



YOUTH INSTRUCTION CLASS

LESSON 6: INTRODUCTION TO BAPTISM

Review

What is the *gospel*?

How do the benefits of Christ's death become our own?
See Galatians 2:16 (902)

The Means Of Grace

How does God share the benefits of Christ's death with us? In other words, how does He give us forgiveness, faith, and eternal life?

- _____ Romans 10:17 (941)
- _____ Acts 22:16 (943)
Matthew 26:26-28 (944)
- Fill in the chart below to illustrate the *means of grace*.

JESUS PAID FOR THE
SINS OF THE WORLD

The
means of
grace
are the
ways
God
gives us
the
benefits
of Christ's
death (such as
forgiveness of
sins, faith,
eternal life, etc.)

SINNERS ARE GIVEN
BENEFITS OF THAT PAYMENT

What Is a Sacrament?

A sacrament is a _____ .

The word *sacrament* is not in the Bible, but we use it to describe a sacred act that has three special characteristics.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Using this definition, we have two sacraments which are _____ and _____



From the *Augsburg Confession*:
“Just as the Word enters the ear in order to strike our heart. The effect of the Word and of the rite is the same. It has been well said by Augustine that ‘**a Sacrament is a visible word.**’ The rite is received by the eyes and is a picture of the Word, signifying the same thing as the Word.”

Baptism Is the "Visible Gospel"

In baptism, the forgiveness of sins is given in a special way.

Suppose that your friend wanted to give you \$100. He could say, “I’ll put it directly in the bank for you. You won’t really see me give you the money, but it will be there.” Or He could say, “I’ll give you a \$100 bill in cash.”

- Would you take the \$100 bill or would you have your friend put directly in the bank?
- If you chose to take the cash, why did you choose that?

When God baptizes us, He is giving us something to see and touch so that we can be certain that our sins are forgiven. It is His way of *showing* us our forgiveness instead of simply *telling* us. It is something like giving us our gift of forgiveness "in cash" instead of putting it straight into the bank without us seeing it.

Who Started Baptism?

BAPTISM is not something that people decided to start doing. **It is something that was started by God Himself.**

Baptism first came into practice:

- When God sent John the Baptist to baptize
John 1:26, 28
- When Jesus commanded His disciples to baptize
Matthew 28:16-20 (945)

When Jesus washes us with water in baptism, He is **showing us** that our sins have been washed away.

Baptism is not a sacred act invented by people. It was instituted by God.

What Does the Word *Baptize* Mean?

The word baptize means "to apply water." The water can be applied by:

_____,
_____,
_____ or

Some churches make a big deal out of how much water should be used in baptism or how the water should be applied. The Bible does not tell us either of these things. All it tells us is that we should baptize with water.

The Bible doesn't even tell us where we should put the water when we baptize! We generally baptize by pouring water on a person's head, but we could just as easily pour it on the foot and still have a valid baptism.

Immersion The practice of baptizing by putting a person completely under the water.

Pouring Baptizing by pouring water on the head or another part of the body.

Washing Baptizing by using a wet cloth to wipe the head or another part of the body.

Sprinkling Similar to pouring, but using less water.

Jesus was likely baptized by immersion, since the Bible speaks of Him in the Jordan River at the time of His baptism. In Acts 16, however, it is unlikely that the jailer and his family were immersed since they were baptized "in the house."

Baptism Is More Than Plain Water

In baptism, we are using water in a special way – in a way that God's word teaches us to use it. Baptism is water used in connection with His word.

Activity

Someone might ask you, “What happens when you are baptized?” According to the Bible, these things happen when we are baptized:

Titus 3:4-7 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but 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.

Galatians 3:26-29 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

1 _____

2 _____

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

3 _____



Memory Passage

Romans 3:28 (792) Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.

Assignment

- Learn the memory passage and be able to explain what it means.
- Follow the Daily Bible Readings, Schedule 4.