



YOUTH INSTRUCTION CLASS

LESSON 10: THE POWER AND SIGNIFICANCE OF BAPTISM

Review

In what way are the sacraments different from the gospel in word? In what way are they the same?

What does God do for us in baptism?

The Power Of Baptism Is In God's Word

How can water do such great things?

The water doesn't actually do anything by itself. The power is in God's Word, which is in and with the water, and in faith which trusts this Word of God in the water.

Without the Word of God it is just plain water, and there is no baptism. But with the Word of God it really is a baptism; that is, a gracious water of life and washing of rebirth through the Holy Spirit. Just as Saint Paul says in the third chapter of Titus:

"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. This is a faithful saying . . ." (Titus 3:5-8)

Baptism forgives sins and makes us members of God's spiritual family *because God says so* (His *word* makes it so.)

- To illustrate the point that the Word of God makes baptism what it is, consider the experience of Naaman, the Syrian leper (2 Kings 5).

Why was Naaman cleansed of his leprosy?

The Jordan River did not have the power in itself to cleanse a man from leprosy, but God through His Word gave the Jordan the power to cleanse from leprosy in this one case. Naaman washed himself in the Jordan seven times according to God's Word.

- Ephesians 5:25-26 (976)

BAPTISM HAS POWER BECAUSE GOD SAYS IT DOES

Baptism Without Faith Is Useless

The water of baptism without _____ is like an unsigned check

True baptism with _____ and _____ but

without being received in _____ is like a signed check uncashed

True baptism with _____ and _____ and

received in _____ is like a signed check cashed

- The Holy Spirit creates the faith necessary for us to receive the blessings of baptism.
- What does baptism do for those who are already believers in Christ?

What Effect Does Baptism Have On People?

What is the meaning of this baptism with water?

It means that the old Adam in us should be drowned by daily contrition and repentance and die with all sins and evil desires. It also means that a new man should daily appear and arise, who lives eternally before God in righteousness and purity.

Where is this written?

Saint Paul says in the sixth chapter of Romans: "Therefore we were buried with Him 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" (Romans 6:4)

- Read Romans 6:4-6 (980)

Through baptism the Holy Spirit creates in us a will and power to live a new life.

The *old Adam* is _____ .

- Romans 7:18 (982)
- Galatians 5:17 (983)

What are some of the things that the sinful nature does?

Putting Down the Sinful Nature

Beginning with our baptisms, what has happened to our sinful nature?

_____ Col 3:9-10

What can we do with the sinful nature now?

_____ Ephesians 4:22 (986)

How can we put off the sinful nature daily?

- Psalm 51:3-4 (987)
- 2 Corinthians 7:10 (989)

What Is the *New Man*?

- Ephesians 4:23-24 (992)

The *new man* is _____.

The *new man* makes us eager and willing to _____.

- What are some of the things that the new man does?



Activity

Fill in the chart below. You may wish to refer to Romans 6:4-6

(NIV) 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. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—

What main events in **Christ's life** are presented in these verses?

ONCE _____

What **one event** in our lives **corresponds** to these things in Christ's life?

ONCE _____

What does this mean **for us** in our daily Christian lives?

DAILY _____



Memory Passage

Part 1 of Luther's explanation to baptism. (Everything in the box on p. 168 of your catechism.)

Assignment

- Learn the memory passage.
- Follow your Daily Bible Readings.