who ~~have been~~ [were] baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him ~~by~~ [through] 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. ⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his [*a completed action*], we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.
 - a. United to Christ: What are the benefits? Forgiveness, spiritual life, eternal life, and more!
 - b. United to \$10: What are the benefits? You can buy whatever you want that costs \$10 or less! [volunteer]
3. Sin was our master, but now – through our baptism into Christ – we have been set free: ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him [*thus put to death with Him*] in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For one who has died has been set free [*vindicated*] from sin. // Now God is our Master! [volunteer]
 - a. You – sin – are dead to me!
 - b. I can't hear you – so I will not obey you!

4. The lives of *baptized believers* follow the pattern of Christ:

⁸ Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

¹⁰ For the death he died he died to sin, once for all [1 Peter 3:18], but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

a. Since Jesus defeated sin, He is now dead to sin! Since – *through baptism* – we have been united to Jesus, *who defeated sin on our behalf*, we are to consider ourselves “*dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.*”

b. How would you describe yourself?

- i. “I **was** baptized” – **past** tense; it happened a long time ago; it has no influence on my life today.
- ii. “I **am** baptized” – **present** tense; *I am still clothed in Christ*, so I consider myself “*dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.*”

Conclusion: God’s work **through baptism** was necessary; *that is when God united us to Jesus!* Now, God is working **through His Word** to keep us united to Jesus! Consider these questions:

1. Have you been baptized? Y N
2. Did God unite you to Jesus when you were baptized? Y N
3. Are you still united to Jesus; is He your only Savior? Y N

If you answered “Y” to each question, *give thanks to God for His amazing blessings!* And all God’s people said: **Amen!**

HYMN OF THE DAY – Part 3: “See This Wonder in the Making” LSB 593, sts. 3-4

Disciple Training

Important Teaching to Remember: God united us to Jesus through baptism. Now, *for all of us who are in Christ*, our baptism is a *present* reality: “We ARE baptized!”

Important Action to Practice: For all who ARE baptized, they are to consider themselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus!

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Podcast: Benefit from the Bible | Facebook: Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134, 440-845-2230